

# Meeting Minutes for Asha Chennai on 23rd, Feb 2025

Minutes of the Meeting held on Sunday 23rd February 2025 in person and Google Meet at 9.30 AM

Following were Present

Akshay

Bhaskar

Komalavalli

Paripoornam

Rajaraman

Shiva

Sriram

Sundaram

Also present for some time

Arjun Shankar

0 Ratification of the Minutes of the meeting held on 29/12/2024 and Poll held on 19th Jan 2025 by Bhaskar Pearl Project Steward

The minutes of the meeting held on 29/12/24 and the results of the poll held on 19/01/2025 were ratified unanimously.

## 1. Staff Changes and Loans

A total of seven requests for loans from Teachers/staff from Sangamam (3) Pearl (2) Tulasi (2) were examined. Grant of a sum of Rs 60,000 each was approved as per established guidelines regarding purpose, viz., House repair, Scooter purchase, and with terms and conditions as applicable from time to time. On a query if any policy guideline was in place for a time gap between grant of two successive loans Rajaraman said that might have to be checked by referring to policy guidelines.

## 2. Detailed Presentation on Central Allocation of Funds and plan for the additional funds

Rajaraman made a presentation on Asha Chennai funds that are held at various locations and computation of different WCR ratios based on projected funds from donors and data on capital adequacy. He stated that he expected Asha Chennai Chapter, overall, to have approximately Rs 9.2 Crores in hand at the moment. Rajaraman also presented the plans for additional expenditure utilising the Amazon Innovation Grant and total additional funds surplus available to expand various activities. He said firm proposals would be brought before the next meeting for voting on the same. A suggestion was made by Bhaskar that expenditure on stationary had to be aligned with high price rise.

The following items which were planned from the Amazon Innovation grant were approved.

- Laptops - 8L
- Experimental HW - 8L
- Impact assmt - 3.5L
- RTC Excursion - 3.4L etc.

The following items were approved from our own excess.

- Expansion of Arogyam to two more centres in Thiruvallur.

## 3 Follow up of Potential Donors Maha Cements, Tech Mahindra, Rotary (Utsav) IIT Alumni Across Batches

Komalavalli reported that there was no progress with reference to donation from Maha Cements. Others like Tech Mahindra and Rotary Utsav too show no signs of movement in this direction. Perhaps, their sense of urgency is a well preserved one. However, Sriram stated that Indian Oil is considering a proposal to build toilets and he would pursue them also with Sutherland who evinced some interest. It was worthwhile to tap Cap Gemini and Poshmark for donation under their CSR obligations.

#### 4. Interactions with TN Government

##### ADWB Hostels and SoE Schools

There has been no further progress in the matter so far.

##### MOU Extension

This may not be required as the extension to a two year curriculum and expansion to more schools can be sanctioned by the NSNOP itself.

##### Class 6 to 9 CS Training and scaling up in TN Govt Schools (New)

Rajaraman recalled his visit to meet Mr K Nanthakumar Secretary Department of Human Resources Tamilnadu , Mr.R.Sudhan, Head of Namma School Namma Ooru Palli and Archana Hari consultant for various depts., along with Kim Doyeon of [Code.org](https://code.org). The govt. Officials were keen to implement CS Education as fast as possible with minimal training of Govt teachers in Middle, High and Higher secondary schools in Classes 6 to 9. Rajaraman admitted that he was overwhelmed by the keenness shown by the Govt. officials. The idea was to have the curriculum implemented in a self-learning style so as to not depend just on the cascaded training implemented by the department (train master trainers from each District who will train the trainers from each block at District Level, who will in turn train teachers in schools at block levels). Asha is proposing that in addition to developing this for all of TN, we will also implement this in a manner similar to ACE in one district or in all blocks where we have presence.

##### Namma School Permissions

Thanks to Murali our volunteer who is liaising with the office bearers of Namma Ooru Namma Palli, this is progressing well. NSNOP holds our efforts of Asha Chennai in spreading Computer Education to government school students in high esteem.

#### 5. Review of recent notable events

##### Asha India Conference in Tamalpur

Komalavalli and Rajaraman debriefed those present on the proceedings of the conference and also their sight seeing trip to Bhutan. Three volunteers, Komalavalli, Rajaram and Venkat, along with three staff, Murugan, Nirmala and Jayalakshmi, represented Asha Chennai at the meeting.

##### Amazon carnival and Summit Delhi January '25

It was decided to place on record our high appreciation of the efforts of Gomathy and Nathiya in making a Robotic Wheelchair demo along with selected school students. The team put up a good show in Amazon Future Engineer Stall.

##### Amazon CS Education Summit in Pune February '25

Our teachers Radha, Selvam and Divya along with Venkat, our volunteer, [participated.in](https://participated.in) this training by [Code.org](https://code.org) trainers organised by Leadership for Equity and Amazon.

##### RTC Impressions February '25

RTC Impressions was conducted on 13th of Feb 2025. It was a grand success. Pravartak hosted the event at the IITM Research Park. The teams from all the 9 RTCs came and did very well. The quality of the projects and the participants continues to improve and continues to impress the judges. This RTC Impressions was no exception. There were several key visitors who took the time to see the projects including Doyeon Kim, manager for the APAC region for [Code.org](#), Ms [Archana Hari](#), a consultant for various govt departments including the education department, Ms. Janaa, an employee at the NSNOP etc. All of them left the program thoroughly impressed by what the children from poorer govt schools have been able to achieve. Thanks to press release from Pravartak, there was good coverage of the event in press.

#### Kim Doyeon's Visit to our schools

Kim Doyeon visited representative schools implementing our various programs in Thiruvallur. She was again impressed by what Asha is implementing on the ground. Next day, she along with Gaurav who used to be formerly on the Amazon-Dhwani team and was accompanying Doyeon to Asha Chennai, saw the works of our Software engg team in Chennai. They were highly appreciative of t Asha Chenna's efforts.

#### 6. Upcoming Events

##### Written Assessments Feb-Mar 2025

Written Assessments are scheduled to take place in all projects from 28th February and expected to be finished within a week or utmost two. Briefing meetings will be held regarding setting of question Papers logistics and deployment of invigilators etc

#### ACE Impressions

The first ACE Impressions for the first batch of ACE teachers that started in Oct 2023, is scheduled to be held in mid Feb at the Amazon office at Perungudi. As this is the first impression event for ACE which is being implemented by govt teachers themselves, we are hoping for good participation from govt officials. These processes are all starting.

#### 7. Quick review of Sugadhram, Arogyam, Building Sangamam Office

Not much is happening under Sugadharam. We will be starting toilet construction at GHS Thirupachur with some funding from individual donors shortly. With the proposal to Indian oil, we are hoping that we are able to undertake repair work at a few more school toilets.

Supply of nutritious food and concurrent running of mini schools in very poor neighbourhoods are continuing. We are hoping to start two more such centres at Nedumbaram and one more place in Thiruvallur.

Office building in Sangamam is complete. Additional things like speaker system etc, are being worked on.

#### 8. Status of receipt and distribution of Laptops, Smartsystems and RO Filter

Out of 500 Laptops received from Amazon and 12 from Bentley Ssystems, most of them have been distributed. Remaining will be distributed shortly. One RO system was installed by Rotary Utsav at GGHSS Uthukottai. Smartsystems are yet to be delivered by the donors.

#### 9. Other Updates

Registration under 12A and 80 G of the Income Tax Act

Rajaraman informed that application for renewal of registration had been submitted for AY 26-27

Registration under FCRA

Rajaraman stated that it was just starting up.

Problems with KYC with HDFC Bank

We had our online transactions frozen for a few days because of a problem in the KYC. We have solved the temporary problem. Jhansi is in touch with the Bank and it would be sorted out soon.

#### 11. Staff Policy- Child safety

Paripoornam proposed that we should adopt a child safety policy by Asha Chennai as an Institution. This was unanimously welcomed as it was an important societal issue for school going children. She was requested to circulate the same among the core group, inviting suggestions after examining which the same could be adopted.