

Minutes of ASHA Meeting

Date : 10 April 2003

Venue : ETH Polyterasse

Participants: Arvind, Sathya, Priyanka, Saikumar, Santosh, Chidu, Vishwa, Shyam, Vikram

1. Saikumar informed to the ASHA members that he has received no feedback on the progress of construction from the concerned people in VA, after they received the first installment for the construction of a school building. The committee has made it clear that the next installment will be dispatched to VA only when a concrete and update report as to how the first installment was used, is sent to them. Such a report may include verified bills by the contractor, photographs of the construction site and comments of the visitors to the site. The first installment was cashed on 14th Feb, 03 and the construction work is supposed to have started by mid of March, 2003.
2. Santosh gave a quick overview of the current financial status of ASHA Zurich. Total money in ASHA account 12,000 CHF. The committee suggested that the finances should be maintained as per calender years.
3. It was decided that a GBM will be held before May 2003 which would be approx. one year after the last GBM. The date and agenda for GBM will be decided by the ASHA committee and communicated to all ASHA members.
4. Vishwa presented some new proposals which could be funded by ASHA Zurich. Out of four new proposals which come from various states of India, two have been short listed for further assessment. Apart from these short listed proposals other proposals are also invited and can be considered for funding by ASHA Zurich.
5. Chidu suggested that ASHA Zurich should issue a newsletter stating its accomplishments, financial status etc. in the past one year.
6. Shyam gave his opinion on the Jherli Project, which he visited during his trip to India in Feb. 2003. According to him, the proposal in its present form, is not convincing as he informed that the money is required not for school books but for other general books. He felt that this kind of bookbank wouldn't help in decreasing school dropout rate and might not encourage more children to attend schools. It was decided that ASHA Zurich would not fund this project in its present form. If a modified proposal is sent, ASHA members would consider the project again.
7. There were some more ideas on how to raise funds for ASHA. Vikram suggested that he will try to bring in some funds from donors in London and India and even an advertisement for ASHA is possible. Sathya suggested that ASHA Zurich could organise could organise a Zakir Hussain or Hari Prasad tour to Zurich, which could be a very good opportunity to gain publicity and raise funds. However details about this would be thought over and decided in the coming weeks.

Priyanka Belawat
General Secretary
ASHA Zurich.