

Meeting minutes for Asha Chennai on 6th Dec, 2020

Decisions are highlighted in blue.

Minutes of the meeting held via Google Meet on Sunday the 6th December 2020 at 9.30 AM

Following volunteers logged in and participated.

Bhaskar

Gomathi

Kasturi Easwaran

Madan Sudarman

Preeta (New Volunteer)

Paripoornam

Rajaraman Krishnan

Sriram VS

Srinivasan (U.S)

Sujatha

Venkat Nataraj

Venkataraman Muthukrishnan

Ramakrishnan

Usha

0. Ratification.

The minutes of the Meeting held on 8th November 2020 on Google Meet were ratified unanimously.

1. Financials

Rajaraman and Venkataraman presented the projectwise and overall chapter level financials. Most of the projects have spent close to 50% of their approved budget over the first six months of the project year. At the chapter level, if we continue raising funds like we usually do during the upcoming months and if the central funds share is above \$50K, we are likely to end with a similar balance in 20-21 as we did in 19-20. We have to continue aggressively raising funds. Also once the schools reopen, our expenses are likely to become higher.

2. Appointment of Joint Treasurers for ASHA Chennai.

Mr Ramakrishnan and Mr Venkataraman Muthukrishnan are appointed Joint Treasurers wef 7th December 2020. This was **unanimously agreed by all present**.

3. Fund Raising and Accounts Updates

Mr Rajaram informed the various avenues of fund raising that has been followed up with. Some of these are SBI, Microsoft, HCL, Kaleeswari, and Cape Gemini.

The auditors have finalised the audit report and financials for 2019-20 and the same has been sent to Varanasi for consolidation. After approval from Varanasi, we will sign the same.

Mr Venkataraman will be sending donor communication before the third week of December for all the existing donors with details on various projects. All project stewards are provide information to Venkataraman on the details of their projects. He will provide the details on Mini school and Hybrid Communication.

4. ASHA's Accreditation by agencies.

CAF, Benevity, UnitedWay and GiveIndia are the well-known accreditation agencies in India.

Mr Rajaram informed that ASHA India was already accredited by CAF in 2015.

It was decided to renew the accreditation by CAF as it has expired in 2018. And start the process with other accreditation agencies as most corporates look for such accreditation for funding. Mrs Usha and Sriram V S volunteered to help on the next steps for providing documents for such accreditation.

5. Mini school requirements.

Broadly the following three aspects came up for discussion to be provided for Mini school.

- a) Nutritional Assistance for Mini school children.
- b) Repairs to the homes of teachers who run the Mini schools from their homes
- c) Transport for children to Mini school and back.

On (a) above, while all present agreed unanimously to provide Nutrition up to an amount of Rs.10 per child per day, we decided to take this up after some further clarity on the overall chapter finances. Care to be taken to provide packed food like biscuits and Banana. Other options to be explored. This is expected to be provided for schools which are located in particularly poor areas where the children lack proper nutrition. Schools in the following areas of Pearl project Pudupatti and Athikinaru and the following areas of Sangamam – Kaivandhur/Thozhuthavakkam, JJ Nagar, Annanagar and Ramapuram will be considered to start with. Over all 250 children will benefit by this.

On (b) above it was **agreed unanimously by all present** a maximum amount of Rs.1000 per teacher as a onetime payment as a reimbursement for using their house to host the mini-school. Further we will also undertake minor repairs required to make the houses better suited to host the mini-schools and also provide them with mats. Towards the end of the mini-schools (i.e. when regular schools reopen), we will also undertake painting and cleaning to return the houses to their previous state. Project stewards will take the call and the expense will be from the overall budget of the project.

On (c) above it was **agreed unanimously by all present** to undertake transportation of Mini school children where that is required once again to be managed within the overall budget for the project.

6. Promotion for senior teachers.

On the following basis the promotion of Senior Teachers are being decided.

1. Ability and Skills
2. How long have they been with ASHA
3. Hard work
4. Train as a Mentor

The following teachers in Sangamam have been identified for promotion.

1. Sailaja (Computer teacher)
2. Deivanayagi (Regular Teacher)
3. Tamilselvi (Regular Teacher)

A sum of Rs 500.00 per month additionally has been **agreed unanimously by all present for the promoted teachers**. Further it was also noted that Annalakshmi at Pearl is recognised for her excellent work during these Covid times and a bonus of Rs 2000 was given to her

7. Mini-schools at Pearl and Sangamam

Mr. Rajaram along with Bhaskar visited the mini-schools at project Pearl and Rajaram visited some more schools at Sangamam. They both confirmed that the schools were by and large functioning well.

8. Vote of Thanks

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all present.