

Meeting minutes for Asha Chennai on 22nd Aug, 2021

Minutes of the meeting held via google Meet on Sunday 22nd August 2021 at 9.30 AM

Following were logged in and participated as indicated..

Bhaskar

Rajaraman Krishnan

Ramakrishnan

Sriram VS

Sujata Raman

Sundaram R

Venkataraman

Venkat Nataraj

Viswanath

Usha Bhaskar

0. Ratifications

0.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July, 2021 were ratified unanimously.

0.2 Online poll dated 27th July 2021 to approve Extension of Arogyam in respect of schools under Thulasi Project was ratified unanimously.

1. Updates on Account Status

Ramakrishnan gave the following updates

- a. Sec 80 G Renewal (i.e. 12AB renewal) still awaited as learnt from Asha India Varanasi. Because of the problems with the IT portal, this has been delayed for all organisations.
- b. Audit of 20-21 Accounts. Preparation of accounts are complete and will be handed over to the auditor within a week.
- c. It was stated that there was a letter from HDFC Bank Chennai Bankers for Asha Chennai saying that unless we submit the sec 80G approval before Aug 31st, our accounts will be frozen! Govt will be extending this deadline. Therefore we should not have a problem. Ramakrishnan will follow up.
- d. Authorised Signatory Addition/ Deletion in Bank Accounts. Ramakrishnan stated that he would be following it up with higher ups in the bank for early acceptance.
- e. New Tool for online Vouchering. Rajaraman stated that the work is almost complete and would be put into effect from soon.

2. Approval of Staff Loans

It was proposed to grant loans as per usual terms and conditions to seven members of staff as detailed below.

Project Sangamam No of Staff 3; Rs 30,000 in the case of two & Rs 50,000 in the case of one..

Project Pearl No of Staff 2 Rs 50,000 each

Project Thulasi No of Staff 2 Rs 50,000 each

[The above proposal was unanimously voted by all present.](#) In order to establish a link between the approval in the meeting and disbursal it was decided to keep a suitable record as suggested by Venkat.

3. Update on Checklists and AfE Funds

Bhaskar gave the good news regarding smooth processing of Asha Chennai Checklists and transfer of 5/6 of funds to the FRCA account in Varanasi. Further Asha Chennai has received Asha Central funds to the tune of approximately \$79000.

4. Asha Chennai Funds Status and Fund raising plans

Rajaraman briefly outlined the status of cash flow, WCR and the financial projections of Asha Chennai, Pravartak and the new initiative for opening Rural Technology Centres under the aegis of IIT M funded under CSR.

He mentioned that flyers, publicity materials etc were being reviewed. He sought the cooperation of the volunteers to be ready to ramp up Fund Raising activities of our Chapter from next month. He indicated possibilities of funds from Microsoft which has a "Microsoft Giving" month in October when the employees are given various incentives to donate. Venkat mentioned that in so far as our application for grant from HCL is concerned Asha Chennai had been selected for the second round of consideration.

5. Update on ARC

Bhaskar explained the proposal under discussion at ARC (Asha Representative Council) regarding electoral reforms in the vetting and election of office bearers both Board Of Director (BOD) Nominees and Team Members. Essentially the proposal introduces for the BOD Nominees a process of blind vetting of nominees and the results of blind voting by the outgoing BOD members to be shared with the electorate. For Team Members the proposal suggested a Chapter vote would suffice.

6. Proposal For Rural technology Centres

Venkat and Rajraman presented the proposal to open 25 Rural Technological Centres. This is being proposed through Pravartak and we are hoping to raise funds for it from Corporate CSR funds. This has an approximate budget of Rs 5 Crores spread over three years. This is an ambitious programme to bring to the rural youth at High School Levels modern computer technology and impart skills not only in handling routine computer applications like Ms Office Suite etc or programming languages but also in the latest data related applications and to impart learning by experiments in handling hardware essentials like microprocessors, building models or prototypes of sensor driven devices etc. Rajaraman gave the financial projections yearwise to set up and run 4 Centres in the first year, 14 in the second year and 25 by the third year.

The proposal as presented for Rs 5.3 Crores was unanimously approved.

7 . Project Arogyam

It was observed that providing nutritious breakfast food to children at selected centres in Sangamam, Pearl and Tulasi projects were proceeding satisfactorily. It was expected that we could continue this programme at this level till the schools reopen months. If we are left with funds at that point, we will have to make a decision on how to utilize the funds.

8. Updates on Scholarship Project

Venkataraman gave the latest on Scholarship project. Out of the total of 97 students for whom it was proposed to grant scholarship this year 73 were continuing students. Selection for the remaining were near completion, by calling students and verifying marksheets and fees paid etc. So far 23 new students have been selected.

9. Update on Mini schools and School Reopening

It was noted with satisfaction that as many minischools have resumed as were functioning before the summer break and their strength has increased a bit. Usha Bhaskar mentioned that Mini school had started in Kottur under Manigal Project. It would appear that the government is inclined to open the schools for higher classes starting from September and primary and middle schools by the end of Sept or early Oct.

Items 10 and 11 of the Agenda relating to Asha Kanini were deferred due to paucity of time.