

# Meeting minutes for Asha Chennai on 3rd July, 2021

Minutes of the meeting held via google Meet on Saturday 3rd July at 5 PM

Following were logged in and participated as indicated..

Arun

Bhaskar

Kasturi Easwaran

Lokesh

Paripoornam

Rajaraman Krishnan

Ramakrishnan

Sriram VS till 6 PM

Sundaram R

Venkataraman

Venkat Nataraj

Usha Bhaskar

Usha Rao

0. Ratification

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th and 13th June (in continuation of the 12th June) including the corrigendum issued on 3rd July regarding participation of Venkataraman on 13 also were ratified unanimously.

1. Loans to Staff

Rajaraman stated that two Asha Teachers and the coordinator from Sangamam have sought loans of Rs 50,000 each. All of these fall into the category of non essential loans. Considering the genuineness of the demands of these loyal staff, [the loans of Rs 50,000 under the terms and conditions applicable were unanimously approved.](#)

2. Updates on Financials

Rajaram presented updated figures of expenses and donations for three months, viz., April to June 2021 on the pro forma statement of Allocations for 2021-22 already presented in the previous meeting. Expenses during this quarter were Rs 23,36,000 and Donations received were Rs 40,87,232 respectively thus increasing the balance at the end of Operational Year 20-21 to about Rs 2.7 Crores. Note that this doesn't include the general funds allocation from AfE for the year 2020.

3. Break up of Essential and Non Essential Budget Items

Till recently, for several years Asha Chennai received significant CSR support from Hyundai Glovis and Trimble. This enabled us to comfortably fund the rest of the projects from the funds we were raising on our own as well as that allocated to from the AfE general funds. But with the CSR funding stopping, it becomes incumbent on our part to step up our own efforts in garnering funds. To motivate and facilitate setting targets for fund raising by the respective project stewards, it was recalled that last year too the budget items were analysed as essential and extravagant and allocations were made from the buffer to the tune of 60 percent of the approved budget to the projects. Projects were allowed to spend this and 50 percent of the funds raised by the project themselves and the rest of such raised funds being appropriated to the common kitty.

A similar but more refined exercise was carried out this year, by first establishing scales and rates for common items of consumption. Project stewards then segregated essential and non essentials based on discussions during the previous meeting and submitted revised proposals.

Sundaram presented the compilation of budget items Essential, Non Essential and Additions projectwise from the recently received revised proposals. Bhaskar highlighted entries which needed discussion and based on the outcome of the discussions with respective project stewards the data was amended. This helped in arriving at an agreed formula for allocations from the buffer as brought out in the next item of agenda on Funding Allocation.

Here is a brief summary of this break up for the various projects.

Project	Total Budget	Essential	Non-Essential & Additions	Essential as % of Total
Manigal (both locations)	1268900	1134200	134700	89.38%
Thulasi	2586100	2263100	323000	87.51%
Poorna Vidhya	1531500	1281500	250000	83.68%
Sangamam	8400000	7215000	1185000	85.89%
Pearl	3029890	2224990	804900	73.43%

Asha Kanini	430000	250000	180000	58.14%
Scholarships	2208000	Not doing Essential/Non Essential breakup for this project. Different allocation mechanism.		

These were unanimously approved by all the volunteers. As a part of this decision a change was also made to the Pearl project budget. Pearl project will add an additional item of Rs 18000 for Computer accessories and repairs. This was also unanimously agreed upon.

The Pearl proposals will be modified to reflect this changes.

#### 4. Funding Allocation

Based on the deliberations mentioned in Item 4 above, Rajaraman presented a proposal to allocate 90 percent of the Essential budget items except in the case of the Scholarship Project. Under this formula stewards will have at their disposal 90 percent of Essential category and 50 percent of additional funds raised by themselves. Asha Chennai Scholarships will be allocated 50% of the full budget and the entire 100% of the funds raised by the project. This proposal was endorsed in toto unanimously. It was decided to put up the proposal giving figures of actual allocations for online poll after verifying the arithmetics, in a day or two. .

#### 5. Updates on Minischools

More than thirty minischools have started functioning in several centres. This year the HMs of Govt. schools also seem to be readily coming forward to offer space in government schools. The coverage of children by Asha minischools will probably go higher than 1800 or so in 2020-21. On vaccination for teachers there is a great deal of ambiguity and anxiety in the case of pregnant ladies, lactating mothers and people under treatment for other conditions and diseases. Most other teachers have got vaccinated.

#### 6. Update on teacher Evaluation

Rajaram and Venkat had completed the evaluation of the answer papers of the test held on 26th June. Teachers have not done so well in Maths as compared to English. Some very senior teachers who were recruited in earlier times may not have fared well but they are very good teachers particularly for the entry level kids. This data will be used as one of the inputs to compute the index for the component of pay rise related to performance.