

Q&A on BJSa Budget for 2006-07

1) *Is there going to be a teacher training program considering that there will be two new teachers? If so it would be nice to account for it in the budget.*

A: Teachers training will cost $4 \times 10 \times 250 = 10,000$. They will go for teacher training in two phases. Nalanda Sanstha (in Lucknow) organized the training last time. It should be included in the budget for this year.

2) *What is the present strength of the school? By what % are we increasing the strength?*

A: 57 children. Now it is being increased to approximately 100 children. This is based on the feedback from the teachers who have been approached by the children's parents. Most students will be joining first and second grade.

3) *What is the socio-economic background of the new children who will be joining the school?*

A: Most of the children belong to laborer families.

4) *What implications does this have on the urgency for infrastructure at the school?*

A: We can only decide in June once we have more information about the transfer of land. Daulat Ramji has been working with the Pradhan of the village to transfer the land in the name of BJSa.

5) *What is the status of the SAC program and will it be possible to scale the program to accommodate the new children?*

A: Currently we haven't collected money from the donors for almost a year. This was because, after the site-visit by Asha Varanasi, it was decided not to send funds for six months and also until the remaining items on the budget were completed – primarily the exposure trip of the children. Daulat Ramji still has some money which should take care of the expenses for this year. For the next year we need to re-start the SAC program. We will need back-end support for continuing the SAC program for 100 children.

6) *What is the role of the coordinator for the school? Does he have other roles in village development if he works for BJSa?*

A: Daulat Ramji does not exactly work with the school. He is the overall coordinator with BJSa but Phoolchandji (from BJSa) is in charge of the schools being run by BJSa.

7) *A uniform salary of Rs.2000 for all teachers is mentioned. Will this go down well with the more experienced teachers? Are all teachers going to have the same experience? Would be nice to get some background on the teachers.*

A: That may be a problem. BJSa considers two types of teachers - trained and untrained teachers. Until the teachers are trained they are paid about Rs. 200 less. BJSa has faced this problem before. Normally training a teacher takes 2-3 months.

8) *We are chipping in 20% for administrative expenses, where is the location of the office and who is the target audience that the admin is for? If this is for the other efforts of BJSA, we may need to support it through means other than the SAC.*

A: Office is about 10-12 kms away from school. Will help them in the other work they are doing. Daulat Ramji said that they would like to get some of their admin expenses supported but in case we were not comfortable supporting the admin expenses, we could drop it and they would try and get it supported through other means.

9) *Apart from the exposure trips and balmela are there any other planned activities for the children, e.g. medical checkup, etc.*

A: Daulat Ramji - "It is very expensive to have the medical check-up. If children get sick, we can spend money for their medicine. Our experience shows that doctor is not available for monthly checkups. 6-monthly or yearly checkups are not that important. A quarter-yearly check up seems to be the minimum, if we want to go that way. If we want to put aside money for medicines then at the minimum we will require about 300 – 400/month. We will buy play material and other stuff once we get the land."

10) *The learning material in item 4 is more of a yearly expense rather than a monthly expense, correct? What will each child be provided.*

A: There was no particular reason for giving the cost in a monthly format. It is true the costs are more of a yearly expense for books. The children will be provided with pens, books, pencil, eraser. This will cost Rs 10/month at least. BJSA gives books to children in their other schools and children in this school also expect to receive books.