

Meeting minutes for Asha Chennai on 7th Feb, 2021

Minutes of the meeting held via Nirvana/Damaka Meet on Sunday the 7th February 2021 at 9.30 AM

Following were logged in and participated

Kasturi Easwaran

Preetha Kannan (bad connection disrupted participation)

Rajaraman Krishnan (Co-ordinator)

Sriram VS

Sundaram R

Venkat Nataraj

Venkataraman Muthukrishnan

Usha Bhaskar

Srinivasan (donor Asha-Friends-Invitee)

0. Ratification

The minutes of the Meeting held on 10th January 2021 on Google Meet were ratified unanimously

1. Updates on Fund raising and Financials

Venkataraman presented the figures for scholarship funding from Asha for Education this year. Out of the total budget of \$27300, an amount of \$11,600 had been raised by us leaving a balance of \$15,640. We received another donation of \$5275 from one donor through AfE. Given that many of the scholarship students have also not claimed their scholarships, it is expected that we should be able to raise the entire required amount this year.

Kaleesuwari Refineries which had been approached for CSR funding has stated that its outlays under CSR as at present are mainly Scholarships for deserving students and direct medical help. In their model even for scholarship disbursement they prefer to directly remit the tuition fees of upto Rs 25,000 directly to the institution. They solicited help in identifying and selection of scholars. It was decided, as a goodwill gesture, Asha Chennai after their annual selection process would forward the list of remaining candidates who could not be accommodated for want of budget. Venkat and Venkataraman were requested to keep track of this.

Sriram explained the progress in our pursuit of obtaining CSR funds from ACSYS a company based in Chennai established by a former top honcho of CAMS, a financial services Company. Asha Chennai had forwarded a draft MOU on which ACSYS have raised some queries which were replied to. This at the moment holds promise as a long term CSR Donor. Venkataraman being an ex CAMS CFO was requested also to keep a kindly eye.

Rajaraman indicated that tentative approach is being made in partnership with Prof Kamakoti of IITM to Samsung which appears to have a strong commitment and presence in CSR donations.

2. Approval of Loans to Teacher

Applications for grant of loans for house building/repair/modification have been received from following teachers.

1. Sailaja Loan Required Rs 40,000 Current Balance Rs 35,000
2. Seetha Required Rs 50,000 Current Balance Rs 12,500
3. Jothi Required Rs 50,000 Current Balance Rs 24,500
4. Vanitha Required Rs 50,000 Current Balance Rs 11,,000
5. Thenmozhi Required Rs 50,000 Current Balance nil.

All of the above except No 5 have still unreturned outstanding against them. Against the limit approved earlier of Rs7,50,000 for this purpose Rs 6,20,000 is outstanding on date. Grant of top up loans within a ceiling of Rs 50,000 will be still within this limit. Since all the loans are for the purpose of works in their residences which the teachers freely and unhesitatingly made available for conducting Minischools during the pandemic it seems only ethically obligatory on the part of Asha Chennai to help them out in this. [Grant of Loans to all the teachers topping up to Rs 50,000 was unanimously approved. Usual terms apply.](#)

3. Content work by Purva Bhaattar (Krvidya.com)

The letter of Offer dated 29 January 2021 from Purva Bhaattar KrVidya.com who has a Ph.D from IITM and is an academic who develops content for teaching scientific concepts through guided experimentation was discussed in detail. It would appear that the contents developed by KrVidya will enrich Asha Chennai's repertoire in Asha Kanini app. The offer also is committed to tailor the content development to suit the TN syllabus. [It was unanimously resolved to accept the offer from KrVidya Chennai at an expenditure of Rs 50,000 to be disbursed as per the agreement.](#)

4. Scholarship Updates

Venkataraman stated that the second instalment was planned to be disbursed on Feb 20th and 21st by calling students to Ragasudha Hall. However since schools and colleges were working 6 days a week the disbursement calendar may be altered to do it on two Sundays. Disbursement would be on the basis of production of bills and receipts. It was noted that it would not be possible this year for the students to produce their marksheets.

5. Minischools Update

Nutrition programme has been successfully launched in 4 schools in Sangamam and 2 Schools in Pearl. In Sangamam ready to eat items like Biscuits are being given while in Pearl Murugan is managing distribution of cooked gruel.

Rajaraman gave a brief account of his two day sojourn to Thulasi and visit to Sangamam schools not visited so far. Minischools seem well established although its coverage is limited to about 1500 pupils as against 6600 the total strength of schools supported by Asha Chennai at normal times. It was a pity that primary schools are shut for such a long time likely to result in widening the baneful gap in acquiring basic skills in language and arithmetic between sections of our society.

6. Spoken English by Trimble Volunteers

Venkat stated that the scheme of tying up trimble volunteers with students who wished to learn English is operational. 5 scholarship students have been inducted in the programme currently. It will expand with more scholarship students as well as students from Thulasi project area.