

Meeting Minutes for Asha Chennai on 29th, Dec 2024

Minutes of the meeting held in person & via GoogleMeet on Sunday 29th December 2024 at 9.30 AM

Following were present

Akshay

Kalyan

Kasturi

Komalavalli

Paripooranam

Rajaraman

Shiva

Sujatha

Sundaram

Venkataraman

Usha Bhaskar

0. Ratification of the Minutes of the meeting held on 17/11/2024

The minutes of the meeting dated 17/11/2024 were ratified unanimously.

1. Staff Changes and Loans

Sujata proposed a grant of loan of Rs 60,000 to a teacher in Mirzapur for construction/repair of house which was approved unanimously subject to the usual T &C

2.. Amazon Innovation Grant -

Rajaraman stated that Asha South India had received the Innovation of Grant of USD 1,00,000 equivalent in INR by Amazon. This as the volunteers were aware is in addition to Amazon's CSR Funding for their flagship programmes Learn, ACE and Explore. Rajaraman presented the [plans](#) by in which this grant could be utilised and was approved after some discussion

3. Asha Chennai funds position update.

Rajaraman gave a broad picture of the situation and stated that our funding position was comfortable and the WCR was also favourable in terms of expected funds from central allocation.

4. Updates

Donations In kind Laptops, Smartsystems and RO Filter.

Laptops:: -500 Laptops had been received from Amazon.. Process is on to identify schools and quantities and distribute them in Amazon funded schools.

Smart systems: : 150 Systems had been promised but no clarity yet.

RO Filter: Donation of RO Filters is being received. Before that it was being ascertained from the field staff and Teachers where they could be installed taking into account the strength of the schools water supply infrastructure in the location etc

Review of CS Training Dec 19-22 inst: It was held in Kanakamma Chathram as was done in the last two years. In addition to sessions by our own Asha volunteers and staff, an interesting session was given by Mr Bharath from Education Initiatives, who talked about computational thinking in unplugged activities. Ms Ramapriya did a session on SAMR (Substitution, Augmentation, Modification, Redefinition) framework for CS education. She also talked a bit about CS education in Singapore and Australia.

Oral Assessment:

Data collection was complete and discrepancies and anomalies were being sorted out. A clear picture would emerge shortly.

[Code.org](#) Conference in Sendai Japan Nov 20-23 Rajaraman shared [his experience](#) on his visit to Japan to attend Code.Org Conference in a special google meet with volunteers, coordinators and lead teachers. He announced that [Code.org](#) had chosen Asha Chennai as its prime vehicle in bringing computer education at school level to India. He mentioned that Ms Kim Doyeon Head [Code.org](#) In South Asia was likely to visit Asha Chennai in February next year.

Medical Camp for teachers. There has been a felt need for getting Asha Teachers medically counselled after diagnostic tests, particularly after the sad demise of our young teacher Datchayani's last year. Venkat organised routine Diagnostic tests through Healthians for Sangamam and Poorna Vidhya teachers. Dr Deepa (Rajaraman's Classmate) and her colleagues held a medical camp for Sangamam Teachers and counselled them. It appeared Poorna Vidhya teachers, preferred to consult their own healthcare professionals, perhaps because they lived in or closer to Chennai. Therefore only the tests were conducted for them.

5. Upcoming Events.

Asha India Conference Feb 2025: : It was decided that a delegation of Four Volunteers, Two Lead Teachers and one Coordinator from Asha Chennai would travel by air to Assam to attend the conference in Tamulpur.

Amazon Summit 20-21 Jan 2025: This conference was being held in Delhi. It had been decided to take part by making a presentation of a Robotics project by lead Teacher Nathiya and a team of students. They would also attend along with some volunteers and staff.

RTC Impression - Feb 15th 2025: Arrangements were on for holding RTC Impressions (Second Semester of 24/25) at IIT Research Park.. Dr Kamkoti Director IITM was expected to be the guest of honour. Teams from the Tulsi project would be participating for the first time.

6. Scholarship

Venkataraman stated that house visits were over and the second Instalment distribution would be held in Jan-Feb 2025

7. Mirzapur Office Space

After considerable discussion on renting office space at Mirzapur, it was decided to sanction Rs 3000 as rent per month.

8. Software and Content Updates

MESL activities, Lesson Plans for CS Teaching, Mapping for new textbooks:.

It was hoped that the above activities would be finished by end of January 2025

Asha Kanini v4:.. This Version was expected to be released in a week.

Teacher Time Reporting: It is now fully operational for Explore and ACE. Other projects are being developed.

Laptops tracker: Basic QR code validation of the assets has been used for about an year now. Work is in progress to expand it so our laptops periodically ping the server to notify that they are up and running.

9. Additional Points Considered

A. Selection of Names for the Annual CS Training held in December and Asha Chennai's Broad Support Programme covering Primary and Middle Schools

This topic was discussed in the relevant WhatsApp group and it was decided to adopt SPRINT (Supporting Primary and Middle Schools in Nurturing Talent as suggested by Sasikala Tulsi Project Asha Teacher for Asha Chennai's Broad Support Programme covering Primary and Middle Schools. For now we will continue using RightStart-CS till a better name is found.

B. Sale of Asha Chennai T Shirts

T-Shirts carrying Asha Logo are available for purchase by Asha Community. They were priced at Rs 350.

Those who want to buy might contact Manohar in Asha Office

C. Engaging with the US It was generally felt that there was insufficient engagement with Asha USA except annual submission checklists for projects followed by a clarification meeting. Asha worldwide must think of ways to bring all chapters together for some discussion on things like, where we are , where we should go.