Asha SV meeting 9/28/11

Thank you Protima and Prasanna for taking the meeting minutes.

Attendees: Anshu, Nikunj, Prasanna, Protima, Sachin, Vivek

Phone: Nihaar, Vishal

Fellowships update for Aheli and Saurabh

- Aheli and Saurabh were RTI activist with RTI
- they file applications on running of schools, budgets etc through Asha SV sponsorships
- they are working currently on transprancy issues with the municipal and corporation schools
- policy level- Sec 4 of the RTI act requires the Govt to give out certain information on its own like budget and salaries, decision making information to the people-the idea behind this section is that people should not have to file applications to get this information.
- the deadline for filing this information is 120 days but they were not doing so. activists have to file RTI application
- a former RTI worker is now a Commissioner in the Central Information Commission
- The two fellows were able to work with the Commission to implement Sec 4 throughout the DMC and Delhi University relating to budgets, allocation of money-so that the students can be involved in stressing how the money should be spent.
- Aheli and Saurabh have been appointed in the central task force to implementation of RTI nationwide
- the report of the task force has been submitted to the Govt of India
- they were part of the National Youth Conference that prepared paper
- disclosure of answer sheets lawsuit was the first lawsuit filed under the RTI- Calcutta High Court ruled in favor of disclosing the answer sheets and Delhi ruled against and a PIL was filed in the Supreme Court by JOSH (Aheli and Saurabh are part of it) and the SC ruled in favor of disclosure of answer sheets
- their group also provides daily classes for students in two low-income areas in Delhi to help with education and empower them to make them aware of their rights. Children range from 11-17 years. These are not formal school-like structure but additional evening tuition classes.
- Economically weak sections of the society have the right to have 20 % of private school quota in their area set aside for EWS children-the low income populations are not even aware of these rights.
- the activism around this issue also raised awareness of lack of certain facilities like mid-day meals, drinking water, etc.

- they also conducted public hearings on the RTE ACT and 30 cases out of 809 identified were presented to officials from Education, Sanitation and Public Works departments as well as 40 principals from area schools

- as a result of this public hearing MCD appointed cleaners to improve the hygiene, actions taken against teachers for corporal punishment, parents are now allowed to inspect the food that is being prepared for mid-day meals, etc.

- 4 cases related to denial of admissions in private schools per the 20% quota-Aheli and Saurabh have experience in advocating for children denied admission under the 20% quota

- Postcard campaign were conducted to create awareness about the RTE ACT and they also had a Youth College Festival where they advocated about the RTE Act

- Over the last 4 years Aheli and Saurabh-they have ben doing some tremendous work and the results are visible especially in the last 6 years.

- this update is in lieu of June/July 2011-this year's funds have not gone there

- This presentation is for renewal of the 2011-2012-this is the update for the new proposal.

- we need to put this on a poll for Asha SV to vote for the renewal of the fellows' money for the coming year

- the total amount for the coming year has yet to be put on a slide-Rs. 15,000 per month.

- vishal will send Sachin a list of poll questions and also send him the updated slides.

- Vishal will also upload the actual report from Aheli and Saurabh

- what is the impact of the RTE Act on our schools- we should contact Vishal.

New poll for ashasv-vol

Reply

New poll for ashasv-vol

Enter your vote today! A new poll has been created for the
ashasv-vol group:

"Do you approve Rs. 3,60,000 towards the RTI Fellowships budget for 2011-2012 for Aheli Choudhary and Saurabh Sharma (Rs 1,80,000 each)? Proposal details can be located at http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=848 and http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=849 respectively"

o YES
o NO

To vote, please visit the following web page:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ashasv-vol/surveys?id=3069542

Note: Please do not reply to this message. Poll votes are
not collected via email. To vote, you must go to the Yahoo! Groups
web site listed above.

Thanks!

Poll results for ashasv-vol

Reply

Poll results for ashasv-vol

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

POLL QUESTION: "Do you approve Rs. 3,60,000 towards the RTI Fellowships budget for 2011-2012 for Aheli Choudhary and Saurabh Sharma (Rs 1,80,000 each)? Proposal details can be located at
http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=848 and
http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=849 respectively"

CHOICES AND RESULTS
- YES, 10 votes, 100.00%
- NO, 0 votes, 0.00%