**Date: Saturday, May 12, 2012**

      **Start Time:     11:30 AM** Eastern Daylight Time

      **Dial-in Number:** **1-218-936-4700**

      **Participant Access Code     51212**  (for remembering- its date of the call 5/12/12)

      Project details can be found at: <http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=1138>

Diksha Project Update Conference Call

Attendees: Prasoon, Vinod, Gautam, Gaurav, Suchi

Total disbursement $3350 (~Rs 1.7 lakh). Computers have already been purchased. Receipt received. Computers installed

5 computers, 2 tablets purchased in last month. Children are excited to learn. Starting to use google, MS Paint etc.Now, developing framework to use the computer as a knowledge tool. Open source content, longer run incorporate a computer/touchscreen in classroom for teachers to use in teaching. Khan Academy etc. making it accessible to children

Project's 3 main focuses: Technology, Content, People

Low income family children ~1km from the school. Construction worker families. Vocational training for youth as well.

Teachers: Patna center 1 volunteer, 2 paid teachers, Looking to recruit one for vocational training. Interviewed 10 in the last week. Beltron local recruitment, recruiting from local community not possible - not enough qualified candidates.

School: Around 80 children benefitted. The school was started in Dec 2010. Scheduled community mobilization. The school is designed to be a supplementary school. They are not looking replace govt school, but supplement it. This school timing after or before govt school. Four student learning groups based on knowledge levels. Math, Hindi, Science and Computers … 4 subjects.

Challenges: Girl child has responsibilities at home. Dropouts? Solution residential school, but cost intensive. Harvest season children go to village so lose continuity in learning. Community lives near unused railway track, if the track is used then relocation might be needed.

Library: Eklavya in Madhya Pradesh, books for children. 400 books. NCERT books availability a problem, but solvable. Asha Library in Varanasi, Kanpur: Establish Gautam in contact. Curriculum? AID and Asha collaborated. Actvity based learning. Source one set of curriculum.

Teacher training: No training in center yet. Varanasi and Asha Lucknow has teacher training. Auroville has activity based teacher training. Neerambika in Delhi. Payir in Tamil Nadu.

Ideas for attracting volunteers: Local engg colleges, Asha Internship

Other Activities:Carrom, Movies, Animated movies to attract students and help them learn English, outdoor Kabaddi, board games to be bought,

Funding Sources: Patna, Nalanda Hilsa, Bulandshahar, Individual donors, Alok Charitable Foundation, Gautam's Fellowship,  Media Guru, Cognizant etc CSR, Jindal Trust.

Future plan: Branch out to more communities (renting large facility is tough) than become bigger in one place.  Schedule Skype training sessions. Gaurav going to Patna next month, site visit and training session as well.

Action Items

Syllabus: Prasoon to send.

Asha Internship: Prasoon to set up

Teacher training: Prasoon to contact Varanasi

Gaurav site visit. Gaurav & Vinod to setup Skype session with children.