

# Minutes for Asha Chennai on 14th, July 2024

ASHA CHENNAI CHAPTER MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON Sunday 14 Jul,2024

Following were present

Bhaskar

Kasturi

Komalavalli

Paripoornam

Rajaraman

Shiva

Sriram

Sujatha

Usha Bhaskar

## 0. Ratification of Minutes of the meeting held on 9/6/24

The minutes of the Meeting held on 9/6/24 were ratified unanimously

## 1. Staff Changes and Loans

Unanimous approval was given for grant of Scooter Loans to two teachers from Sangamam.

It was also unanimously decided that we will increase the default limit for personal loans and Scooter/bike loans to Rs 60000 from the present Rs 50000.

It was also decided to the Deepavali Bonus given to all our staff who have completed one year to Rs 7500 from Rs 5000 from this year.

## 2. Midterm Review of Fund Position

Rajaraman gave an overview of the Fund position and assets held as on April 1st 2024 by Source and Location. We have a balance of about Rs 6 Crores which includes assets, loans outstanding, amount that we have to spend for the Amazon project from the funding provided in 2022-23 etc. The working capital ratio (i.e. balance / expected outflow) including the Amazon and RTC amounts both in the inflow and outflow came to about 1.3. Without including either of these the working capital ratio came to about 2. I.e. If Amazon and IITM Pravartak continue funding their projects our balance will cover about 2 years of our expenses. If we only receive the money from Amazon and Pravartak to cover this year's expenses then our balance plus the funding from these two sources will cover about 1.3 years of our annual expenditure.

This helped us plan our expenses for the upcoming year for all the projects.

## 3. Revision to Manigal budget proposal

Usha Bhaskar had proposed an additional Teacher for Manigal. It was felt that although this measure might help the HM to overcome shortage at High School level, it would not exactly be in accordance with the aim of the project which is to help educate gypsy children. Therefore the proposal for addition was not agreed to.

## 4. Approval for specific Expansion and Contractions in different projects

The budgets of the projects were reviewed to break them into a expansion part and a part required to continue the existing scope of the project. Note that the expansion of KaradiPath program was not counted as expansion. [Here](#) is the table showing the same. Expansion was approved in the case of Cauvery, Poorna Vidya and Mirzapur projects.

## 5. Omnibus approval of all projects finalised during meetings on 24th May 2024 and 9th June 2024

We decided to move this to a separate poll after the meeting. Such a poll will also need to address funds being brought in to cover expenses already incurred etc.

## 5 Allocation of Budgets for FY 24-25 Consideration of 80 % formula

It was decided that the expenditure should be limited to 70 percent of allocation in case projection for expansion is included or to 80 percent of allocation excluding expansion. Separate funds should be met by raising funds for such expansion. These numbers are also shown in the [same table](#).

## 6 . Update on Discussions with Govt.

- Discussion on MOU extension for ACEv2.

This has not progressed much. However, Rajaraman stated that he didn't anticipate any difficulty in rolling out ACEv2 as this can be covered under the existing MOU for ACE. Before the start of the second year, we would need the MOU amended to approve a two year curriculum.

- MOU on ADW education outreach

Rajaraman mentioned that the ADW department was keen on rolling out this programme. A proposal for the same in line with our ACE and RTC programs has been shared with the ADW department. The proposal as envisaged would require funding to the tune of Rs 1.7 Crores.

- Namma school permission etc.

We have already received permission from them for our programs in the various districts. However several blocks were not mentioned in the permission. And in some cases like the ACE program the districts of Thoothukudi, Villupuram and Tiruvannamalai were themselves not mentioned. We have applied for a revision of the permission letter stating the districts and blocks for all the programs clearly. This has been getting delayed. Our Volunteer Murali has been following this up. In the meantime, as the districts of Villupuram and Tiruvannamalai were following the Namma School permission strictly, he got a separate signed amendment for the permissions for these two districts for the ACE and RTC programs.

## 7. Updates on

- 12A/80G approval and Amazon funding.

Rajaraman mentioned that it was a tough task to get the renewal for IT 12A/80G approval and the costs in terms of payment to the auditor was also significant. We should be careful in future about applying for renewals on time.

- Asha Impressions in Kayathar (15th June).

Asha Impressions of Pearl Project went off very well with enthusiastic participants and the event was attended by Bhaskar and Rajaraman

- RTCs in Nalattinpathur and Kilpennathur

A new RTC at Nalattinpathur in the Pearl Project was inaugurated on 14th June by Bhaskar and Rajaram. Another new RTC at Kilpennathur in Thulasi Project was also inaugurated on the 6th of July by Rajaram and Paripooranam. Both of these RTCs have started functioning successfully.

- Teacher Evaluation tests

Teachers evaluations were completed as planned. The tests have also been corrected and the marks communicated to the teachers.

- Amazon used laptop distribution.

Requests for laptops for allotment from teachers, RTCs, Stewards were solicited through google form questionnaires and, after scrutiny, arrangements are underway to hand them over to the allottees.

## 8. Upcoming events/activities

- Stationery materials purchase.

This task has begun in earnest in all projects and it is hoped would be completed by the end of this month.

- Laptop purchase.

Here too action is on hand and it is expected that the task would be completed by August 24. We need to purchase laptops for our own teachers in all projects, laptops for the CS trainers to take for their school visits, and laptops for the ACE v1 govt teachers. On the whole we are looking at purchasing more than a 100 laptops.

- ACE Inaugurations.

It was expected ACE inaugurations would be held in early August 24 in Sangamam, Pearl and Tulsi projects.

- Asha US conference.

Asha US Conference is being organised in the Bay area on Sept 28th and 29th. Registrations had been invited. While the registration fees of \$75 seemed to be stiff, they will most likely waive them. We will wait for their confirmation regarding this.