

# Meeting Minutes for Asha Chennai on 25th June, 2023

Minutes of the meeting held in person and via GoogleMeet on Sunday 25 June 2023 at 9.30 AM

## Following were present

- Bhaskar
- Kalyan
- Kasturi
- Komalavalli
- Paripoornam
- Rajaraman ( co-ordinator)
- Shiva
- Sriram
- Sujatha
- Sundaram
- Venkat
- Venkataraman
- Vidhya Arun

## 0. Ratification of the minutes of the meeting held on Sunday, 21st May 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2023 were ratified unanimously.

## 1. Staff

### Loans

Paripoornam proposed a grant of a Scooter Loan of Rs 50,000 to one teacher in the Thulsi project and Rajaraman likewise for a teacher in Sangamam. These were unanimously approved subject to the usual terms and conditions.

## 2 Updates on Audit and accounting

### Amazon utilisation Report

Rajaraman stated that this has been done and Amazon executives were quite satisfied.

### Asha South India Trust

Progress is satisfactory and will be completed shortly

### Asha India Trust

Rather unusually this year Asha India at Varanasi wanted the Audit to be completed and report submitted by mid-June! We were not prepared for that and will be submitting the accounts to our auditor only in the coming week. Our audit will be ready for Varanasi by mid-July. Sundaram suggested that perhaps some of the detailed work done at our end could be transferred to our auditors Bhupathy and Co with a suitable increase in the auditors' fees to be paid to them.

### Rajatalab Utilisation Report

This has been submitted to Asha Austin.

## 3 Project Budget Proposals.

- Cauvery

Komalavalli presented the budget proposals for Cauvery (Thiruvapur) covering 5 schools involving 2 computer teachers. The budget was scrutinized line-wise and suggestions were made the chief among them was that the proposed expenditure on establishing and running libraries will be treated as expansion of scope (i.e. funds will not be allocated for that). The budget of Rs 6,77,550 was approved unanimously. Budget for libraries of Rs 77,000 was approved but funds will not be allocated.

- Mirzapur

Komalavalli presented next, the budget of Mirzapur catering to CS Teaching employing 2 teachers After discussions a budget of Rs 4,11,600 was approved unanimously.

- Pearl

Bhaskar presented budget proposals covering Regular teachers at 8 schools, 3 computer teachers and also continuing the KG/Anganwadi, Library etc. It was suggested that additional funding for the introduction of Karadi Path Training in English and provision was made .. After discussion, an expenditure proposal of Rs 34,26,450 was unanimously approved.

- Poorna Vidhya

Sriram presented an expenditure of Rs 10,83,000 covering the existing schools. After discussions and making upward adjustments for meeting the rising cost of stationery the budget of expenditure of Rs11,58,800 was unanimously approved. Budget for 2 new schools of Rs 4,60,000 was approved but funds will not be allocated towards that.

- Sangamam

Rajaram presented an updated budget for Sangamam with some corrections. The budget for Rs 97,37,000 was unanimously approved

- Rural Technology Centre

IITM Pravartak has been funding the 6 RTCs in operation currently. However, since May, funds from one of the donors got exhausted and Asha has been directly bearing the expenses for 3 of the RTCs. Further there are no funds to expand the list to include one more RTC. Therefore we are putting together a proposal for RTCs that may be directly funded by Asha. The budget for Rs 49,40,000 was unanimously approved. When there is clarity on what part of this will be borne by Asha, we will come back with a specific request for allocation of funds. Till then ongoing expenses of 4 RTCs will be borne by Asha.

#### **4a Presentation of Financials for 2022-23**

Rajaraman presented the financials for FY 22-23 and also the balances project-wise. It may be seen that inflows have been considerably more than the outflow leaving the balances in a better position. However we have taken up several one time projects like Sugadharam and uniform distributions at Sangamam, Pearl and Thulasi which have absorbed this excess funding. Further expansion in all the projects will required the increased fund raising.

#### **4b) Project-wise Allocations**

Despite the comfortable financial projections, Rajaraman reiterated the necessity to restrict expenditure allocation to 80 percent of the approved project expenditure. The following terms were unanimously agreed:

80% of the project budget towards existing scope (schools) of the project will be allocated from the buffer. To spend beyond this 80% or for new scope /schools, the project stewards will need to raise funds. 50% of the funds raised by the stewards may be used for these excess expenses.

### **5. Updates on**

- Uniform distribution

This is overwhelmingly welcomed by both students and teachers and will be completed by July'23

- RTC Funding by IIT Pravartak

Funds though CAMS seem to be steady but IIT Pravartak is confident that Funds will be found. One more RTC is likely to come up in Sangamam project as we have hired a RTC teacher already.

- Projects, Arogyam, Sugadharam and Office Expansion at Tiruvallur

All the mentioned projects are proceeding satisfactorily and the lease amount in respect of Office is increased from Rs 7 Lakhs to Rs 9 Lakhs.

- Teacher Evaluation Test 2023

This has been successfully conducted on the 17th Instant and answer papers are under evaluation.

- MOU with Samagra Siksha

There have been some changes in the top bureaucracy of the TN Education dept. This may slow down this ambitious proposal. Rajaraman stated that we would continue to watch its progress.

### **6. Outlook for the new Academic year**

Everyone present felt that the outlook for Asha South India is undoubtedly promising for this year and the next few years.