

AID Conference 2004

Minutes for Session Named Multimedia/ Pamphlets Production (Renamed into Education Cell)

Date: 05/ 30/ 04

Time From: 3:30 PM

To: 5:00 PM

Minutes Taken By: Kavita Karandikar

Number of attendees: About 15 - 18

Audio/Visual Component? No

Speaker/Panelist Names:

1. Balaji Sampath

What they are speaking about:

Education cell – idea, setup and action items

Main Presentation:

Goals of education cell

Material production – science kits, pamphlets, visual aids, slides, videos, books, CDs, stories for libraries, translations etc

Forming network of teachers – websites, email groups, training camps and modules for teachers

Understanding the basic issues of education

Problem studies and model studies - Looking at existing solutions, India and outside case studies (Latin America and Africa)

Creating a resource group

Non formal education

Documenting what exactly is going on

Policy – curriculum, text book studies, education policy

RAFT

Education study done by Chandrika in TN

What is the quality of math level in children 3,4th grade. The problems they are facing. What are they supposed to know? The factors in the environment which are helping or inhibiting them from learning. The goal was to decide the policy intervention.

How are we going to do it? What scale? How to test the material we produce?

It is not a state program. It is practical to create and test it in one state (TN) and then adapt it to other states. Ensure that some of the material is used.

Identifying locations where we want to implement the components. But we need not wait to identify all the locations. We can start with the initial set up in one place and then expand to other groups.

Action Items

Network of teachers

Big email group – target 10000

How do you want to reach the teachers?

The network will have teachers from regular and alternate schools. You ask questions and we give you answers.

Do we want to start for a specific subject? We won't get enough questions. Do not overload with lots of stuff. Draft a letter to the teachers.

How will you capture the interest of teachers? Urban and rural both?

Who will answer those questions? We need to set up a team of resource persons?

How will this link to rural groups? For now let us have it only for teachers who have email access.

Target:

TN – 1000 teachers

WB – 100

AP -100

Bangalore – 200

Delhi – 100

Pune – 100

Guwahati - 100

Who are we trying to help here? Easier to start with urban school teachers because they are more receptive and have more access. But many times what works with urban school teachers works also with rural teachers.

Should we start a website or a Bulletin board?

Maintaining anonymity of teachers is important. Teachers have many questions but they do not want others especially their colleagues to know.

The teachers will read but they will not send questions.

Every fortnight send out a news letter/ some idea they can try.

The fundamental problem – action items do not relate to the chart. What is the end goal? We do not have user group. We don't have material for the user group. How will you try or test the pamphlets?

We will need more space for the website.

Can we work with website and e-group?

Teachers can not become members of US teacher groups. Material and resources they use are very different. But some of us should become members of such groups.

Education Cell people working with different state cells should ensure that the pamphlets go to NGOs in that state.

Responsibilities

Web coordination – Gayathri from Austin, Suresh from Chennai

Email group – Uma from Maryland, Madhavi from Austin

Science pamphlets and posters – Alok Sheno, State College, Pahal, Priya - San Diego, Gayathri – Austin.

Slides and a written document.

Understanding issues in education – Srividhya and Chandrika

Kits collection - Vaijyanthi

Resource people – Govind

Overall coordination - Govind

Experimental kits making out of trash – Arvind Gupta creates these science kits

Get toys, material. It can be easily duplicated.

Ideas expansion

Package to send to each team (in each state)

Question/Answer Session:

The session was conducted as discussion. We did not have a presentation and a distinct question answer session. Hence the minutes are written as main points.

Additional Notes/ Observations: