

Meeting Minutes for Asha Chennai on 18th Dec 2022

Minutes of the meeting held via GoogleMeet on Sunday 18 December 2022 at 10.00 AM

Following were present

Bhaskar

Kalyan

Kasturi

Paripoornam

Rajaraman

Shiva

Sundaram R

Usha Rao

Venkat

Venkataraman

0. Ratification

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2022 were ratified unanimously.

1. Staff Matters

- a. Loans It was unanimously approved to grant loans to one teacher from Thulasi, three teachers from Sangamam and 4 teachers from Pearl of Rs 50,000 each for the purchase of two-wheelers subject to the usual terms and conditions. All of these teachers requested loans for the purchase of Scooters for their work related use.
- b. Resignations No new resignations
- c. Hiring Admin Coordinator Two persons have been interviewed among them one candidate Sandheep has been selected for further screening.
- d. Hiring Teachers This is an ongoing process and 4 fresh teachers have been hired in the past few weeks

2. Fundraising

Rajaram informed that through his IIT classmates he was able to get a commitment of donations of \$150,000 annually for three years. This would help us scale up our operations.

Venkataraman mentioned that he had already sent out communications to the donor community with updated reports on the activities of Asha Chennai

3. Asha South India Operationalisation Plan

Rajaraman outlined the current status of the operationalisation of Asha South India and said it was fully functional now. We will move one of the projects to Asha South India starting January.

4. Scholarship Update

Venkataraman stated that a total of 100 students were in our roll and disbursement of the first instalment was complete for the year and the second instalment disbursement will begin towards the end of January '23 when students would get the paid bills of tuition fees.

5. Operational Plan for the year 23-24

Rajaraman outlined the [Plan for 23-24](#) as circulated vide his email dated 15/12/2022 in which he had shared the spreadsheet containing the details. Venkat pointed out that he had exhaustively made his comments on the plan in his email dated 16/12/2022. Sundaram felt that Asha Chennai aka Asha South India should keep its focus also on its primary objective of supplementing govt efforts in ensuring that no child is left out of learning because of the accident of birth and also in improving quality of education at primary levels by continuously training and retraining our regular teachers.

Rajaraman mentioned that there was all round enthusiasm for Karadi Path method in teaching English to children in the primary classes.

After considerable discussion the plan was adopted and it was decided that addition of regular teachers would be done only in new projects like Cauvery and Semmanchery during 2023-24.

6. Oral Assessments

The assessments were completed in November itself. The entering and tabulation of the results is a work in progress and is expected to be completed by the first week of January '23 after ironing out discrepancies in the basic data files.

7. Amazon Projects

It was observed that the work with all the schools under Amazon Project is proceeding satisfactorily. Most of the plans under this head were discussed earlier under item 5 of the Plan for 23-24. Rajaraman pointed out that the school stationery costs have gone up substantially and the allocation in this head needs to be increased next year.

8. Asha Kanini

Rajaraman stated that unexpectedly Asha Kannini received a fresh dose of funding Rs 20 Lakhs. He referred to his recent [report](#) which contained a survey or a ground report on the implementation and use of Asha Kanini software in the schools where they have been installed in their systems.

9. Rolling out new RTCs

It is expected that one more RTCs in Pearl Project in January 2023 and two more elsewhere in July 2023. Venkat hoped that we could set up more RTCs in 2023 with greater infusion of funds under IIT Pravartak

10. Project Explore

Project Cauvery has been launched and one Computer teacher Mohanasundari is in place covering 3 government schools. It was assured that the pace of hiring teachers will be stepped up. However, not much headway could be made in the case of Semmanchey

11. CS Training

Rajaraman stated that CS Training covering all Asha computer teachers has been organised to take place from 20 December for three days. Thanks to Kumari, RTC Teacher, a good hall at affordable rates has been located to accommodate almost 100 participants in the sessions.

12. Excursion to Trivandrum

Venkat assured everything is well set for the excursion beginning on 26th to Trivandrum and returning on 30th, Teachers from Pearl and Thulasi would join a day later.

R.Sundaram