

Date: Apr 14, 2007

Dear Joseph,


The best part of the mail is the last line 'I look forward to meeting you and working together as well!' Why don't you fix an early date and hop into a plane. We eagerly look forward to meeting you here.

I'll however come back to you on all the points mentioned in your mail. If I express reservation about any of these, the reservations are based on the local situation rather than on the usefulness of the technology. warm regards

Vasant


Date: Sunday, April 15, 2007 8:47 AM

Mr. Vasant Deshpande

Our board met this weekend and discussed the water projects that Sadhana Village is working toward. So here are our thoughts (as best I can convey them): 

At our meeting, we determined that we will be able to provide about \$5,000 for our collaborative work with Sadhana Village. As such, we are quite certain that we will be able to fund the borewell project servicing the three hamlets with 150 families total. As for the rest of the funds, we at WDA are hoping that we can dialogue with Sadhana Village to develop creative and innovative solutions appropriate to your valley's specific needs. One of our members, Lize Bernhardt, receiving her Masters degree in Humanitarian Services and Administration with an emphasis on water—has brought up several promising suggestions for ways that Sadhana Village might be able to aid its community in attaining clean drinking water. My hope is to share these ideas with you so that together we can figure out a cohesive strategy that makes the best use of the funds we have to offer. Here are the ideas that we would like to explore further with you:

Solar pasteurization of water: the alum that you mentioned in your previous e-mail is a chemical that causes the sediment to fall out of the water. The alum, however, does not kill bacteria or viruses. We also believe that after the alum is used, people are advised to boil the water to kill any water borne diseases. However, given fuel restraints and electricity restraints, it seems likely that boil is not always an option for many villagers. As such an alternative way of sanitizing the water seems necessary. We feel that solar pasteurization presents tremendous potential. I am not sure if you have done much research on this, but solar pasteurization can be done quite cheaply (estimates are as low as \$6 to build a solar cooker that could serve one or two families). The benefits are: (1) totally sustainable (2) no fuel needed (3) cheap (4) empowers villagers and (5) kills bacteria contaminating the water.

If this option does seem like the type of technology that would benefit Sadhana and the community, please let us know. If you do think of this as a promising solution, we would like to begin experimenting with and developing the technology (our school would fund this) and begin planning a solar pasteurization aspect of our collaboration. 

Second idea: rain water harvesting. Again, I am not sure how much research you have done on this, but rain water harvesting seems to be an incredible opportunity to garner water in an economically efficient and environmentally sound way.

Third idea: you said that during the monsoon season, water gets cut short because of water inundation and electricity shortages. With regards to the electricity, I think that much of your problem be solved by having an array of batteries connected to the pump for days when no electricity is available. One of the

NGOs I worked with in Honduras, Sustainable Harvest International, had a small solar panel (cost \$20) that they used to charge their batteries for electricity. I realize that during the monsoon season, solar panels are not going to be an option, but perhaps the solar panels could be used when there is more sun. They could also be used to save up a charge for a future power shortage.


Fourth idea: you mentioned that the alum was not being appropriately administered. How about working on sediment filtration for communities? There are two promising options that I am aware of: (1) gravel/sand filters and (2) nano-filters (this was developed by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras).

I have a lot more to say about all of these ideas, but I will restrain myself to read what your responding thoughts are. Are these options that have already been considered and tossed aside? If so, why? Are these options that sound appealing? If so, which ones seems best? Why? And do you see potential for community awareness projects within any of these proposed technologies?

I hope that this letter is well received. It is our attempt to work with Sadhana to make our collaboration as fruitful as possible. I hope we can share ideas together and collectively develop a project together that will truly benefit the families Sadhana Village serves. I look forward to meeting you and working together as well!

Sincerely,
Joseph

Date: 4/17/07

 Dear Joseph Bornstein,

Let me please explain the delay in decision making.

We find that the third activity involving more than \$13000/- is out of question.

I mentioned in my earlier email that we expect te local stakeholders to contribute around20 to 25% of the costs; and this amount would go towards building a Water Fund for the valley.

Now your offer of \$5000/- has presented to us tantalising possibilities. Could we also take up the Shindewadi project (around \$3800) which needwise is important.

I've been talking to the people to raise their contribution so that we could take that up. The final decisions will be made around the coming Saturday.

As for the water Fund for the Valley, well, I guess it can wait.

So sorry for the delay. I'll be back by Sunday at the latest Regards

Vasant Deshpande

Date: Apr 17, 2007 7:32 PM

Subject: error

Dear Joseph Bornstein,

Let me correct an error in my previous email sent to you this morning: I mention \$3800 as cost of Shindewadi project; it should be \$8300.

I am serious about your visit to us in India. We would like to enter into a long term agreement with WDA for addressing the needs of the people in the valley. We have chosen the valley because, the geographical boundaries give a bit of a social cohesion among the people. More importantly we can show results and quantify them up to the level of the families concerned.

Once you come and observe conditions in the villages, you`ll see for yourself why the solar and the other ideas have not succeeded. We at our centre have, however, three solar water heaters working for many many years. Regards

Vasant Deshpande

Date: Apr 19, 2007 6:53 AM
Subject: drinking water schemes

Dear Joseph Bornstein,

I went to the vilages and had a meeting with the groups of both the Shindewadi and the waringwadi groups. We discussed if they wish to take advantage of the offer and come up with more of their contribution.

The summer is tough here and the water problem tougher. Perhaps that would persuade the groups to try and see if they could raise their contributions.

They have agreed to give their decision to me by Tuesday. Hence please wait till Tuesday for my final email. Thank you.

Today we had a group of 20 workers from University of Glasgow`s Department of Development visiting us. Many of them working in the field of health and youth training and disability. They seem to have A healthy approach to problems. The team would like to promote some volunteers for short stays with sadhana. No idea how it`ll work though.

Regards

Vasant Deshpande

Date: Apr 20, 2007
Mr. Vasant Deshpande,

No worries about the delay and good luck with collecting funds!

I want to stress that the \$5,000 is what we expect to be able to fundraise. We are confident in this estimate, but it is not as if we have the money in our bank as of yet. I just thought you should know that.

Secondly, our projects in the past have been geared around being more than just a fundraising organization. In the past we have worked with communities to develop strategies together, combining our minds to actually create something. This is much of why those other mentioned technologies were so attractive. They represented an chance for our work with Sadhana to be more than just money giving. As such, I have to ask why exactly these other technologies have failed in the past. It seems that they have served thousands of communities across the globe in economically and environmentally efficient and sustainable ways. Please do not be offended by my prying.

Best,
Joseph

Date: 4/21/07
Dear Joseph Bornstein,

Thank you for your email. We have hardly a month to implement any of the schemes that we adopt. After

that we are at the mercy of the monsoons for almost three months. Moreover, These three months are mean and lean months in terms of extra money with the families to contribute to any new project. And hence the hurry.

Now let me come to the points made in your earlier email.

I really feel that a visit to our villages by you will greatly help in understanding the local imperatives. You must have visited quite a few villages in developing countries; there are however a few specific human issues.

Let me give you a picture of a typical village with us here. It is a cluster of houses built wall to wall; and dividing the rows is an uneven path hardly 6 to 8 feet in width. Humans, animals, carts and now the tractors all take the same path.

The village is situated on the undulating foot of the hill. The soil depth (except near the small river) is hardly 9 inches and below it is hard rock. Water retention is very poor. There are prolific showers from June to Sept and no precipitation later.

People have still not got over the urges of adolescent democracy where you demand things to be done for you; Electoral politics has divided communities and a feeling is assiduously nurtured by the local leaders that it is the government which is responsible for community works. So even if you have a small scheme which would help 10-20 families at a modest cost of a few thousand rupees, people just ignore. We have been trying to instill in those (that listen to us) this community spirit. Rotary Int'l asked us to implement a drinking water project; and we told the local Rotarians that we'd insist on repayment of the cost by the beneficiaries. That perhaps didn't fit into Rotary's scheme of things and we had to stop collecting repayment in the middle. Even now we insist on the financial participation of the stakeholders. 📧

We are aware of the four methods of getting clean drinking water. In fact, at our establishment we have solar water heaters and we drink pasteurised water and in our history of 13 years we haven't had any water borne health problems.

We have also tried solar cookers. Too clumsy.

Now if you want to keep a cooker outside the rural house, it has to be away from the house. There is just not enough sunny place between most houses. The cookers mostly come with glass reflectors and it is hard to maintain them.

The rainwater harvesting is an expensive task especially with the rocky surfaces. There again, you don't have enough space between two houses. It is hard to find two or more families cooperating to build storages together.

The government installed drinking water schemes have at least 5hp pumpsets each. Installing batteries and maintaining them efficiently is beyond community mindscape at the moment.

There are in the market some good filters with diaphragms that keep most pathogens away. Some are handy and can be fitted to the tap of the small drinking water vessel. We did try mud vessels with gravel sand etc. but could not continue.

The main problem appears to be to effectively convince the villagers that they need to look for the quality of their drinking water. This can come through DEMONSTRATION and awareness exercises. Demonstration can be done when we devise and implement an independent water scheme and involve users to check and verify quality; they use methods to ensure safety and REALISE that it works for their benefit. 📧

I'm sure you have done most of these things with others. We plan to do the same with our families here. I'll be glad to further clarify any of the points mentioned here. Regards

Vasant

Sent: Monday, April 23, 2007 2:04 AM

Subject: Re: Drinking water


Dear Mr. Vasant,

WDA is still, of course, committed to fundraising for our work with Sadhana Village. Although our contribution is not be as interactive as we had hoped, we realize that sometimes the more straightforward solution may be the best solution. We all really appreciated having the reasoning laid out for us, so that we could understand WHY it was that our original ideas were not possible.

Now a new obstacle exists by virtue of the fact that it is much easier to fundraise for the type of interactive and collaborative project WDA had originally envisioned, and a bit harder to fundraise for the current course of action which does not require much from WDA except for money. For example, Whitman College, which was likely to be one of our largest contributors, will be uninterested in giving WDA money in order to give Sadhana money, when WDA is less involved in the project itself. I do not want to be pessimistic; we still do think that WDA can raise a substantial amount of money for Sadhana. I just want to make clear the types of obstacles we are facing.

We still would like to be able to reach the goal of \$5,000 for Sadhana, but upon revaluation given the nature of collaboration we are going to be involved in, it seems unlikely that we will be able to reach our original fundraising mark. What seems more likely is raising between \$2000-\$4000.

Our fundraising efforts will include: (1) grant writing, (2) event hosting, (3) business sponsorship (4) business gift giving and (5) community gift giving.

On Tuesday, given the vote you mentioned, we will know if \$5000 would be enough to fund the \$8300 project. If the vote is to contribute 25%, making the \$8300 project possible, we will present our fundraising in the following way: 

Here are the two projects we hope to work with Sadhana on <insert explanation of the two projects> depending on how much funds we raise, we will be able to fund either the Warangewadi scheme or the Shindewadi scheme. Because we do not know how much money we will raise, we cannot guarantee which project your money will fund, however, we can guarantee it will fund one of these two projects.

If the extra the money that Sadhana wants to raise for the Shindewadi scheme does not come through, then we will simply focus our fundraising efforts on the Warangewadi scheme.

To do either of these strategies, I think it would be helpful to have as much information as possible regarding the families we would be helping and the actual engineering of the project.

Mr. Vasant, let us brainstorm together:

I think it would be helpful to present people with the following—

1. Pictures of Sadhana and its staff
2. Pictures of successful water projects Sadhana has completed
3. Pictures of the families the planned water project would provide water two.
4. A detailed budget so contributors know exactly where their money is going.
5. A good diagram of the proposed engineering project.

The pictures will be used to establish a human connection between potential donators and the people the

water project would be serving; they would help create a whole picture, so to speak. The diagrams and schema details would make people feel comfortable with the cause they are contributing to, plus it would help us better be able to talk about the project when speaking with potential contributors.

Is it possible for Sadhana to send this information?

Do you have any other information that you think would be helpful? If so, please let me know so we can continue to talk this plan through.

Joseph

Date: Apr 23, 2007 8:47 PM

Subject: Re: Drinking water

Dear Mr Joseph Bornstein,

Today is Tuesday and I send my reply as attachment. Thank you so much for your interest. I hope I haven't taxed your patience beyond limits. And I really appreciate the promptness in your responses. I see other people using Internet mail with a 19th century mentality. Regards

Vasant Deshpande

Date: Tuesday, April 24, 2007 1:34 PM

Subject: Re: Drinking water


Dear Mr. Vasant,

Thank you again for the thoughtful correspondence filled with many wise points. We have much to discuss, so I will "get down to it" so to speak.

Your question: " why do technologies that offer solutions not appeal to the people?" Is a very important question for our world to have answers to, and it is one that I sincerely want to begin to uncover and find answers to.

Our group is a bit confused as to what exactly you are proposing when you write:

"We intended the projects suggested to be the entry point to the community. We could start our study of the problems using the `beneficiary` community as a lab. We cant do such a study using a government funded project.

Once we know the inhibiting factors that deny the use of the known technologies by **a given community**, then we make suitable changes in the technology or try to remove mind blocks in the community through campaigns, awareness building and other measures." 

I have the following questions:

1. What precisely do you propose? To help you see my confusion, here are some follow-up questions.

2. When you say that the project could be an "entry point" and that we could start a "study" using the "beneficiary community as a lab," are you referring specifically to one of your three outlined projects? (I think the answer is yes).

3. What sort of study are you referring to? How would we conduct that study? (i.e. what would the details of the study entail).

4. If we are indeed going to study the beneficiary of a "straight forward" project, how does our study of that type of project directly relate to the more alternative appropriate technology questions both of us are concerned about?


Moving on to another part of your e-mail, you write:

"Could the College help us in unraveling these mysteries?"

How could the college help in unraveling these mysteries? I think we are educated thinkers who have training in critical analysis. This would be important to helping unravel these mysterious, however I fear that we would encounter barriers of (1) language (2) reservations from villagers being asked prying questions by outsiders (3) a local perspective on the issues we are studying. What do you think about these barriers (and others)? Could we overcome them?

Moving on, you write: "The funds may be raised for facilitating the combined efforts; like your students' visits and study of the issues on the ground; innovative turns to the existing technologies or even awareness building among the community."

Mr. Vasant, you are completely correct that it is quite likely that WDA could get funds for the project along these lines. I think this is a very promising perspective on our collaboration. Now it is a matter of hashing everything out.

I wish you well. 

Sincerely,
Joseph

Date: 4/28/07

Great Response !. I'd come back soon. Regards

Date: 4/29/07

Excellent! I anxiously await your thoughts (but please take your time).

Date: Sunday, April 29, 2007 5:36 AM

Subject: Re: Drinking water

Dear Mr. Vasant Deshpande,

Thank you very much again for the well thought and quick e-mail; I think we are making some serious progress. I apologize for the delay in returning your e-mail. I felt it necessary to wait for our Saturday WDA meeting to discuss these matters with the group before writing my response.

So here are our questions—


Question Subject Number One:

The major components of research that I can think of are: (please let me know if you see other important subjects):

1. Doing background research (reading other studies, contacting other NGOs with similar experience etc) on the subject being studied to inform our research project
2. Developing the research strategy/theory (development of the exact details of what our research project will be and how we will conduct that research) based on Sadhana's experiences and additional research
3. Field work: asking people questions and seeing what would work and wouldn't work.
4. Putting our research together to write an essay with regards to our findings.

So, Mr. Vasant, what specifically do you think WDA's involvement would be? And what would Sadhana's involvement be? What specific tasks would be assigned to each organization? I.e. Who would be responsible for what? (WDA is starting to get a clearer picture of how we envision this research project, but we decided to "pause" that discussion and wait to hear your thoughts first).

Question Subject Number Two:

After much discussion among our group has determined the time period we can be in India next year. It looks like we will be able to be in India from around March 7th until March 28th. That is a total of about 20 days to be in India. Given your opinion of what WDA's responsibilities would be, do you think that 20 days (or a bit less) is enough time to do the research that you hope to complete? If not, can you think of a way around this problem? 

Question Subject Number Three:

We want to make clear exactly the commitment that WDA is offering. The way WDA works is this: each year a group of students get together and research an issue that they can all agree to work together on (this year we chose water). The students then organize a major project in light of that vision. Some of our members are senior members (myself) and others are younger. As people graduate college, the core group of WDA slowly changes as younger members take the place of graduating seniors. As such, it is impossible to guarantee any long-term involvement with Sadhana. We are committed to working with Sadhana through the next academic year (June 2008). It will be entirely up to the people working on projects in later years. I think we can safely say that there is interest and the possibility of long-term collaboration, but this is a complete unknown. I apologize if this was not made clear earlier. Given this information I do hope that you are still as excited to work with WDA as we are to work with Sadhana. I must ask, do you still want to work with us given our inability to commit to a long-term relationship?

Question Subject Number Four:

How do you think that our research study would be used in the future? (We are not entirely clear on how Sadhana works exactly, so we don't know precisely what the research would be used for in the future.) This question is especially pertinent if WDA and Sadhana do not develop a long-term relationship. It will

also provide a clearer idea for the research project.

Question Subject Number Five:

We want to be entirely sure that WDA and you are on the "same page" so to speak. We are still quite curious as to what specific skills WDA has to offer that will help Sadhana fulfill the research goals that you have described?

Question Subject Number Six "A":

This is my understanding of the research project and its overlap with our "straight forward" technology project. Please correct my misunderstandings if there are indeed misunderstandings. 🤖

Sadhana is faced with a research obstacle of villagers not wanting to provide real answers to research questions because the government funds all of Sadhana's appropriate technology projects and the villagers do not think that their opinion will make any difference to government rural development policies.

WDA's project will prove to the villagers that there are organizations out there that are willing to listen to what the villagers think about appropriate technology which will persuade them to actually give some thought to the research questions being asked.

Question Subject Number Six "B":

Before you mentioned that Rotary International did a project with Sadhana. Why did that not provide the appropriate conditions for a successful research project? How can we make our project with Sadhana better/successful?

If Sadhana has indeed done their own water projects (without government funding), what prevented Sadhana from being able to convince villagers that their opinions are indeed extremely important? Again, I am concerned as to how we are going to address that issue this time around.

Thank you again for your thoughts and work Mr. Vasant. I am very much enjoying working through these problems with you. I hope you are well.

Sincerely,
Joseph

Date: 4/29/07

Dear Mr Joseph Bornstein,

I'm extremely sorry to stop the dialogue after answering Subject No. 3. If the idea of long term association is not acceptable, it is difficult to continue.

There will also be another problem (Subject No. 4). What is the purpose of the Project for the rural community?. The net result of our combined efforts would be to add another to the documents on safe drinking water in the library. Sadhana has no resources of its own to implement any of the suggestions to be made in the research paper.

But there has been a silver lining since last week. The American consulate in Mumbai India, has asked us to give details of our activities with a view to support projects in future. They have been in search of credible organisations and someone in Mumbai has given them our name among others. The two of us could have persuaded the Consulate for support.

I must thank you for your enormous patience to read my emails. These weeks have been for us here very exciting hoping for new rays in the horizon. If you happen to come to India, please visit us. Best Regards

Vasant Deshpande

Dialogue Continued 3

I follow below the numbers that you've used in your email of April 29,2007

Question Subject No. 1.

All the four points under this are relevant and adequate.

Roles: (generally)

WDA

a. Collecting data on rural drinking water schemes in Third world countries from secondary sources like net; articles, books etc. The info relevant would be: sources of drinking water; methods of reaching water to users; maintaining safety (norms?) of the water till it reaches the user. Factors affecting safety like sanitation, storage etc; how do we ensure perennial supply. Methods of treatment.

b. Providing atleast two students (one senior?) to stay at Sadhana to study the problem of drinking water **only at two-three sites** .(this would include the financial aspect too) And ways to solve the problem.

c. Study of the need for a Service Agency to ensure maintenance of the projects and for training the local stakeholders in aspects of safe drinking water and maintenance of projects.

Sadhana:

a. Collecting data on the chosen sites and the communities benefiting them

b. Providing free food and stay facilities for the students from WDA; translation facilities; administrative facilities including transportation from Our Village Office to the sites..

c. Contacting experts from Pune city for discussions if need be.

Q. Subject No. 2.

Next year is all right; may be the period of stay would just be enough to do justice to two sites. What we were planning was a comprehensive program for the Valley. Any way let us atleast make a start.

Q. Subject No. 3.

We need to be sure that WDA is our long term partner. We can understand the new batch of the next year taking up another topic like rural energy; sanitation, health, nutrition, environment;

education etc as applied to our area. But the idea that it may not be committed to work with Sadhana for our area on a year 1+ basis is difficult to accept. I can understand conditions for not continuing; but this is difficult to accept. Thank you

Peace

Date: Sunday, May 06, 2007 4:01 AM

Subject: Re: Sadhana Dialogue

Dear Mr. Vasant,

I think the most important component of "making changes"/"doing activism" is thoughtfulness in how one does that action. The majority of men search for easy answers and half-thought solutions rather than committing themselves to enduring thought in how to go about those actions. One of the things that has attracted me most about working with you is that you are in fact able to engage in thoughtful action (many NGO leaders I have worked with have not had this capability). As such, I hope that this issue of long-term commitment is something that we can resolve; I very much hope that you will want to continue our planned collaboration after reading my following response.

Here is the situation: It is not that a "long term association is not acceptable" Mr Vasant. It is that we cannot COMMIT to a long term association. The idea itself is certainly acceptable, but it cannot be something we are willing to bind ourselves to. After speaking with the younger and future "torch carrier" of WDA, we have concluded that it is possible that a continued relationship with Sadhana will develop, but at this point since our work together has not even actually begun, such an assurance is not something we feel comfortable providing. Imagine that the work with Sadhana goes splendidly and that WDA and Sadhana find themselves to be excellent partners. In that situation, we can safely say it is quite possible that WDA would want to work with Sadhana in the future. But say that our work together goes poorly and we find that Sadhana and WDA do not seem like they would make good long-term partners. In that case, it is quite unlikely that we would want to be partners with one another.

I think that Sadhana and WDA's work together might be the beginning of a relationship together. However, when first starting a relationship everything is unknown. As such, I think we have to say that the idea of a long term relationship is not what we are opposed to; it is presently committing to assuring that relationship when such a commitment from WDA's perspective speaks for future students.

A further important detail on this subject: please take a moment to consider how WDA works. It is entirely student run and it feeds off of the passions of the students who comprise the group itself. The CURRENT WDA members (younger and older) see many benefits to a long term relationship with Sadhana assuming all goes well. But how will future generations feel? As we look longer into the future of WDA, it becomes harder and harder to give you a clear picture as to what is likely to happen. It is possible that over the coming years a relationship is established and the partnership continues forward, but as I hope you can see, this will depend entirely on what actually happens in the future and how our Sadhana and WDA's relationship develops together.

Again, I hope that you still want to work with us. I think we have a lot of good work to do together.

On your other points: it looks like we are headed in a good direction and have many of the same thoughts. I will wait for your response before responding to your other points.

Best,
Joseph

Date: 5/5/07

Dear Mr Joseph Bornstein,

Thank you for your reply. I'm clear in my mind that it is too early to decide whether WDA and Sadhana are natural partners. We may still need to get used to each other's ways and limitations in work and procedures. My only point was : even when WDA likes to work with Sadhana, there shouldn't be an inbuilt rule saying that WDA can't work with the same partner for more than a year or so. I can understand that the students have a significant voice in the running of the programme and may decide to change later . Fair enough.

Thank you very much for your positive response. Come, let us go to the next step.

Regards

Vasant Deshpande

Date: Sunday, May 06, 2007 6:12 AM

Subject: Re: Sadhana Dialogue

Dear Mr. Vasant,

Excellent. I am very relieved to hear that. I look forward to our work together. Before heading forward I have a thought: Because we are communicating via e-mail, it is quite easy to misunderstand what the other person is saying. For example, it seems that I communicated that WDA has an inbuilt rule against long term partnerships, which is simply not true. I apologize for that. This is evidence of how easy miscommunication can arise over e-mail. On that note, I was also confused by your last e-mail which had two contrasting wants. In one way, it sounded as though you wanted a guaranteed long term partnership with WDA and in another sentence it seemed as though you just wanted to make sure that we were open to a more long term partnership.

I point out our mutual misunderstandings because I am certain that small details in our future writing will cause some serious confusions. I think we can both learn from this early occurrence of miscommunication and make sure that we both write as clearly as possible and that we do our best to try and understand the perspective of the other person as much as possible.

With that said, do you think you could respond to my e-mail before the last one? You still had a few points to respond to.

Peace,
Joseph

Date: May 6, 2007 6:30 AM

Subject: Re: Sadhana Dialogue

To: Joseph Bornstein <joebornstein@gmail.com>

Dear Mr Joseph Bornstein,

Kindly open the attachment. I'm not quite sure if I have answered all your questions satisfactorily. At any rate I've tried to. Please ask for clarifications or explanations on any matter. We want you to know everything about us as a friend. Regards

Vasant Deshpande

ATTACHMENT:

Dear Mr Joseph Bornstein,

Thanks for your email. I hope you wont mind me taking over from the point I left last time; i.e. Question Subject No. 4.

Sub No. 4. has two queries: a. How does Sadhana Work and b.How will the WDA+ Sadhana research be used.

a. Sadhana Village is an implementing agency rather than a research oriented one. As indicated earlier we have serious limitations in terms of resources both financial and human in our work. Knowing our limitations, we work in a limited geographical area, say a valley now, and we believe we know what ails the valley. Knowing what ails is different from demonstrating it to others convincingly. That is where the research comes in. We`ve tried with local agencies to take up such applied research, but no one seems to have the time and inclination.

Especially when it involves rural community. Here you cant do some tinkering with equipment and one fine morning say Eureka ` I`ve solved the problem of lifting water or filtering it; look at my contraption.`

Let me give you an example: mental retardation (we have a center for residential care of adults) is for most rural folks is madness. And the belief is that adults with such disability are impossible to handle unless in an institution with an army of muscular attendants. We began with adult males of no mean strength with a young Housemother staying with them 24x7. Now we have local women coming to work with us; the local community calls our adults by their names and not as mad any more. Young school girls come and participate in group dances and songs. We believe in perseverance and demonstration.

2. As we visualize, the research is likely to identify one or more of the following reasons for not using

Existing solutions to the use of drinking water:

- i. The solution to drinking water problem is impeded because of the ignorance of the people in understanding the risk involved in using unsafe water; religious or social reasons like not touching the plastic equipment that filters water from the tap or a belief that river is our mother and the water cannot be polluted !
- ii. The technical solution is not acceptable because it is expensive to set up and operate;
- iii. The equipment used requires repairs and spares not available nearby
- iv. It requires a number of families to come together and decide on various things.

Except the expenses problem all others can be locally handled. This of course requires Sadhana to deploy extra human and financial resources to reach the families and convince them with demonstration and awareness building. And training of youth to set up services like repairs if necessary.

Subject No 5 Specific skills needed from WDA:

a. Skills to understand objectively the needs of the people; analyze why a particular solution is acceptable or unacceptable; an insight into what makes a contraption catch the imagination of the users; it`d be wonderful if a couple of lady students are inducted so that they sit with local women in their kitchens; after all safe drinking water is the women`s primary concern.

.....2

2

Sub. Q 6 A research obstacle government etc.

- i. Sadhana has NOT received any funds from the government at any time for any of its projects.
- ii. The government through its channels of local self-government agencies right up to the village level implements projects including safe drinking water projects. The community in the village is not involved in these projects at any stage. They remain however beholden to the local leaders for bringing water nearer their residences.. The projects thus implemented have no components like info-dissemination, proper monitoring , and people`s involvement. Most of these projects are simply lift -water schemes bringing water to the center of the main village from the primary source like the river. The element of safety is not taken care of. A haphazard scheme then is handed over to the villagers who are not trained to handle the important safe water part of the scheme. It is only when the scheme develops a snag, we come to see the forgotten social aspect of the scheme. The villagers just look towards the leaders to find a solution, who in turn report the matter to the authorities in the city. All the while the scheme remains closed. This helplessness makes the users cynical in responding to research studies.

Sub Q 6 B Rotary drinking water project etc

The Rotary Int`l works through the local Club. Before we started the work we informed the local club that we`d ask the beneficiaries to pay back the cost of the scheme in instalments. The beneficiaries too agreed to pay. The Rotary funds were to be used to install an electric pump over a well and a pipeline to reach the community at a point nearest to them. The amount of repayment , as per our agreement with the users was to be used not only to ensure the safety angle but also to fund future such projects locally. After a few months. Some Club members discovered that no money needs to be collected from the beneficiaries and they instigated the beneficiaries not only to stop payment but also to ask for refund of the paid amount.

Finally: Sadhana too has limitations and very much needs capacity building support. We cannot afford to recruit staff to monitor our projects. In fact, to be frank, all of our core workers are volunteers and that is how we try to contain deficits.

Thank you for reading


Vasant Deshpande

Date: Sunday, May 06, 2007 7:46 PM

Subject: Re: Drinking water

Mr. Vasant,

Excellent. Because I hope you are still online, I am going to write a very brief response and write more later.

1. Do you think it might make sense to set-up some sort of "Research Implementation Fund" so that after our research project is done, Sadhana will have some money to employ our findings? I am thinking this would be around \$500-700 dollars. We would have to wait to see what our findings were, but the money could be used to train youth or to set-up a local supplies shop or whatever we decide upon. It could also be used for awareness campaigns or something of that sort. 

2. Please explain further how us doing a project installing a borewell (or something of that sort) will convince villagers to actively participate in Sadhana+WDA's research endeavor. I think I understand, but I just want to clarify.

This was an excellent response Mr. Vasant. I hope to hear from you soon!

Joseph


Date: 5/6/07

Thank you so much. Let the fund wait till we firmly take up some activity. Regards

Date: Sunday, May 06, 2007 10:33 PM

Subject: Re: Drinking water

Mr. Vasant,


Thank you for getting back to me. What about the second question I asked: "2. Please explain further how us doing a project installing a borewell (or something of that sort) will convince villagers to actively participate in Sadhana+WDA's research endeavor. I think I understand, but I just want to clarify." 

Date: 5/6/07

Dear Mr Joseph Bornstein,

Unless the community expresses the need and is willing to pay atleast a part of the expenses, we dont offer them anything. Let us see.

I forgot to mention one more thing:

Much of our capital costs so far have come from donors: Japanese government; German Friends of Rudolf Steiner; Rotary Int'l; Dutch source (God give his soul eternal peace). East west Fund of US. Some donors appreciate a comprehensive outlook in us. For instance, if we ask them for support to an irrigation project, we present an overall view of irrigation needs on our valley and say that the present proposal is a part of the comprehensive need. 

Hence I felt that a survey of our entire valley for safe drinking water might attract good donors like USAID, DFID or some other European source. And a comprehensive technical report and partnership from WDA would give further weight to the proposal.

I believe that we will have to raise funds if we wish to see the fruits of our studies.

Of course, all these considerations come into play once we find our partnership developing; but these are

the future possibilities. Regards.

Vasant Deshpande

Date: May 9, 2007 8:33 AM

Subject: Re: Drinking water

Mr. Vasant,

I apologize for the delayed response. Whitman College is in finals week presently, and everybody is finishing all their last work.

Date: Saturday, May 12, 2007 10:24 PM

Subject: the attachment!!!

Here it is. Kindly open it.

On 5/12/07

Dear Mr Joseph Bernstein,

Perfect ! Thanks for all your efforts.

The straightforward projects. If you mean the ones we had proposed, we told the communities that we need further study and we are trying to find resources for them.

Let us find out what the study throws up and your report may be the basis for an integrated and self sustaining approach. Please call me Vasant, Regards

Vasant

Date: 5/12/07

That is right. I dont want to jump the gun. Self sustaining Project would mean a lot of awareness building exercise prior to actual implementation of the physical aspect of the project. For instance, suppose the project says : laying up of a pipeline from source of water to the center of the community; and in our eagerness to do something good, we install the pipeline etc. but who is going to pay for the maintenance; who is going to do testing of potable water in different seasons; who is going to check cleanliness at homes etc. All these need a sustained campaign. Someone has to do this both prior and post implementation of the project. Most of the projects at hand now suffer from the absence of this aspect of services. Any way the study will look into all these dimensions. Regards

Vasant

Date: Sunday, May 13, 2007 6:10 AM

Subject: Re: the attachment!!!

Dear Mr. Vasant,

Thank you for the response. The next upcoming step after we get our responsibilities clearly established seems to be aiding each other in acquiring funds. Before that, however, I want to clarify your last e-mail.

You are saying that we should not implement one of Sadhana's proposed water projects because we should first do our research to help us strategize, as you wrote, "an integrated and self sustaining approach."

Is that correct?

Joseph

Date: Sunday, May 13, 2007 7:09 AM

Subject: Re: the attachment!!!

Mr. Vasant

Yes! Yes! Yes! My confusion was that for some reason you wanted to do the project before the research and to me this just did not make sense. I am extremely relieved that we are on the same page again. So the next step, I think, is to start figuring out a budget. How would you like to go about doing this? (if you want I could e-mail the expected costs that WDA can think of and you could add to that list).

Joseph

> **Date:** Monday, May 21, 2007 10:33 PM

> Subject: costs list

>

> Mr. Vasant,

> I hear that Jyotsna is going to meet you soon! That is great. I just got
> back into town. Here is the list I have thought of thus far (prices will
> come once we have a complete list). Please add anything you think would be
> needed

>

> 1. Books for researching appropriate technology

> 2. Office supplies

> 3. Translators if Sadhana cannot provide enough of them

> 4. Airfare for WDA Crew

> 5. Ground transport

> 6. Publishing costs for printing/distributing report on appropriate
> technology

> 7. Food

> 8. Room

> 9.? Cost of Sadhana employee time for interviews, writing, and thinking with
> WDA Crew

> 10. ? Recording devices for interviews

> 11. ? payment to villagers for their time spent answering questions

>

> Joseph

Date: 5/21/07

> Mr Joseph Bornstein,

> Yesterday Jyotsna who is now in Mumbai spoke to me and has agreed to visit

- > our Centre on either Thursday or Friday.
- > Your list is fairly comprehensive. We dont need to pay the villagers for
- > their time. To economise, we may purchase the stationery and equipment in
- > India. You get quality stuff at a cheaper price.Regards
- > Vasant Deshpande

Date: May 21, 2007 11:49 PM
Subject: Re: costs list

Mr. Vasant,
WDA has dispersed for the summer break. We are having a conference call tomorrow. Are there any details beyond the research and funding needs we have discussed that you would like me to bring up?

Best,
Joseph

Date: Monday, June 18, 2007 10:12 PM
Subject: A long time coming

- > Mr. Vasant,
- > I recently returned to the US from traveling in Israel and just got
- > Jyotsna's e-mail explaining the new possible strategy for research
- > project. I do not know if this e-mail is coming to you too late to put
- > the plan into action. I will give you an update from this end of
- > things:
- >
- > I have looked through descriptions of several different research
- > methods and have ordered a few books on the subject of appropriate
- > technology development. My plan for this summer is to pull on the
- > resources of my professors and professors from other universities to
- > develop a research plan. As Jyotsna indicates in her e-mail, much of
- > the questionnaire work could be done by UWC students, Sadhana Valley
- > staff or perhaps hired locals.
- >
- > If you think it smart, we could also take a data set now. This data
- > set would inform the research that Aisha (the main person I am working
- > on the research project design with) and I will be doing over the
- > course of the summer. Perhaps it is too late to get this together
- > because of monsoon season?
- >
- > The rest of the summer I should be able to get back to you within a
- > period of 1-3 days. Usually one or two days.
- >
- > I look forward to hearing from you.
- >
- > Joseph

Date: 6/19/07

Yes, Jyotsna had told me about your visit to Israel. Hope you enjoyed your stay there. I'm afraid we have lost four months. The monsoon has arrived and we cannot do anything in the field till beginning of October. We had some volunteers with us and they have left. If we are to get the vital survey done with the United World college students, it may not cost much. But were we to hire trained people to do it, it may cost us a packet. Thank you for your mails.

Vasant Deshpande

Date: 6/24/07

Dear Mr Bornstein,

I am so sorry to learn about the surgery. How are you now? The project will take its time. Please don't worry about it. Take care of yourself first. Regards

Vasant Deshpande

Date: Monday, June 25, 2007 1:28 AM

Subject: Re: A long time coming

Mr. Vasant,

My surgery has been causing me more trouble than expected. I am over the hump, but I apologize for the delay.

This summer the research team is doing as much background research as possible. However, there is of course the side of finances. In previous e-mails you sounded quite optimistic about finding possible funding for our collaborative study. Our finance director, David Youngblood, is working with four others this summer to find grants, business and college sponsorships. But given your extensive history in the non-profit world, it would be rash to continue forward without turning to you for coordinating purposes! How do you think we should go about finding funds? Should we work together on some grants that you are aware of? I am very curious as to your thoughts on how you think we should get money.

Secondly, you sounded disappointed in your last e-mail given that we have lost four months of work. This is true, but to be on the brighter side of things, I do not think that the WDA team is close to being able to put together a respectable survey for the villagers at this point. I assume those at Sadhana Valley could have easily come up with something, but from our end, we just aren't ready yet.

Lastly, would you like to develop a timeline so that things of this sort don't happen in the future? If so, what do you think the timeline should look like?

Sent: Thursday, June 28, 2007 2:42 AM

Subject: Re: A long time coming

Mr. Deshpande,

I am feeling quite a bit better now. Thank you for the concern. Given that most of the fundraising must happen this summer, I am quite worried about it. If you want this to happen, I think we really need to start figuring out how we are going to find the funds.

best,

Joseph

Date: 6/28/07

Dear Mr Bornstein,

About expenses on the mission, I'm afraid we from here may not be of help. Our liquid resources are always less than our needs. This year we have started a child sponsorship project which can only pay its administration costs when we reach atleast 300 sponsorships; we just have 50 now and a huge deficit.
Regards

Vasant Deshpande

Date: 6/28/07

Dear Mr Bornstein,

True. We may go to some Indian grant makers like Dorabji Tata trust; Infosys or Wipro Foundation. There are so many Indian small organisations approaching these that unless they find some extra quality in the proposal they may not even consider the application. that extra quality could be an ally from abroad (in this case WDA) which ensures seriousness of the purpose.

When I mentioned going to USAI or DFID, I was referring to post survey needs like implementing the suggestions of the Survey (which may need considerable investment). Regards.

Vasant Deshpande

Date: Friday, June 29, 2007 7:16 AM

Subject: Re: A long time coming

Dear Mr.Deshpande,

I understand that, like most NGOs, you are very short on funds. My question, however, is whether or not you want to apply for grants with Whitman Direct Action for this project specifically. Are there any grants or funding agencies that you are aware of that we could approach together? In previous e-mail you suggested that we look for funds together from organizations you suggested like USAID and DFID.

Best,
Joseph

Date: Thursday, July 05, 2007 12:08 AM

Subject: Re: A long time coming

Dear Mr. Deshpande,

How do you suggest that we go about applying for funding from these organizations? The Dorabji Tata Trust has a "small grant" that it looks like we would be eligible for. The Infosys Foundation's website doesn't have any grant information on their website that I could find and I couldn't find the Wipro Foundation website via google.com

Joseph

Date: Jul 5, 2007 8:38 PM

Subject: Re: A long time coming

To: Joseph Bornstein <josephbornstein@whitmandirectaction.org>

Dear Mr Bornstewin,

Thanks for your email.

Someone needs to approach these agencies personally to convince them of the utility of the project to be undertaken. I thought Jyotsna knows someone in India who could do this.

Please also try Mr Janardhana at JanardhananM@state.gov

This is the email address of the person in charge of development projects at the American Center in Mumbai (US Consulate). He may be in a position to give you leads if the request comes from a US college. Thank you

Vasant Deshpande

Date: 9/15/07

Thanks.

How about adding a women dimension?

Regards

Vasant Deshpande

Date: Sunday, September 16, 2007 7:52 AM

Subject: Survey version one!

Dear Mr. Vasant,

Jyotsna and I have completed the first draft of the survey. The organization of the survey is rough at this point. It is divided into categories of questions for:

1. Grampanchayat
2. Non-farming adult males:
 - 3 Farmers
 4. NGO workers

Please let me know your thoughts and comments. Are there questions you would like to add? Areas to expand upon?

Date: 9/17/07

Rural women are the ones who directly handle drinking water at home. In fact except for irrigation, water in villages is identified with women. It is they who fetch water, store it, give it in tumblers or glasses to others to drink (often dipping their fingers in water); wash clothes next to the source of drinking water (like borewell or river);their ignorance regarding cleanliness is the cause of 90% of water borne morbidity in rural children.. Please check up whether these areas are covered in the questionnaire. Thanks

vasant Deshpande

Date: Monday, September 17, 2007 10:14 AM

Subject: Re: Survey version one!

Yes; Jyotsna and I discussed that and we added quite a few questions with women specifically in mind, but we couldn't think of any questions that we would want to ask that are exclusively for women. Are there any questions or subject areas you think we should add?

Vasant

Date: Tuesday, September 18, 2007 12:45 AM

Subject: Re: Survey version one!

This is actually quite helpful. Thank you Mr. Vasant Deshpande. Your comments have generated another stream of questions to ask.

Please let me know if you have any additional thoughts. Also, I am working on a fellowship called the Watson Fellowship which is aimed at providing recent graduates with the opportunity for a year of independent study. My proposal is to spend time living and working with organizations involved in sustainable community development to see what sorts of ideologies are upheld and how those values manifest in the work being done. My hope is to better understand a philosophy of service so that I can have a foundation to think upon throughout my life. I am wondering if you think it would be acceptable for me to come visit you in the Kolwan Valley to engage in this project. Considering the fellowship would not begin until August 2008-August 2009, we might also be able to work further on some of the work we are engaging in currently. What are your thoughts?

Joseph

Date: 9/17/07

Dear Joseph,

Great idea indeed. You are welcome to visit us and stay with us for any number of days to prepare the grounds for a fellowship program. Regards

Sent: Tuesday, September 18, 2007 9:57 AM

Subject: Re: Survey version one!

Excellent. Thank you for letting me know. How much do you think it would cost per day to live there?

Date: 9/18/07

Food and stay costs : Nil; Travel within the project area: on Sadhana Village. You may however buy your toilet paper; paper and pen to write. Regards

Vasant

Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2007 12:45 PM

Subject: Re: Survey version one!

Great! Thank you for letting me know.

Also, we are doing some letter writing and business solicitation for fundraising. Do you think that you could write me a short quote describing the quality of water that villagers drink on a daily basis?

Thank you,
Joseph

Date: Sep 21, 2007 8:09 AM
Subject: Re: Survey version one!

Safe drinking water is vital to the health and wellbeing of rural India where 65% of population lives. Resources of drinking water are shrinking by the day and contamination is rampant. The pity of it all is that awareness of safety of drinking water is yet to sink into popular consciousness.

Vasant Deshpande

Date: Nov 7, 2007 6:54 AM,
Did I answer your query regarding funding adequately? I wrote about external funding. But we raise our subsistence funds through fees for services and income generating activities like ricemilling, candle making;; and we also raise small donations locally at individual levels. We are still left with an annual deficit of around Rs.300,000/- Hope this is useful
Vasant Deshpande

Date: Nov 7, 2007 9:02 AM
Subject: Re: Funding?
To: sadhana village <adm@sadhana-village.org>

Dear Vasant,
That final part is actually extremely helpful. Thank you. I am submitting the application TODAY! Wish me luck. Also, on the point of our study group: we recently raised \$2,000 at a silent auction to help fund our project. I am not sure what my most recent update to you was but United World College has agreed to help us conduct our study group on non-technological obstacles to appropriate technology development in the Kolwan Valley. They are in the process of collecting preliminary data so that we can reformulate a better survey.

Also, did Jyotsna speak to you about the conference we hope to host in the Mumbai this March?

Joseph
Date: Tuesday, November 06, 2007 11:46 PM
Subject: Funding?

Dear Vasant,
I have made it to the national competition for the Watson Fellowship I am applying for. I am currently in the process of editing my application and I would like to know a bit about where Sadhana Village obtains its funding from. The application is due tomorrow morning so the sooner the better (sorry for the late inquiry).

Best,
Joseph

Date: Thursday, November 22, 2007 11:15 AM

Subject: one more favor!!

Mr. Vasant,

I have one more favor to request. We are applying for a grant through our college for the study group. Do you think that you could write a short letter describing the safety of the Kolwan Valley. Pretty much the letter needs to say: (1) Whitman College students will be with Sadhana Village staff at all times and we will make sure they are safe (2) the Kolwan Valley is a safe place with extremely low crime (3) transportation to the Kolwan Valley from Mumbai is safe. This letter will allow us to fulfill liability concerns.

Date: 11/22/07

Please let me know if I could send you an email or send a letter by mail. If so, please let me have your postal address again. Thanks

Vasant

Date: Nov 23, 2007 10:46 AM

Subject: Re: one more favor!!

Mr. Vasant,

I think an e-mail would be good since it is free and fast. And if they have concerns regarding its authenticity, it wouldn't be a problem for them to e-mail you correct?

Joseph

Date: Wednesday, December 05, 2007 9:48 AM

Subject: Update

Mr. Vasant,

I thought that you would be interested to know a few things:

1. Here is the webpage for our study group. Do you have any suggestions?

<http://www.whitmandirectaction.org/cleanwater/studygroup/>

2. We just got a \$3,000 grant

3. We are likely to get another \$1,000 in a week

4. Our fundraisers have raised \$2000 thus far

5. We will hear back from one other grant in a couple weeks

As such, I expect us to have plenty of funds to have our study group in March. Let's make sure to have this project be VALUABLE to Sadhana Village.

Date: Dec 5, 2007 1:27 AM

Subject: Re: Update

Also, how much total money do you think the actual study group will cost? (a good chunk of our costs are just getting there!).

Joseph

Date: 12/5/07

Dear Joseph,

The website is good and covers adequate information on the issue.

Am happy to learn that you have garnered enough support for the project. Please know that March on is summer in India. Regards

Vasant Deshpande