

1. Minutes of Meeting of 09 October 2013

- Minutes recorded by Protima
- Meeting attended by Protima, Kalyan, Reshu, Redkha, Jayant* (**call-in attendees*)

Agenda

- TFS additional funding request
- Savidya renewal
- Indian Ocean concert financials

Presentation: Savidya Upasamiti

- Project page ([link](#))
- Project proposal ([link](#))
- New steward- Jayant Joshi - from Uttaranchal/Nainital - working at Glaxo SmithKline Consumer Healthcare division. He knew about Dr. Bist from his days at IIT Kanpur and since Jayant was looking for something to do in the area where he is from, he contacted Asha SV and Dr. Bist together. In June/July 2013 Jayant was in India and met with Dr. Bist
- The plan is to have a school that provides education to the children who are in these backward areas and to also provide a better set of resources for the government schools.
- For the last 2 years the project has not had any increase in support, the school has been supported for the last 8 years, about \$20K a year.
- It might be easier if you skip to the part about what happened in 2011-2013 since the last presentation and the funding has been a little bit erratic.
- Savidya had been saving money for the last few years and in 2011-2012 we asked them to use their residual money and the reason was that we could not send them more money was because of the fact that we cut 20%.
- Lost a few teachers since money was not sent in time.
- Successes: 5 teacher for 5 classes in primary, 1 teacher received Presidents award, 14 students admitted to Navodaya Vidyalayas, and some students received national science award.
- Did the Science Lab not get money from other agency? Yes. Small Step Foundation gave some money but the money is not much. Also, Indians for Collective Action have given some grant money but this money is also very little.
- Dr. Bist said that he also donates money periodically and tries to make sure that the money is saved.
- What is the way the funding is being maintained for the last few years? The truth is that we are just doing our best but things like uniforms and books were cut back on this year, teacher salaries were cut, medical camp was cut. The number of teachers was reduced; there are only 8 teachers, down from 13-15 in the past. Last year there was RTE money available or not? Uniforms from 2011 the Government is giving them to the kids so now we only give books
- So what are the things that the government is giving Savidya right now since 2011? Uniforms are the only things that the government is giving now and Asha was supporting it earlier. In the past AshaSV was giving money for various components but we are trying to keep all our schools open because the kids need the education. We first started funding the elementary schools and then those kids are in middle school and so we started supporting that component. But now we do not have more money, so we cannot fund the high schools and also the teachers are not able to get any salary hikes from Savidya. We have had this for 7 years; we would like to have this project continue because it is doing good work.
- But what about the fact that we have been funding for so long and there is no end in sight? Should we continue funding at a bare bones level where the kids are losing ground!! Should we not try and make it smaller but sustainable so that we can make a big impact?

- The school is only in one area-and the governemtn has now opened up a middle school in Kulethi. Maybe we can cut down the project and support only one school and lesser children but give them adequate funding. What about teaching high school? not sure if this is sustainable because we will need more teachers?
- 3 options-fund at a bare bones level, fund at the same level but scale down the project like increase the teacher salary and try to get them to stay or fund lesser and lesser schools. One of the things we discussed last year in addition to the salary can we give them something else as well-like for example a person who needs a B.Ed. needs experience, could we get the government to recognize the years spent teaching at Savidya in lieu of the schooling?
- In 2012-13 we funded a total amount of Rs. 16,17,000 and this year the ask is Rs. 18,23,800- see slide 47 with the comparison? Does the chapter actually have additional money to allow for an increase in 12% of the funding? The issue with increasing funding is that the schools cannot really run with the reduced funding that we have been having-so the increase is really no choice. IF we come back and tell the steward that funds are low, then he will have to revise the project budget later. The project needs to find out from the chapter about how much money the chapter has and, therefore, how much they can actually fund. What if we release the first set of funds and then in the second installment disbursement time we review all the second installments and then possibly cut the funding then? This way the project partner knows what to expect. We can poll the chapter with a component breakdown, with a comparison on how much was sent last year and the increase for the coming year. Can the chapter give us the amount of money raised so far? No, Protima says that we do not have any numbers on how much we have raised. So the project partner would like the chapter co-ord to tell them how much we can give them. Should we try and cap funding for this project for about 10 years? Are we that kind of an agency that just looks at numbers and gives out money? We fund schools that we see are making an impact; so it is not fair to have a project that we believe in which we then end up putting a deadline. So the steward will set up the poll which will have a poll question which will talk about the amount of money the new budget is asking for and the components that are being additionally funded. The steward will be uploading the site visit and the project presentation on the chapter projects page and see the poll coming up.

2. Funding Renewal Poll

- Poll conducted on the AshaSV-Vol Yahoo Groups (<http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ashasv-vol/info>). This Yahoo Groups list was created in 2001 to facilitate discussions among volunteers at the Silicon Valley Chapter.

Poll Question

- Do you approve Savidya Upasamiti's budget of Rs.18,23,800 for 2013-14? This is a 13% increase from last year's funding.
- Project details and budget @ <http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=636>.

Poll Dates

- Poll opened: 16 October 2013
- Poll closed: 27 October 2013

Poll Results

- YES, 10 votes, 100.00%
- NO, 0 votes, 0.00%

Poll Snapshot (from AshaSV-Vol Yahoo Groups)



Restricted Group, 276 members

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← Poll results for ashasv-vol (10215)

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The following ashasv-vol poll is now closed. Here are the final results:

POLL QUESTION: Do you approve Savidya Upasamiti's budget of Rs.18,23,800 for 2013-14? This is a 13% increase from last year's funding.

Project webpage: <http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=636>.

Meeting Minutes: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ashasv-vol/message/10169>

Site visit report: http://www.ashanet.org/projects-new/documents/636/pj636_savidya_201213_sitevisit.pdf.

Budget: http://www.ashanet.org/projects-new/documents/636/pj636_savidya_201213_proposal.pdf.

CHOICES AND RESULTS

- Yes, 10 votes, 100.00%

- No, 0 votes, 0.00%

INDIVIDUAL VOTES

- Yes

- santhoshsram@...

- neeharj@...

- mxkge57@...

- vijitnair@...

- viv.bhandari@...

- reshu_rajiv@...

- jjoshi22@...

- ruksanaav@...

- pratik_mehta_99@...

- kbghatak@...

- No

For more information about this group, please visit

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ashasv-vol>

For help with Yahoo! Groups, please visit

<http://help.yahoo.com/l/us/yahoo/groups/original/members/forms/general.html>

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