

# Meeting Minutes for Asha Chennai on 18th, Feb 2024

Minutes of the meeting held in person & via GoogleMeet on Sunday 18th February 2024 at 9.30 AM

Following were present.

- Kasturi
- Komalavalli
- Murali
- Rajaraman
- Shiva
- Sriram
- Sundaram
- Venkat
- Vidya Arun

At the start of the meeting Rajraman, on behalf of all of us, welcomed and introduced Mr Murali our new volunteer.

## 0 Ratification of the minutes of the meeting and polls

The minutes of the meeting held on 17/1/24 were ratified unanimously. It was decided to send Rs 1,00,000 as an immediate measure of relief to the accident victims of Rajatlab staff. A poll was held to authorise the payment. This poll was ratified unanimously.

## 1.0. Staff changes / loans

Sriram proposed a grant of loan of Rs 50,000 to a teacher in Poorna Vidya explaining her personal circumstances. This was approved.

Rajaraman proposed a grant of a loan of Rs 50,000 each to five teachers from Sangamam, which was approved as per our laid down guidelines.

Rajaraman mentioned that a few of our teachers incurred sudden and unforeseen medical expenditures. It was decided to give them an ex gratia payment of Rs 15,000 for medical treatment as recommended by the project steward.

## 2.0. Report on recent events.

### 2.1 RTC Impressions and new term at the RTCs.

Rajaraman stated that this year Impressions were held fittingly and the judges were all in praise for the standard of our students' presentations. The next semester began and a new RTC at Periyapalayam was inaugurated.

### 2.2 Written assessments start.

Written assessments have begun in all schools up to 5th standard in Primary schools and up to 8th standard in Middle Schools and it is hoped that the task will be completed by the first week of March. Grading will start after that.

### 2.3 Annual day functions and excursions.

Organising Annual day functions and excursions has begun in earnest in all the projects. This year the education department ordered that schools conduct annual day functions and that they complete that in February. This meant a lot of work for our coordinators. Added to that we had also taken up the school excursions. This year that has also increased in scope. We have undertaken the task of taking 1800+ students for excursion compared to about 1000 last year. Children visiting Chennai are shown around Birla Planetarium, Anna Centenary Library, and Marina Beach

### 2.4 Scholarship disbursement.

2nd Instalment of Scholarship disbursement took place on 10th February partially to 28 scholars.. It is expected that 2nd installment disbursement will be completed by mid-March.

## 3.0. Update on discussions with Govt.

### 3.1 Report to SPD.

A quarterly report on the ACE program and rest of our CS initiatives was submitted to the SPD. There have been several other contacts with the government departments. Ms. Archana Hari who used to serve as an assistant to the Commissioner and later the SPD and now serving the member secretary for the ADW department visited our project area and saw all of our various programs. Further several staff representing the Schools of Excellence program and the Clubs program came to see our RTC Impressions on Feb 7th. There is a great potential for Asha Chennai to cooperate with these initiatives of the Education Department by sharing CS Curriculum and introducing its ACE programs.

### 3.2 Namma School Registration .

All NGOs working with the Government Schools are being encouraged to join Namma School Namma Ooru Palli. This is a means by which they intend to track all the contributions being made to government schools by NGOs, corporates and private individuals. Murali our new volunteer is spearheading this effort to register Asha Chennai for the work we do with all the government schools in all the districts where we operate. He is also hoping to take this registration to the various district CEOs and get their permission as well.

### 3.3 Meeting in IIT with Sudhan (in charge of Model schools)

Rajaraman talked about the meeting organised by IIT Madras showcasing the work being done with government schools to IAS Mr. Sudhan who is in charge of model schools. Asha also got the opportunity to talk about the RTC and ACE programs. We explored opportunities to incorporate our curriculum and methodology at the model schools and elsewhere.

## 4.0 . Upcoming events.

### 4.1 Amazon Pune Conference

Amazon Future Engineers Conference is to be held on 21st to 23rd instant. Rajaraman and our lead teachers Kumari and Nadhiya are attending the same. [Code.org](https://code.org) will be conducting training during this time.

### 4.2 Asha India Conference.

Asha India Conference is being held in Mumbai on the 24th and 25th. Apart from volunteers Rajaraman, Shiva and Sriram, our lead teachers Kumari and Nathiya, two teachers Ali and Ajay from Rajatalab as well as our coordinators Dhinakaran and Akilan are slated to attend. This will be the biggest representation by Asha Chennai in a conference outside TN.

## 5 Review of Accounting and Financials

Our software development team (Gomathy in particular) developed a piece to bring in the transactions into our accounting software. This will ensure that our accounts are much more current. He specifically mentioned Jhonsi Rani's contribution in maintaining our accounts.