

## Minutes of Asha meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007.

**Attendance :** Vijay, anurag, Kisholay, Baiju, Priyank, Vishwa, Chidu, Priyanka, Srinjoy, Shyam, Mahua, Agomoni, Parmindar, Bipin(new), Das malik(new), Kartik(new), Vishwadeep(new), Apeeksha(new), Indraneel, Nitesh

- Vijay moderated the meeting.
- Vishwa gave an overview of asha and the aim of the meeting.
- As a motivation/introduction, Chidu described the present situation in India
  - Poor getting poorer?
  - Will economic growth alone bring all we want? Current economic state is pretty bad.
  - Only 3.2% of GDP spent on education.
  - Examples like Pratham and Dhan are presented.

### **New Directions**

- New Directions – Employment (for – 5; against – 5 )
  - Just education need not be enough... we might need to generate employment.
  - Vocational trainings can also be sponsored. Example - counselling
  - Employment will bring money but its not everything... we need education for example women who would not need employment but need education.
  - We should not reject non-educational projects at the outset.
  - We have restricted applicability and low bandwidth with our current resources.
- Help individuals? (for – 3; against – 3 )
  - Asha wide has support a child projects, we also need to have it.
  - Impact limited.
  - Conclusion: Within the projects is ok, but taking special project for this purpose is not ok.
- Libraries for Asha projects – should we support private libraries?
  - Within the projects yes but separately may be not.
- Women empowerment ? – We already do that.
- Political interference – outright refusal !

### **Operational Improvement**

- Project governance – (for – 7; against – 3 )
  - Yes : Everybody should be interested; improve uniformity; improve deadlines and decision making
  - No : each project is different; we already do a good job;
  - Kisholey and Nitesh volunteer to streamline and outline the existing projects (bring all the projects to a single pattern – eg. website).
- Communication – reporting and transparency. (for – all; against – none )
  - Thank you letters should be sent regularly – treasurer and gen sec should do this.
  - Handling of new members can be improved.

- Acknowledge regular and one time donors with apero etc
- We can also inform the projects how they are getting the money.
- We need to collect e-mails/mail addresses of donors and inform them regularly about projects.
- Monthly meetings – each one can take turns to talk in the monthly meetings to speak on different motivational topics.
- Vijay summarised the discussion
- We have not yet discussed internal growth/aims targets.
- Everyone agrees on fund raising but we need more time to discuss on it.

**Conclusions/tasks:**

- Talks on Monday meetings/reviews
  - Womens empowerment : Agomoni, Vijay
  - Library and helping individuals : Kishalaya, Mahua
- Responsibilities for improving Operations
  - Project governance : Nitesh
  - Comm+ reporting+transparencly : Vishwa
  - Monthly meetings : Indraneel
- Chidu – Intervention model