

Conference Call Minutes

Date : Tuesday October 13th, 2009 (Austin) / Wednesday October 14th, 2009 (India)

Attendees : Vijaybhai (Project coordinator, Asha Samajik Vidyalaya, Reoti)
Rahul Rao, Ganesh Krishnamoorthy (Project stewards, Asha Austin)

1. Teacher Training

- Teacher training did not happen in September because of non availability of trainers from Ekalavya
- Teachers in both schools have been teaching classes 1 and 2 according to this training
- Both ASV schools (Bhainsala and Reoti/Babhnauli) meet twice every month
- These fortnightly meetings are more beneficial according to the teachers who have already been through the Ekalavya training earlier, although they also consider the bi-annual Ekalavya training to be valuable
- Teachers from both schools interact with each other and share the knowledge that they gained in previous meetings or training sessions
- For example, if a teacher in one school comes up with an innovative method to teach basic math concepts to his students, he shares it with teachers from the other school during these meetings
- At one of these meetings, the teachers were supposed to bring along with them, the Ekalavya book with guidelines to teach class 1. Half the teachers got the books and the others did not. The teachers have promised that all of them will get the books for class 1 and 2 for Ekalavya to the future meetings.
- Two teachers have been interviewed for replacing Rekha who left the school earlier this year
- They have not yet started working full-time in the school
- One of the teachers has taught in the school in the past. Both of them are graduates

2. Follow-up with students by ASV

- At the beginning of the academic year, some kids who had left the ASV school and joined another school came back to the ASV school within the first few days
- Some of the reasons for this could be, according to Vijaybhai
 - The new primary school in the village has a lot of students so there is not enough space for all kids
 - There are only 2 teachers for all the classes from 1st to 5th grade
 - The guardians of one of the students said that their child was out of town and hence could not attend school for the first few days
- As per the information provided by Vijaybhai, all the kids who left the ASV school are still studying in other schools in the vicinity
- After Diwali (October 17th), the school is going to contact the guardians of all the children
- During this time, they will also meet the guardians of the kids in the other school and check on them

3. General Updates

- For the kids in the nursery, there are two books as per the Ekalavya curriculum
- Part 1 will be finished soon and part 2 will be started
- The students seem to be happy. Most kids are very regular and concentrate well in class
- Teachers also motivate them
- The kids were busy with Dusshera and other festivals and also helping parents, working in the fields.
- A health check up is tentatively scheduled for the first week of November
- The kids were very happy when a letter from one of the donors was read out in the class
- The student had also typed a reply back in Hindi and read it out to the whole class
- The teacher used this as an example to motivate the kids to improve their writing skills so they can also write to their friends in the U.S. (as the teacher referred to the donors in the U.S)
- Vijaybhai will be sending additional photographs of the new students who have joined the nursery
- Vijaybhai will also be sending a photo illustrating how a teacher uses props to teach the kids as per the Ekalavya techniques.
- No major concern as of now and things are progressing reasonably well