

Minutes of the meeting held on 06th March 2007

Venue: ETH HG F33.3 19.00 - 21.00Hrs

People Attended: Agomoni, Charu, Anurag, Indraneel, Vishwa, Priyank, Shyam, Kirti, Srinjoy, Chidu

Agenda :

KGBV: (Vishwa)

KGBV (Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya) project funding: (Kirti)

Rs. 1 Lakh = Rs. 100,000

KGBV is a girl's education program (residential school) to be conducted in UP. Govt of India has approved some 1000 schools (under the sarva shikshan abhiyan) all over India and out of which 125 are in UP. Out of this 125, 10 schools are taken up by a semi Govt NGO called Mahila Samaj (MS) and are running in rented buildings. There are approx 100 children in each school. Govt of India will give the land and the running cost of the schools and Public Works Dept of India has provided with the plan of the building which will cost 20 Lakh per building. However as there were many flaws in this plan, MS independently asked an architect to come up with another plan and to realize this new plan/building, each school need 15 Lakh extra. But Govt agrees to pay only 20 lakh for the construction but MS wants to construct at least 2 schools with their plan and show to the Govt that their way is better. Through these 2 model schools MS wants to build pressure on the Govt to provide 35 lakh per school for all the other schools. Hence MS is seeking this extra 15 lakh from other NGOs including Asha. Till now they have secured the funding (15 lakh) for one school and are hoping that Asha Detroit, Munich and Zurich will team up and provide half of the funding for the other school (that is 7.5 lakh). The rest 7.5 lakh they want to get from other resources (NGOs, individuals, etc). So the funding asked from Asha Zurich alone is about 6000-7000 CHF

- A preliminary MoU has been finalized between Asha chapters and MS, which will be presented to Ministry of Home and Rural Development of the Govt of India (MHRD)
- MHRD appointed to inspect 10 running KGBV (in rented building), they said MS is doing good work.
- MS has already the land for 2 KGBV. near Mathura and Pratapghad

Shyam: Looking in to the accounts Shyam said if we do get the donations as we used to get, till the end of 2008 with out any more new projects we will be left with about 18,000 CHF. Our regular income per year is about 10-12 K but our spending now for 3 projects is approx 24K. So if donate this 7000 CHF then we might be left with about 10K at the end of 2008. So this doesn't look as a good idea because we will be under tremendous pressure to generate more funds to keep the projects going.

Indraneel, Vishwa: If we give this amount to MS, then we do get a chance to work with the govt and probably make a difference in securing funds for all the other schools. Probably by making the two schools to run smoothly will push the govt to provide the whole 35 lakh per school. Also less funds in Asha accounts means it will force us to work hard and raise more funds, which is good thing.

Indraneel: agrees to fund this, only if we are sure we can generate this amount some other means, like exclusive events only to generate this amount.

Agomoni: Not a bad idea to fund this, but we have to think what it means for us from this project. Do we get any benefit/satisfaction from funding a big organization like this which can any way find funding from other sources or should we fund those projects where in it is difficult for those small NGOs to arrange for yearly funds. this? Do we have to fund a BIG organization? do we want to benefit 120 schools or another ONE class by one more NGO?

MS is like an autonomous body like IIT, IIM etc. and we will get a chance to work with the Govt.

Srinjoy: All ashas need when we fund any projects is to know whether the money is properly spent or not? And it seems like asha money is always rightly used and probably the same with this project.. probably we should fund.

Priyank: If we fund KGBV with 7000 CHF, will we think of any of other project in future, will we fund more projects? Probably we will not fund any new project. But members in the meeting did not agree to this. People said, if we are able to generate more funds we will fund many projects.

Indraneel: This KGBV projects needs many asha chapters to work together. Till now asha Zurich was bit away from asha wide chapters so probably this project will help us in working with other chapters.

Summary:

About 66% of the people agreed to fund the project and 33% said they have some reservations. Hence a decision could not be taken. It was decided that Vishwa will call for another meeting exclusively to discuss this project and to have a voting on this issue.

Zuriyodhay: (Priyank)

Priyank asked for articles from Chidu, Vishwa, kirti and others for the upcoming zuriyodhay issue.

Asha Website (Anurag)

Finally after two weeks of continuous follow up asha zurich website is working. People appreciated the work of Anurag in making this possible. Anurag will work more on the website soon.

IAZ Ball and Disco (Vishwa)

Vishwa informed that asha zurich has agreed to help in organizing the Disco after the IAZ ball on 24th March. Priyanka will be the DJ; vishwa and Chidu will be there to help around. Probably we might need one more person and Vishwa will communicate this to the group.

Other Events (Agomoni)

Agomoni was going through a website of a person from Kolkatta who is visiting London and US with his mime show. She found out that this person was not so famous! Chidu suggested that if we want to have a small event then probably Museum Rietberg can help us in giving a small hall and publicizing the event. Agomoni has been asked to think about this point and come up with some plan.

Minutes prepared by Vishwa