

Meeting Minutes for Asha Chennai on 20th, Oct 2024

Minutes of the meeting held in person & via GoogleMeet on Sunday 20th October 2024 at 10.00 AM

Following were present

- Akshay
- Kasturi
- Komalavalli
- Murali
- Rajaraman
- Sriram
- Sujatha
- Sundaram
- Venkat
- Venkataraman

0. Ratification of the Minutes of the meeting held on 22/9/24

The minutes of the meeting dated 22/9/2024 were ratified unanimously

1. Staff Changes and Loans

Grant of Scooter loans of Rs 60,000 each to two teachers in Sangamam was unanimously approved. Should there be any outstanding sum yet to be repaid against an old loan this grant would be only a top up loan so that the total loan does not exceed Rs 60,000.

2. Fund Raising - Donor Communication - PR assets

* Annual report; * Presentations; * Flyers.

* Upcoming Events: Giving campaigns by big corporates in the US, discussion with Tech Mahindra, Rotary Utsav, renewals with Pravartak, Fund Raisers with IITM alumni.

Priyanka had updated Asha Annual Report 2023-24 which was circulated earlier on 12th August 24. All stewards were requested to go through the same for any omissions or corrections.

Rajaraman stated that we should mount a concerted effort to get foreign individual donations during the last quarter since the tax year in the US UK etc is the calendar year. We should update our flyers, youtube videos and send messages to our friends circle. Venkataraman could send reports and reminders to those who are in our donor list.

Rajaraman stated that companies like Google give up to \$400 for their employees donate to NGOs like Asha. Volunteers could tap their relatives and friends in Google, Microsoft and such other tech companies using this channel for raising funds. He stressed the importance of keeping our website up to date and stewards were requested to review the write ups of their respective projects and bring them up to date. Priyanka taking on the responsibility of maintaining the website along with the social media pages.

He outlined the possible inflow of Donations from Tech Mahindra. We are waiting for a visit from their CSR department to Asha supported schools.

Usha Bhaskar, our colleague volunteer and Rajaraman made a presentation to Rotary Utsav (a purely women's club) who expressed keenness to donate.

While the IITM alumni of 91 batch has been making significant donations to Asha Chennai, we are now trying to start a campaign to seek donations among IIT M alumni across other batches.

To a query from Rajaraman Venkat stated that Crossbow had already renewed their donation to IIT Pravartak to support Asha Chennai. CAMS was also expected to do likewise.

3 UP Projects- Stewardship

Following changes in the stewardship of Rajatalab and Mirzapur were agreed to.

1. Sriram would steward Rajatalab Sangamam in UP assisted by Manoharan on the Admin Side and Jayalakshmi on pedagogy side.
2. Sujatha would continue as steward at Mirzapur Sangamam Project in UP

4. Scholarship

Venkataraman stated that 30 new students have been enrolled in our scholarship programme and the total number of scholars standing at 110. First instalment had been disbursed. Malliga would complete house visits in a month's time. The personality development and career counselling programme with Dheya Foundation was found to be useful by our scholars both by the present set of scholars in their final years and also by former Asha scholars.

5. Quick review of Sugadhram, Arogyam, Building Sangamam Office

After the completion of the toilets at Kannigaiper and Palavakkam, no new toilet works are currently ongoing. Rajaraman felt that Asha Chennai is obligated to build a toilet in New Thirupachur in view of the fact that the school has been allowing us to hold our meetings and training programmes many times every month.

Arogyam, a project for providing nutrition to very poor areas and concomitant running of minischools for children in such areas is continuing in six hamlets in Tiruvallur and 2 villages in Thoothukudi districts.

Building works at Sangamam Office is progressing and is expected to be complete by Jan/Feb 2025.

6. Review and Plans for RTCs

There are 9 RTCs with the recent addition of one RTC in Nalattinpathur (Pearl Project) and another at Kilpennathur (Thulasi Project). These are functioning well. There are plans to start 3 more RTCs at Uthukottai, Thirutani and Thirupatchur, all in Thiruvallur Dist. Teachers for these 3 RTCs are already working in our existing RTCs and getting trained to run an RTC by themselves.

7. Upcoming Events

* Oral Assessments

Oral assessments will start beginning November and instructions and guidelines as to how to conduct these oral assessments in a uniform manner are being circulated and meetings will be held to clarify any doubts.

* December Training

Asha Chennai conducts two Refresher Courses for teachers, once in May during Right Start and another in December. This December it will be held in Thiruvallur from December 25th to 27th. While this will be managed by Kumary and Srinivasan in Kanakamma Chathram and Thiruvallur, Manoharan will also assist in the logistics.

8 Updates on Govt Discussions

Mr Murali, our volunteer, stated that things were moving rather slowly but not getting permission from district authorities was not hampering our activities. He anticipated no difficulty in getting the necessary permission in most places. He reckoned that there might be problems in some five places.

Other items mentioned in the previous meetings, interfacing government were still Work In Progress.

9 . Feedback on

* Teacher's Excursion

Excursion to Hyderabad by teachers from Sangamam and Poorna Vidhya went off well. Youth hostel in the city, unlike in other places, was not well maintained.

* Maths/Science training.

Maths training by Meena Suresh and Science Training by Poorva Bhattar for teacher in Thulasi and Pearl projects were conducted as scheduled. Cauvery teachers also participated in the training in Kayathar along with the Pearl teachers.

* Stationery and other materials distribution.

This has been completed in all the projects. Sports material and other distributions are taking place now.

10 Other updates, as they come up

No item was presented under this.