

Meeting Minutes for Asha Chennai on 9th Jan, 2022

Minutes of the meeting held via GoogleMeet on Sunday 9 th January 2022 at 9.30 AM

Following were logged in and participated

Anitha

Bhaskar

Rajaraman Krishnan

Ramakrishnan

Sundaram R

Venkataraman

Venkat Nataraj

Usha Bhaskar

Usha Rao

0. Ratifications

0.1. Minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2021 via Google meet were ratified.

0.2. The poll that was held from Dec 16th to 19th to approve the allocation of Rs 6 Lakhs for the starting of two RTCs at Kanakamma Chathram and Seethanjeri was also ratified.

1. Chapter Financial Information

Venkataraman presented the Chapter Financials and updated position for FY 21-22. The Funding balance on hand has steadily improved over the last three years (table below) and stands comfortably at Rs 41,234,765. This included funding for Pravartak, an IITM project in which Asha Chennai has placed its teaching resources for the spread of Asha Kanini Application. Details of project wise Funding allocations were explained including new items such as Pravartak Asha Kanini, Pravartak RTC (Rural Technology Centre) and Amazon Computer Support.

Year ending	Fund Balance INR	Remark
2019-2020	2,37,54,759	
2020-2021	2,58,63,461	
2021-2022	4,12,34,756	USD 75000 is to be spread over 3 Years

As far as outflow was concerned austerity measures and self restraint on expanding activities, belt tightening on non essentials etc during one more year of the pandemic had ensured the expenditure was well within limits set for ourselves.

Arising out of detailed discussions on the above following decisions were taken unanimously.

a. The gross allocation of Rs 415000 meant for library projects at Thulasi, Pearl and Sangamam was apportioned to respective projects as follows

Thulasi 1,20,000

Pearl 2,35,000

Sangamam 60,000

b) Amazon extended support for purchase of laptops, accessories, bags etc and Android tablets by placing Rs 10,25,000 at the disposal of Asha Chennai. The actual expenses incurred in the purchase exceeded by a margin of Rs 64,670 It was decided to allocate Rs 65,000 from the buffer and treat the transaction as closed.

2. Staff Loans

Sundaram on behalf of Kasturi presented the request of loan by a teacher from the Poorna Vishy Project to meet expenses of repairing/replacing scooter damaged during the recent heavy rains. A sum of Rs 40,000 was approved unanimously as loan as per the usual terms and conditions.

3. Planning Operations in 2022

Although not originally included in the agenda , with the consent of those present Rajaraman introduced and discussed working plans for 2022 thoughts on which were shared by him in his email dated 7th December 2021. This assumes importance in view of the Financial position and the continued uncertainty in the area of school education. Broadly speaking we could pursue expenditure planning as set out below.

1. Expand in the areas requiring Recurring, essential expenses -- like hiring more teachers or computer teachers, taking up more schools (perhaps expand from 100 to 150 at an easy pace), taking up more students for scholarships, Starting Rural Technology Centres. Starting new activities like Kanini trainers in Thiruvallur etc., strengthen Nutrition project Arogyam

2. Undertake non-recurring but essential expenses like enhancing school infrastructure like constructing or repairing toilets at schools, purchasing computers for RTCs or schools, purchasing books for libraries, setting up school libraries etc.
3. Undertake non-essential but important expenditure things like excursions for children, Asha dress for children which will all go to make education joyful.

Rajaraman presented a few items of work which could be undertaken right away. They were,

1. Establishing A new library at [Koovachipatti.in](#) Pearl
2. Hiring a new regular teacher for Koovachipatti and an additional computer teacher to cover schools that are not yet [covered.in](#) Pearl
3. Establishing Two new [libraries.in](#) Thulasi
4. Establishing One new library / activity centre at Old Thirupachur in Sangamam
5. Adding one more sanctioned computer teacher and one regular teacher and replacing some small schools with bigger ones and bringing total schools to 70 (already at 69).
6. Starting the Karadi path work [immediately.in](#) Sangamam
7. Adding one extra computer teacher in Poorna Vidya Guduvanchery area, making in all (1 in Chennai and 3 in Guduvanchery. And adding one more school in Guduvanchery.
8. Starting two RTCs immediately. With an expenditure of Rs 1,00,000 including equipment and Rs 60,000 per month for RTC Trainers.

Rajaraman also elaborated the Quality Requirements of staff or administrative personnel required to meet the ambit of expanded activities and the steps being taken to hire new help. He mentioned that efforts were on to find a replacement for the Accountant who had expressed desire to leave owing to personal reasons. Proposal to grant a month's salary as severance pay was approved unanimously.

Rajaraman also hinted at the possibility of Asha Chennai being associated with developing tools for conducting Assessment Survey on School Education, as an adjunct of NSE Mumbai and IITM. The discussions are at an early stage in this regard.

4. Corona third wave Schools shut down Minischools Deployment of Staff

The third wave is on now and inevitably the schools are closed by the government. As done before Minischools would be opened by fully vaccinated regular teachers wherever conditions permit observing safety precautions for which separate instructions have been issued. Computer Teachers in Sangamam will be deployed for educating government teachers on the use of Asha Kanini and implementing the application. Mapping work would be continued to add resources to Asha Kanini application.

5. Decision on the continuation of Project Arogyam

Since conditions that are now prevailing are not much different from what they were during a year ago, it was decided to continue Nutrition Project Arogyam wherever it was run successfully. [It was unanimously decided to allocate Rs 1,00,000 from the buffer for this project.](#)

6. Update on Funding from Amazon and Muthoot Finance Other CSR Opportunities

Apart from the benevolent help received from Amazon for the purchase of Laptops etc proposals have been made to enable Asha Chennai to be included in their regular programme of CSR Funding. Muthoot Finance too looks promising in terms of material help.

7. Other Funding and PR

Rajaraman explained the steps taken so far significant among which is the registration with GiveIndia. Volunteers were requested to give wide publicity through their friends and relatives about this registration since this route is among the best and hassle free for donation from both India and abroad particularly by individuals. Asha Chennai is also registered under Benevity and even CSR funding can be routed through them.

8. Updates for Asha Kanini

It was recalled that the Chief Educational Officer of Thiruvallur has since permitted the Asha Foundation to undertake to educate, train and implement Asha Kanini in the schools in the district. Work has begun earnestly by Asha Kanini Trainers in areas where Asha Teachers have been going. Initial reception among Government HMs and teachers has been favourable. Problems of broken PC systems or inadequate Hard Disk storage seem to plague the schools. Here too Asha Chennai was trying to help wherever possible.

Efforts are on to get Asha Kanini listed in Google Playstore as early as possible.

9. Updates in Establishment of 2 Rural Technology Centres

Locations in Seethanjeri and Kanakammal Chathiram are ready. Necessary computer systems are available so also trainers. Efforts are on to start functioning as early as possible. In terms of funding, Pravartak has been assured of funding from a couple of sources but the actual realisation of these amounts has been a little slow. It is partly due to this that we have decided to move forward with these two RTCs anyway. We expect funding to also be available in time.

10. Feedback on the Computer Teachers Training - Dec 27th to 29th 2021

There was an overwhelming positive response to the computer training session. Some of the Computer Teachers exhibited extraordinary talent in understanding and explaining the exercises. Outstation participants from Rajatalab and Pearl immensely enjoyed the three day session. The meeting placed on record its deep appreciation of the efforts and organisation skills of Asha Teacher Kumari who took charge of the programme.

R.Sundaram