

## **Minutes of Asha Zurich's Monthly Meeting**

**Date:** 04.04.2014

**Time:** 18:30 - 20:30

**Place:** Sitzungszimmer, TEZET Oerlikon

**Members present:** Shalmali, Hans –Jürg, Neera, Pratyush, Indranil, Kirti, Rajesh, Sujit, Dipshika, Rahul, Tulika, Namita, Kamlesh, Sachin, Akshata, Amit

### **Points Discussed**

#### **Lok Biradari Prakalp (LBP) Project status update**

- Pratyush presented the new budget proposal for the FY 2014.
- The proposed new budget of **INR 10,74,000** has a hike of INR 2,75,270 compared to last year.
- The new budget indicated an increase due to 2 main reasons,
  - Salaries of two additional teachers i.e. INR 6000 per month for 12 months, which works out to be INR 1,44,000.
  - Increase in the monthly expenditure of each student from INR 630 to INR 930 for 10 months. The program supports 100 students, hence the budget required for students is INR 9,30,000
- The student expenses include 3 meals per day, stationary, toiletries, uniform and boarding facilities.
- The Tribal department has declared (wef June 2013) that the official expenditure per student is INR 930. The project co-coordinator to verify this and ask for a document, which authorizes this rate.
- **The new budget was approved** by hand votes with the following result. **YES 16, NO 0, ABSTAIN 1. However, it was agreed that we may not be able to fund 100% next year (subject to funds availability) and this should be conveyed to LBP**
- Project coordinator to request LBP to provide information and also publish the (regular) donor list on their website.
- The second installment to be sent out once the MOU has been signed.

#### **SACSAS Academy Project status update**

- Kirti presented the new budget proposal for the FY 2014.
- Total number of students is 163.
- The proposed new budget of **INR 6,36,050** has a hike of INR 56,762 compared to last year.
- The 10% hike is mainly due to teachers and staff salary, uniform, books and stationary for students.
- **The new budget was approved** by hand votes with the following result. **YES 17, NO 0, ABSTAIN**
- The second installment to be sent out once the MOU has been signed.

#### **SACSAS Self-sustainability model**

- Kirti presented a proposal which would enable SACAS to be self sustainable for the next few years

- The plan proposes that the ASHA Houston chapter, which is closing down would use its funds to buy a state of the art ultra sound machine for the National Charitable hospital, Manipur.
- The revenue collected by the use of this machine would be utilized to fund the SACSAS projects.
- ASHA ZH is only expected to coordinate the smooth flow of funds, initially from the US ASHA chapters to the SACSAS trust (for buying the machine) and then from the hospital to the SACSAS projects.
- Therefore, ASHA ZH will need to sign MOU`s with each of the respective parties and also convey that we would not be in a position to financially support the projects in case of fund non availability due the machine breaking down etc
- This model would generate approx **INR 5lac per year**
- Break up:
  - Cost of 3D Ultrasound – INR 16,00,000
  - Charges for utilizing the machine per patient – INR600
  - Average no of ultrasounds per month – 100
  - Total revenue generated per month INR 60,000
  - Total expenses – INR 20,700
  - **Net revenue generated per month- INR 39,300**
- Kirti will clarify few points with the coordinator, namely,
  - ASHA ZH will only be involved with the administration
  - This plan only partly supports the SACSAS budget, how do they intend on gaining the rest of the funds.
  - What happens in case if there is a delay in generating funds due to the machine breakdown etc

The decision on whether or not to support this proposal will be taken via e-mail voting once we receive feedback from Kirti.

### **Findings of the Annual status of education report (ASER) 2013**

- The findings of ASER 2013 for rural India was presented by Rahul
- ASER conducted a test of reading and arithmetic skills of 10-11 year olds in rural India by asking them to read texts or solve problems of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- The results were published on data from 327,397 households in 550 districts.
- Very low number (25-40%) of the students tested could solve the problems or read the text given to them.
- These results make one sit-up and think about what is going wrong, is it the lack of quality teachers, lack of personal attention due to large number of students or plain lack of interest of the students?
- ASHA ZH to initiate similar surveys for all our projects during the next site visit.

### **Bollywood Disco**

- Heycity, oerlikon, is available on 9<sup>th</sup> May.
- Event may be moved to either June or early September due to lack of time for preparations.