

Asha Darshan Update

March 16, 2006

a) From when to when is school year?

1st January to 31st December.

b) When did they start mid-day meal scheme? Why?

November 1st week 2005

c) Has the permanent person to take care of education been hired? When?

From 2001

d) How are the schools functioning? What has been the impact of the monsoons in 2005? Were there closures due to health problems in children? Were there incidences of malaria like in the past?

The schools are functioning well. There was no adverse impact of monsoon. There was some loss in agriculture. There were deaths due to malaria. But there was no closure of schools.

e) Have there been any dropouts from classes? Dropouts of teachers?

There was no drop out of students. 9 teachers dropped out due to marriage or other personal reasons. All the vacancies were filled up immediately.

f) What is the current strength of students and teachers in all the centers?

There are 26 teachers in all. We need 3 more for Satyanarayanpur for expansion of classes. There are 1150 students.

g) Did anyone go to Asha India conf in Dec? How was the experience?

Pranati, Sabita and Himani participated in the conference. It was good and encouraging.

h) How is the computer they purchased performing? Do they use it often? Can they send us progress reports proactively instead of us having to ask for it?

There is only one computer in the office. It is regularly used.

Other information: (From Biju)

For 2005-06 budgets we received so far from Asha Varanasi Rs.13, 80,000/- this includes money, which was due for 2003-04 year also. Latest trial balance of account up to Jan-06 is included this will give you latest position of expenditure with backup.

The budget required for the year 2005-06 is on website. That is urgently needed. We have already obtained land from Government. Construction of the building and other expenses are urgent. Because we don't get money timely the work is delayed and money remains unspent.

FCRA is a hurdle. For that we need your sanction letter. Monalisa is carrying the draft of this letter by hand. Please sign and send it soon to enable us to obtain FCRA certificate. For the time being money may be sent through Asha Varanasi.

Nutrition is given to about 600 children the rest of the children are getting through government channel. The number of children has increased this year. It will go up to 1150.

The number of girl students is more than male student.

There are 9 male teachers and 18 female teachers in our schools. Our schools are in interior areas where there are no schools. So in the absence of our schools all the children will go without education. Subjects taught are Assamese, Hindi, English, Bodo (Language) Science, mathematic, sociology, Environment etc. about 50% of the student continue after their 9 years of age.

You will be glad to know that the school at Satyanarayanpur has started M.E. class. There are more than 250 students with only 4 teachers, For M.E. section we will need 3 teachers more.

Some more Questions

1. Is school is operating 300 days in year? It is too much, as I know due to heavy rain, 52 Sundays, 2 Bihu and other festivals school can not run more than 200 days in a year. if it is so we can save
 $100 \times 1150 \times 5 = \text{Rs.}575000/-$

Rains hardly disturb attendance. Holidays like Bihu are celebration in schools. So there are 300 working days.

2. Attendance percentage cannot be 100. In Govt school also they assume only 70% attendance. if we take average attendance 80% then we can save:
 $1150 - 920 (\text{Presence}) = 230 \times 5 \times 200 \text{ Days} = \text{Rs.}230000/-$

Attendance is also good in our schools. There is no comparison with govt. school. There may be some negligible saring of days. We can think of 5% spent in attendance, out of the year. This will compensate the shortage of attendance.

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