

Budget Q&A

Q: How is it that the strength of the school is suddenly increasing from 57 to 100? Where were these children till now?

A- The school we are running is right in the center of a group of villages and the children joining the school will be coming from the surrounding villages. Most of the children were either at home before this or were going to some-other school. Parents were initially hesitant to send the children to our school since it does not have a building nor do we provide too many materials as compared to the government schools. But they have seen that the education in our school is much better, so they are now keen on sending their children to our school. Some of the children who will be joining will be coming from the neighboring private schools.

Right now the classes are conducted under a tree on the banks of a pond/lake just outside the village. The earlier location of the school was in a part of the village where people from the lower caste (Chamar) lived. Now parents are more willing to send their children as the school has moved away from that locality.

Q: How many kids are not going to school now?

A – We work very actively to ensure that all kids are going to some school or the other. There would be very few children who are not going to any school.

Q: How many students are in 4th grade and what will they do next? What will the kids do next after the school there stops?

A – Students from the 4th grade will go to grade 5. After that the children will go to 6th grade. My plan is to grow the school till the 12th grade. I was actually hoping we could do something in terms of a degree college sometime. Government has many schemes for elementary education but when it comes to higher education there is not much help.

In case for some reason we are unable to run the school, we will make sure that the kids go to some other school in the area. There is a school 1.5 kms away, which is the same school where I studied.

There is also a private school in the area and they take Rs 60/month as fees. They have classes till grade 12 but the school is run more like a business and the teaching is not as good. The school is run by an upper cast (Thakur) person. The school is not recognized so they have to take exams through another school. s not recognized so exams are done through another school.

Q: What does Daulat Ramji do?

A – Daulat Ramji is the chief coordinator of BJSA. Works on coordinating with donors, writing reports, taking care of legal aspects of work, inspiring and encouraging people, providing orientation programs for people, preparing budgets and proposals and attending meetings/workshops at different places. Phoolchandji was taking care of school earlier but now Daulat Ramji is in charge of the school. BJSA works on issues relating to Dalit empowerment, women rights, election issues, women health issues, right to work, right to education, etc.

Q: *What is the Primary Health Center (PHC) access to the area?*

A – There is no PHC in the area. The nearest one is 7 kms away but there is no means of transport to that place and the next one is at Badlapur (10-12kms). In case of emergencies, people will go by jeep to Badlapur and if it is a serious case they go to Jaunpur. There is no medical store for a distance of 3-4 kms.

Budget approved for Academic Year 2006-07

• Coordinator Rs 3000/month	(1*12*3000)	36000/
• Teachers (x 4) Rs 2000/month	(4*12*2000)	96000/-
• Bal Mela and two children functions in one year		15000/-
• Reading and learning material for children Rs 30/ per month per child	(30*100*12)	36000/-
• Exposure visit for children		15000/-
• Teacher training		10000/-
• Medical expenses Rs 400/month	(400*12)	4800/-
• Administrative Expenses		
- Office Rent Rs500/ per month		6000/-
- Stationary/postage/phone/communication rs1000/month		12000/-
- Audit and account		5000/-
Total administrative expenses		23000/-
Total		235800/-

- Working with this project over time has helped us identify some key aspects which are important for the improvement and the success of the project like the teachers training, student-teacher ratio, children activities, reduction in administrative costs
- Even with the increase in the number of students, we are going to maintain a healthy student-teacher ratio of 25 by getting two new teachers for the school
- The salaries for the teachers have been increased from Rs 1200/month to Rs 2000/month and this should help with teacher retention and motivation
- This March (2006) the teachers had gone for a training program. The teachers training program can significantly help to improve the quality of education and thus we will be supporting two half-yearly training programs (about one week each) for all the teachers
- The Baal-mela, children functions, exposure trip for the children are going to be supported as in previous years

- The administrative expenses of the school have come down
- The amount required for the Support a Child (SAC) Program is approximately \$5/month per kid