

# Meeting Minutes for Asha Chennai on 08-27th, Jun 2025

Minutes of the Meeting held on Sunday 8th, Tuesday 24th and Friday 27th June 2025 in person and Google Meet at 10.00 AM on 8th and Google Meet on 24th and 27th at 7.30 PM

Following were Present during the meetings on dates shown against them

Name	8th June 2025	24th June 2025	27th June 2025
Akshay	YES	NO	NO
Bhaskar	YES	NO	NO
Kalyan	NO	NO	YES
Kasturi	YES	YES	YES
Komalavalli	YES	YES	YES
Paripoornam	YES	NO	YES
Rajaraman	YES	YES	YES
Shiva	YES	YES	NO
Sriram	YES	YES	YES
Sujatha	YES	NO	YES
Sundaram	YES	YES	YES
Venkat	YES	NO	YES
Usha Bhaskar	YES	YES	NO

0. Ratification of the minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2025

Minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2025 were ratified unanimously.

## 1. Routine Staff Matters Loans

Grant of Loans to 3 Teachers in Sangamam of Rs 60,000 each were approved as per laid down norms. Out of these one was a personal loan to deal with her husband's heavy medical expenses.. Grant of a loan to a teacher in Thulasi of Rs 60,000 was also approved. Another grant of a personal loan was approved at the request of a staff member in Cauvery. Conditions apply. The project stewards, it was reminded, would be co-guarantors.

## 2. Donations update: KLA, Amazon, [Code.org](#), Poshvine, others.

It was unfortunate that the request for proposals under CSR from KLA, famous for its packaging semiconductor products came to our notice rather late. It appeared that the causes for which they donated CSR funds seemed to correspond to our activities.

Rajaraman informed the meeting the following.

- Funds to the tune of Rs 2,10,00,000 were received from Amazon.
- [Code.org](#) has informed that they would arrange for the funding of the amount required for running the CSF programming course as part of ACE. Modalities were still being worked out since it involved some tax complications.

- Poshmark has donated Rs 5,00,000.
- Asha St Louis has promised USD 40,000 this year and probably a lower amount from next year to be used for supporting Poorna Vidhya which should also include Olcott Memorial School in Besant Nagar Chennai.

Rajaraman felt that ASHA Chennai should get an active and robust CRM (Customer Relationship Management) system to track CSR Companies and follow up vigorously. Venkat was requested to examine the suggestion.

### 3. Presentation of Budget Proposals by Project Stewards and their approval\*

(Note the Approved Budget Figures- other those schools covered by Amazon Budget, are given in the table at the end of this agenda item.)

- Asha Kanini Rajaraman presented the Budget for 25-26 highlighting the salient points, drawing attention to the fact that Damaka which was sharing Mylapore Office accommodation had completely vacated. So, the total rent of Rs 40,000 should be shared as follows Asha Kanini Rs 20,000, Admin Rs 8000, Sangamam Rs 4000, Poorna Vidhya Rs 4000 and Scholarship Rs 4000. Budget for 25-26 approved for Rs 34,00,000.

- Cauvery Komalavalli presented the Budget figures for 25-26. Budget for 25-26 approved for Rs 18,83,400. Independent of this budget we will also be establishing an RTC at Kottur.

- Manigal Usha Bhaskar presented the figures for Manigal Project which is sui generis among other Asha projects in that it helps education of the nomadic Narikuravar community. Budget for 25-26 approved for Rs 10,24,000.

- Mirzapur (Presented on 27th June) Sujatha made her presentation of the Budget of Mirzapur. After some discussions on possible expanding outreach to new schools, albeit in small steps, it was decided to split the budget into two parts , one for sustaining the existing school coverage and another for potential expansion. Budget 25-26 approved for Rs 10,10,420.

- Pearl Bhaskar initiated the discussions on his budget for schools Some suggestions were made regarding some specific line items which were duly incorporated. Budget for 25-26 approved for Rs 47,82,650

- Poorna Vidhya Sriram presented his budget in two parts, one for existing schools and other for a small expansion. His budget also took into account supporting Olcott Memorial as Asha St Louis had promised a targeted donation for that school. Budget for 25-26 approved for Rs 33,28,000.

- Rajatalab Sriram proposed 2 additional teachers in the budget proposal he presented. Budget for 25-26 approved for Rs 30,99,800. Note that this is partly funded by Asha Austin.

- Sangamam (Presented on 24th June) Rajaraman explained the details of the computations of this flagship biggest project and the budget was duly approved. Budget for 25-26 approved for Rs 1,19,05,000

- Scholarship (Presented on 27th June) Kalyan stated that he proposed an induction of 30 new scholars ( 40% at HS and HSS Level and 60% College level). Kalyan stated that he had retained the provision for career counselling for Asha scholars. Rajaraman suggested that we should revive our contact with Mr. Nedunchezian who is a good counsellor and runs an organisation called TICC (The India College finder). The budget based on the above was approved. Budget for 25-26 approved for Rs 37,68,000.

-Tulasi (Presented on 24th June) Paripoornam gave the details of working of her budget both for schools and the Library. This includes purchase of Karadi Path Kits. On the support for Libraries she said that Asha Boston had not yet replied to her query. Budget was approved. Budget for 25-26 approved for Rs

4,347,620 for the School Portion and 3,46,600 for the Libraries.

PROJECT	BUDGET 25-26	BUDGET 24-25	ACTUALS 24-25 Est
ASHA KANINI	3,400,000	2,480,000	2,544,250
CAUVERY	1,883,400	1,635,340	930,435
MANIGAL	1,024,000	100,600	833,161
MIRZAPUR	1,010,420	883,080	612,601
PEARL	4,782,650	4,080,000	3,685,984
POORNA VIDHYA	3,328,000	2,011,800	1,773,505
RAJATALAB	3,099,800	2,388,200	2,017,682
SANGAMAM	11,905,000	11,055,000	10,028,669
SCHOLARSHIP	3,768,000	3,290,000	2,360,862
THULASI	3,846,600	3,945,720	3,062,216
THULASI LIBRARY	346,600	263,200	138,371
MIRZAPUR EXPANSION	403,400		
TOTAL	38,797,870	32,132,940	27,987,736

#### 4. Status of Activities Related to the government.

- NSNOP Approval It was gratifying to note that Asha Chennai, thanks to the efforts of our volunteer Murali, got approvals for all our programs for two years in all the schools.

- Spark Program – Although there was a buzz about teaching CS from classes 6 to 9 created by Tamil Nadu Education authorities and Samagraha Sikhsha Abhiyan, none of the schools or even officials at the district levels were aware of the launch of this program.

- ADW Hostels bid. Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar and Tribal welfare department had floated public tenders to prospective agencies to undertake computer training of students in ADW Hostels. Accordingly, Asha Chennai had made a [proposal](#) to teach computer science in 82 Hostels covering 4571 students. This involved hiring 60 teachers. It would cover Thiruvannamalai, Villupuram and Thiruvallur Districts. Asha Chennai has submitted its bid based on a [budget](#) for Rs 97 Lakhs.

#### 5. Annual Teacher Assessment and parameters for pay review.

Details were discussed about the differentials between lead teacher, CS Trainers etc. While we have a fairly gradual increase in salary from lower to higher levels, other organizations tend to have a more skewed salary structure which places a risk on us losing some of our best teachers. We will continue monitoring this situation.

Teacher evaluation test would be held on 28th June with each teacher taking either Maths-English-Science Test or the CS Paper depending on their role. Opportunity would be given to RTC students to take the MES test.

Venkat suggested a Pay Award of Rs 10,000 could be granted to those Lead Teachers and RTC Teachers (about 10 in Number) who had worked hard sacrificing their personal time to do the training for other teachers during the last one year. This was unanimously approved.

#### 6. Upcoming Events

- Asha Impressions at Pearl.

This would be held as scheduled on June 14th. More than 200 presentations and 100 programs had been received and were being screened for selection.

- ACE Impressions. (Recorded on 8th June)

Ace Impressions were scheduled to be held on 21st June at Amazon World Trade Centre -

-Reopening of schools and start of our programs.

Since the schools had reopened Asha Chennai was gearing up to start its programs as chalked out.

- Pondy Training. (Recorded on 8th June)

Our team of teachers were scheduled to take up training of teachers in Pondicherry Mala Foundation on 16th and 17th June.

- TIS training in Bangalore.

3 Day TIS Workshop would be held in Amazon Premises in Bangalore from 4th July.

## 7. Review of Events

- Asha Impressions

Asha impressions were held on 28th April as scheduled at IITM Central Lecture Theater and the children exhibited great talent in conceiving and presenting their projects.

- RightStart

Rightstart, our annual refresher training for all teachers in MES, this year was held in Vanavani Hall from 22nd to 26th May. Poorva, Meena Suresh, team from KaradiPath and others formed the faculty.

- Teacher Excursions

They are proceeding a pace. Most of the projects had completed earlier. Pearl completed its excursion in May.

- Scholarship Disbursement

Final disbursement for 24-25 took place on 7th June

## 8. Other Updates

Due to lack of time this agenda item was not taken up.

- Written assessment report and analysis.

- Infrastructure data collection.

- Audit for 2024-25 accounts.

- 12A/80G extension.

- FCRA Application.

## 9. Child Safety Policy

This item was taken up on priority. Paripoornam's draft with some slight corrections was adopted for implementation. It is enjoined on all staff members to read and sign on this policy document. Signed hard copy should be in safe custody in Asha Offices in various projects