

## Asha SV Meeting Minutes from 1/18/12

Shristi Special School (SLIDES AND PRESENTATION ATTACHED)

- Ø 6-8 slides totally
- Ø 1-2 slides will set up the context
- Ø 1 slide on the core objectives and vision
- Ø 1-2 slides of short overview of how they do it and what they do
- Ø 1-2 on Asha specific-what have we do, what has our evaluation and future engagement plan for Asha SV
- Ø NO NUMBERS, BUDGETS, ETC. BUT ALL QUALITATIVE
- Ø The context of the project is to help mentally handicapped children
- Ø Invisible handicap=invisible people
- Ø When the handicap is physically invisible, they are out of sight, out of mind.
- Ø There is not much awareness or recognition of mental illnesses
- Ø Also there are institutions serving mentally handicapped children who have lots of hurdles like children should be potty trained or children should not have multiple disabilities
- Ø Shristi has campuses in and around Bangalore to provide individual assistance to socially and economically self-reliant
- Ø Core objectives-self-reliant children; provide them medical, therapeutic and educational interventions
- Ø Individualized attention and solutions-child centric solutions so that they can move forward with their lives either go to regular schools or work in Shristi workshops
- Ø Questions: How does Shristi get parents to send kids if there is a stigma? They have a Community Based rehabilitation program that is meant to identify kids with autism and other disabilities and they have a STAT (Screening Test for Autism in Toddlers) kit (a special tool) to determine whether the kid is autistic.
- Ø There is also good bit of Government money “anganwadi” programs to get children tested
- Ø In Shristi they have a Balwadi, which is a childcare, and Shristi does screening at the venue
- Ø There is a teacher for every 4-5 kids
- Ø What Shristi does in the program-program overview
- Ø They do therapeutic intervention of different kinds in order to help kids
- Ø Age range of the kids is from 2-3 till 20 or 30 years
- Ø Question: is there any funding from the government? If you have a card that says you are mentally handicapped, you get government benefits and Shristi ensures that all their kids get that card and are recognized as such.
- Ø The kids are charged a fee and the fee serves as an incentive for parents to send kids to school.
- Ø At this point there are about 100 kids in the school and all of them are kids whose parents/guardians are involved in the program
- Ø There are caregivers and special educators. The latter have a certified training in providing services to children facing mental health issues and caregivers are trained in basic functions like CPR, first aid, etc.
- Ø The model is to allow parents to have an incentive in participating in helping the kids sustain themselves in the program.
- Ø Parental guidance and supportive services-help from Shristi with families that have children who have kids with terminal illnesses
- Ø At SV we have started supporting shristi since 2003; Asha Austin has also funded the project; Asha Bangalore has not been involved.
- Ø 2009 evaluation Matrix- training; Outreach; Methodology; Staff; Vocational Unit- evaluate the project to see whether all these items have made progress.

- Ø Do you as a project steward talk to the project to see if they have set up these eval goals and then at the end of the year the steward will look at the project and see if the project has met all or most of its goals
- Ø Future engagement- the original plan was to help Shristi to grow a corpus and then allow them to be self-sustaining; after that it was to get them grants
- Ø The current plan involves starting a Support a Child Program and once the school has the SAC eval all done then we can transition our donors to being SAC supporters for Shristi
- Ø Start Team Shristi- Shristi works closely with a lot of software companies who were giving infrastructure money but that money has died down. Now there are people coming from these software companies to volunteer. So the idea is to have a TA like marathon program to get people to run and raise funds
- Ø International volunteer programs
- Ø We have to therefore help them focus on starting programs that they can sustain and move along.
- Ø What about Support a teacher? Try and see if this can happen in conjunction with SAC
- Ø Shristi Updates for 2011 to send out the second installment- They have an annual sports day, family day and children's day
- Ø They had a training for "positive behavior support for teachers
- Ø They have an Annual Day- a skit on child labor and a fashion show; they also had a recognition event
- Ø Kids also had outings and went to watch a play.
- Ø Meena has raised funds through her contacts in the US and if we channel the donations through us then we would be able to match the money (\$2000 odd if the donors directly give to the school but \$4000 if we match)
- Ø We will have to send this money as an Asha Stars Program money-special one time money that we are raising.
- Ø Meena will prepare a special budget and then have us approve it.
- Ø We have to have a separate poll for the Shriti Stars Component that will be managed in the same way as any other project is.
- Ø Vinod will send an email on the list with how the \$4000 will be broken down and then we will have a poll.
- Ø This proposal will also be added to the projects page.