

Q and A following the presentation of the budget and updates at the meeting -

Q. Need to get more details on the permanent structure - is it thatched or totally pakka ? Is it too small for 75 kids?

A. It is a permanent structure with cement being used. The roof will be built using bricks mud with cement plastering on top. This is meant to be a shelter in times when the weather is bad. When the weather is good the children will be outside under the trees. The 40ft x 13ft structure should be sufficient.

Q. Approved Salary amount for the teachers was Rs. 2000. Because of a delay in funding last year, they paid only Rs. 1500 for a few months

A. The teachers had not yet received this amount of money. On speaking to Daulat Ramji, he said that there was some confusion regarding this. He was of the idea that the teachers wanted to use this amount (~Rs 3000) towards the school construction. He said that if this was not the case, he would immediately pay the teachers.

Q. How is the ownership of the land being provided handled? (Is it a lease? owned by BJSA, owned by the neighbor or owned by the community?)

A. The land on which the construction is happening belongs to Pramila Devi, one of the members of the community. The construction of the building for the school was long overdue, so BJSA went ahead with the construction even though the land was not transferred in their name. Daulat Ramji did not anticipate too many problems given that the land belonged to a member of the community, and she had her children also enrolled in the school.

Q. How many days are lost to bad weather annually in the normal running of the school?

A. Weather is not very good. In the winter there are 1.5 months along with rain, 3 months in rain during the monsoons and another 1.5 months in summer when it is very hot. So for about 5 months in the year, the weather can be quite bad.

Q. What happens during a Bal mela and other functions? Can we get a breakdown on the costs involved for these events?

A. Normally there is a bal mela and other functions like Independence Day and Republic Day celebrations. We have games, competitions, street plays. This is done by the kids. We set up tents and provide the children with food, gifts and toys to play with.

Q. Why is there no tour or trip for the children this year?

A. Exposure trip did not happen this year as we were not able to finalize a place for the children to visit. The best time to do this is when the weather is mild in March-April or so but we missed out this year.

Q. We need a breakdown on the training costs for the teacher. Why didn't it increase with the inclusion of a new teacher?

A. The teachers normally go to Lucknow for training. They need about Rs 300/day per person for food and accommodations. The training cost and traveling cost is separate. Training material also needs to be bought. Costs for three teachers are approximately as follows -

Training - 2000

Material - 1000

Travel - 1500

Food/Accommodations - 9000

Q. Would it be possible for us to have health camps for the children in the school?

A. Nurses already visit the school from the government hospital on the pulse polio visits. We will have to request doctors to come if we want a health camp to be held. It might be a little difficult to get doctors here and they could charge as high as Rs 500/day for making such a visit.