

Q & A on Budget 2014-15

Why did Payir have to shift from non-formal education center to primary school? Was there no other option to stay within the guidelines of NFE?

For the past few years, there had been a constant uneasiness among parents about the Non-formal status (of their children's TC specifically) and with the advent of RTE, not only their apprehension increased, but also the NFE itself became untenable as the local Education department put pressure for formal certification. All the friends of us who ran similar NFE, who had more experience than us, went for formal recognition. Our Trustees also decided that we need to go for recognition. Most importantly, our teachers and Jay, one of our IT developers, had a dream to study in a school where he would be proud of that school, where English can be learnt. When the bait of complying with RTE came at Trustee's meeting, he spearheaded the move to becoming formal..I sensed he can become the natural leader..so, we went for the primary school

What are the other possibilities they can stay funded from?

We are collecting a nominal fee that will take most of the student learning aids. No other funding is available from the Govt. except for subsidized text books when we are recognized. We will collect the shortfall (primarily salaries) from individual/external donors

When did the school start

Academic Year 2013-14

What is it that this school is proving that the others are not? i.e was another primary school necessary since there are already government schools in that area which Payir supports through the intervention program.

We have been working with Government schools, both primary and secondary for more than 5 years now. Our experience is, while it is important to keep strengthening the Government schools, there is a need for our teachers and support staff to have a school that boosts its success being child friendly. The inherent nature of Government schools, the government systems is highly resistant to become child

friendly in any near future. Patchaimuthu and all of our teachers, who themselves are apprehensive about alternate/child oriented learning need this working space to experiment and explore so as to learn for themselves.

There is also a thought process, which will take a few more years, to network with other like-minded organizations to bring system wide changes.

What happened to the children from the Gurukul?

They are now studying in our Primary school

What happened with the funds UFlorida provided to NFE in the previous year? The funds were for NFE till Sept.

Except for going for recognition of NFE through State board, everything else remains the same with the NFE. We used the UFlorida funds for paying salaries. I will send in a separate report on the fund utilization.

What did they do with the “Quality of Education” grant of \$1200? They were to be used for building playground.

With QoE grant and donation from one of well-wishers, the playground equipment arrived end of last year. Due to our work with Nutrition program, we have not been able to concentrate in setting the equipment up. Will complete in the next few weeks time.

What is the government funding going to be once it converts to primary school?

There will be no Government funding for this school except for subsidized text books

How do you plan to provide the nutrition?

This is provided in the same way as before