

Meeting minutes of VARUN presentation on 18th Nov, 2009

Participants: Aditi (MCF), Smita (MCF) + 2, Venki, Dilip, Anshu, Ashish, Pankaj, Amit, Teesta, Anand, Neehar

Varun - Neehar

<http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=458>

- brief overview of the project, location and current state
- 5 schools in running now
 - Lehra and Amritpur school is adopted by government
 - Shahpur is the oldest and the primary center of project, not adopted yet by the government
- No FCRA still, permanent FCRA was applied for in 2005; funds are routed through Asha-Kaashi
- 2 schools added, in Hathini and Sukhdeopur since July 2009
- general update on SJS Yojana and SHG work update
- 15 children cleared Std V. 8 students from 4 villages to appear in 2010

- project has a shortfall of INR 19,200 for Shahpur school since that has not been adopted by the government yet
- Review of updated/proposed budget
 - coordinator salary is raised to 5000/month
 - salary increase of teachers is much lower than for coordinator
 - Dr. Singh wants to keep the coordinator salary and cut down one of two annual health camps for children
 - overall concerns around spike and suggestion of cutting down the health camp
- Neehar to discuss coordinator salary with Dr Sing again
 - Is there a change in coordinator role or responsibility?

- Q (Dilip): Who is responsible for RTI/NREGA coordination?
 - SP Singh is involved and they call someone for workshops
- We need more updates around RTI/NREGA work and get some case studies/stories and partnerships if any

- Spending has been flat from SV perspective
- As project diversified into community activities and partnerships; project leadership has to evolve.
- Dr. Singh needs to start building a stronger team to sustain and continue the project

- Project has an immediate need of funds and have been paying salaried by taking loan
- Budget needs to be reworked, there are line-items that are not clear or need

discussion

- We need to provide the project some immediate relief
 - in-principal there are NO problems with the project but just the budget needs refining
 - We can conditionally approve a small portion of budget to cover salaries form July-December '09
 - Base the salary off-of the last year's budget to cover the operational expenses
 - Overall budget for the fiscal will be re-worked by Neehas and approved later (latter half of Dec '09)
- Voice vote for "emergency release of funds to cover operational expense of salary of teachers and coordinator, Rs.1,78,525.00 of project Varun from the month of July '09 to Dec '09"
 - 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain
 - passed as emergency release of funds of Rs. 178525.00
 - Neehar to send a breakdown of budget separately for release of funds
- Overall budget for Varun to be presented/discussed next month [or later]