

# Meeting minutes for Asha Chennai on 24 th Oct, 2021

Minutes of the meeting held via google Meet on Sunday 24 th October 2021 at 9.30 AM

Following were logged in and participated as indicated..

Anitha

Kasturi

Paripoornam

Rajaraman Krishnan

Ramakrishnan (A Short while)

Sriram VS

Sundaram R

Venkataraman

Venkat Nataraj

## 0. Ratifications

0.1. Minutes of the meeting held on 26th September, 20'21 via Google meet were ratified. and

0.2 Also ratified was the result of Poll held for construction of a toilet at Seyyapoondi Office Thulasi Project involving an advance of Rs 40000, return of which will be adjusted against monthly rent. All the eight who took part in the poll had voted YES .

## 1. Review and approval of Proposal sent to Asha Boston for Library Funding

Rajaraman recalled the decision taken in the last meeting regarding availing the invitation from Asha Boston to fund libraries. A detailed presentation of the proposed Library Project involving revamping and continuing to run for one year, the existing seven libraries and setting up four new ones at a total annual budget of Rs 6 Lakhs was made. Rajaraman and Paripoornam also explained the factors which decided the locations of the new libraries.

[This proposal for seeking Rs 6 Lakhs from Asha Boston for Libraries, already sent as authorised during the last meeting, was unanimously approved.](#)

## 2. Approval of requests for Staff Loans

The proposal to grant a loan of Rs 50,000 to a teacher in Sangamam Project for carrying out house repairs under the usual terms and conditions was approved unanimously.

## 3. Update on Project Arogyam and future course after Nov1st.

TN Government has ordered reopening of schools from 1st November. In the light of this, questions arise about continuing providing Nutrition under Project Arogyam and also the continuance of minischools.

Rajaraman mentioned that villages in Sangamam Project such as Old Tiruppachur, Eri Colony, Tozhuthavakkam and Anna Nagar and in one or two places in Pearl, children are relatively undernourished and we could consider continuing the scheme for some more time. There is a balance amount of Rs 2 Lakhs under this project which can be utilised. [The proposal to continue the Arogyam project was approved, locations being decided by the stewards to the extent of fund availability.](#)

## 4. Update on Project Arogyam and future course after Nov1st.

It was noted that Minischools will be closed during the next week as the Government has ordered regular schools to open on 1st November. It is a proud moment for Asha Chennai to have successfully conducted over 60 minischools to help over 1800 children keep in touch with some essentials of education.

All minischools planned to conduct a gala valedictory function on 27th instant or there about to mark its closure. To cover the expenses for this function, [it was decided to allow an expense of upto Rs 500 for minischools with less than 20 children and Rs. 1000 for those with more than 20 children.](#)

We must place on record the yeoman service rendered by Asha teachers, many of whom sacrificed their personal and family space by giving rooms in their own houses as premises for running the minischools. As a token of appreciation, [it was unanimously decided to grant an ad hoc amount of Rs 2000 in all such cases where teachers' own premises were occupied by the minischool continuously for at least three months.](#)

In view of the enthusiasm of teachers to continue their association with the minischools they were running, discussions were also held if Minischools could continue to run as some kind of tuition centres after regular school hours. Stewards may decide on this matter based on local circumstances. [It was decided to grant an amount of Rs 800 per month to teachers who may undertake to run such evening minischools for 1 hour a day.](#)

## 5. Updates on Amazon and PayTM Discussions

Rajaraman stated that Amazon has indicated that for the current year they would be providing about Rs 10,00,000 for Asha Chennai against purchase of Computers and tablets. We have indicated a requirement of about 22 Laptops and 14 tablets for the amount. Some PCs and laptops with our computer teachers and schools are old and this would help a great deal in replacing them. Amazon will be finalising their plans for next year by the end of November and we hope to be in touch with them and submit our requirements for support next year too.

PayTm is potentially another donor from whom Asha Chennai hopes to receive support in the form of supply of PCs, Laptops etc.

There is also the possibility of raising funds through CSR from corporates like Muthoot Finance and Mahindra through old friends of Asha Chennai. These contacts will be pursued..

#### **6. Updates on Fund raising Updates to flyers, videos, eventurbo pages etc.**

Rajaraman stated that flyers, videos, Eventurbo have all been updated with the latest information. The details have been mailed to all the volunteers on 20th October. When contacting potential donors these updated information may be utilised.

Venkat stated that both Rajaraman and he appeared for the online interview under Microsoft Giving programme based on the 4 minute video sent earlier. It is hoped that some support will come through.

Since a major chapter-wide FundRaising campaign is planned in Dec 21 Stewards / volunteers may plan their own project fundraising accordingly. If they need the pages or flyers for their projects updated, they may forward the request to Rajaram and Muthu/Rajkumar.

#### **7. Updates for Asha Kanini**

Rajaraman stated that the latest position in software development Windows Version and Android Version had been explained in his Email dated 18th October to the Core Group. As for getting the permissions for installing Asha Kanini in all the government schools in Tiruvallur district and training the teachers, he stated that no progress could be made despite some informal contacts with education authorities SCERT etc in TN government. However, the matter is still being followed up by Pravartak and Asha Chennai..

#### **8. Updates on establishment of Rural Technology Centres RTC**

Venkat explained the position regarding recruitment of Trainer/Teachers, selection of buildings/premises to locate the RTCs etc. Actions are also being taken to draw up the syllabus, curriculum and list of training gadgets/ Materials required

#### **9. Teachers Training Maths**

Ms Menna Suresh held in person Maths training sessions successfully both at Tiruvallur and Thiruvannmalai. Arrangements were also made for teachers from other projects to link up through internet video.

#### **10. Updates on Audit, 80 G FCRA**

Ramakrishnan could only interact briefly because of poor connection. He conveyed that Audit for 20-21 was being completed. As for Sec 80 G and FCRA it was informally learnt that these present no obstacles to donors and fund flow,