

# Gnanodaya project update

## Nov 2008

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# School

- Student strength same as presented in the Apr 2008 site visit (203 children)
- Started X std – first batch of students preparing for board exam in March 2009. School expects to get X Std recognition from Govt in Dec 2008.
- 17 students currently in X Std. Headmaster and teachers are giving extra coaching in evening to ensure success for this first batch. Out of 17 students, 14 students stay in hostel and 3 students are in nearby leprosy community
- The hostel is operating at full capacity, cannot take any more students in hostel.

# Teachers

- Currently 11 teachers (10 male and 1 female). Headmaster and his wife reside in school premises and act as hostel wardens.
- There are 5 teachers with B.Ed degree (2 new teachers hired with B.Ed degree). B.Ed degree is required to teach beyond Std VIII.
- 2 teachers left in July, replaced by new hires. Teachers left because they got better positions in govt/private school with better pay and closer to their place.
- Teachers get regular training every month through Govt scheme - SSA.
- Access to school still a problem. School requested vehicle for transportation to school from main road. Tried to get other Asha chapters (Asha Seattle/SV) to fund this as one-time infrastructure project – effort has been unsuccessful so far.

# Updates

- Asha Austin approved \$15,000 to cover part of teacher salaries and \$1300 for purchase of computers/printer in May 2008. Disbursed \$8800 in the first installment.
- School has purchased computers and printer. The Govt syllabus has mandatory computer education for high school students
- School has appointed a full-time computer teacher to conduct regular computer classes
- Asha Madison approved \$5800 to cover part of teacher salaries and notebook expenses
- DIK (German NGO), covered the remaining school expenses.

# Looking ahead - plans for 2009

- School plans to send children to nearby schools for Std XI and beyond.
- Plans still not finalized, need to discuss with DIK