

## Project Pearl – Proposal for academic year 2018-19

### **Background**

Thoothukudi district is in the south of TamilNadu and is one of the backward districts in terms of economic indicators, social progress and industrialization. It is also a notoriously dry district and agriculture is completely dependent on the monsoons. Some of the blocks in this district are rain-shadow regions and receive no more than 10-15 days of rains in a year. Livelihood options for the people here are quite limited and migration to urban areas in search of jobs is quite common. With respect to education, access to schools for the underprivileged children is not an issue, especially at the primary school level (classes 1-5) but the quality of education is quite suspect.

Asha Chennai started a project in three blocks of Thoothukudi district namely Ottapidaram, Vilathikulam and Kayathar during the 2008-09 academic year with the primary focus being improvement in quality of education. We identified government schools where the pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) was more than the government-mandated ratio of 40:1, visited them and interacted with the school teachers to understand the issues they were facing. It was fairly obvious that a lot of these schools needed additional teachers to help out with the teaching, to provide normal education to the students and for the smooth functioning of the schools. The following table gives a timeline of the various major events in the project over the last six years.

2009-10	The project was started with support for the schools at Melamanthai, Panikkar Kulam, Anandan Madan Patcheri and Nagalapuram. In August of 2009 we added support for Vilvamarathupatti. We also started two libraries at Nagalapuram and E. Velayudhapuram.
2010-11	We had discontinued support to two of these schools (Melamanthai PUPS and PanickarKulam PUPS) by the beginning of the academic year due to appointment of additional government teachers in them. We pulled out of Vilvamarathupatti during the academic year following an additional government teacher coming in and Asha Chennai teacher quitting simultaneously. We were unable to add more schools as the new DEEO did not grant us permission to.
2011-12	We discontinued support to the middle school at Anandan Madan Patcheri as Asha teacher Gopinath quit and we couldn't find a replacement due to lack of access and proper public transport to the village/school. Also, we decided to work in schools a bit closer together and decided to focus on Kayathar and neighbouring blocks only. After site visits and due diligence early in the school year, we added a teacher to and started supporting middle school at Vadakku Ilandha Kulam. This school was upgraded to a high school and hence was split into two schools – a primary with classes I-V and high school with classes VI-IX. We also opened a library in a smaller village called Suriyaminikkan, close to Vadakku Ilandha Kulam.
2012-13	The teacher we had appointed at Vadakku Ilandha Kulam got appointed as a government teacher and Vadakku Ilandha Kulam school got an additional government teacher posted there as well. We therefore discontinued our support for this school.

2013-14	In addition to the school and library at Nagalapuram we also decided to support the Balwadi there as it did not have any teachers. We also added support for the middle school at Vaagaithaavur.
2014-15	We started supporting the primary section of the school at Ayyanar Ootru by adding a teacher. Due to an increased teacher-student ratio at Vaagaithaavur PUPS, we dropped our support for that school and took up support for the feeder balwadi in that village.
2015-16	Two new teachers joined the schools in the project. We added a second teacher to Ayyanar Ootru PUMS and appointed a new teacher as a replacement at Nagalapuram PUMS. We did not take up the school at Koppampatti as government teachers got posted there at the beginning of the academic year.
2016-17	We started our support for Koppampatti PUMS and appointed two teachers. We continued working with two other middle schools at Nagalapuram PUMS and Ayyanar Ootru PUMS. Our support for two balwadis at Nagalapuram and Vaagaithaavur, and three libraries at Nagalapuram, Suriyaminikkan and E.Velayudhapuram continued as well.
2017-18	We started our support for Chidambarampatti PUPS mid-year and shifted around a couple of teachers. We continued working with three other middle schools at Nagalapuram PUMS, Ayyanar Ootru PUMS and Koppampatti PUMS. Our support for balwadi at Nagalapuram continued while we withdrew from Vaagaithaavur because a new teacher had been appointed. Three libraries at Nagalapuram, Suriyaminikkan and E.Velayudhapuram continued functioning as well.

Here are the details for the schools, balwadis and community libraries we propose to support this academic year.

### **Nagalapuram**

We have been supporting the school here since the beginning of the project. The school strength when as of February 2016 is about 115. There are four teachers for the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> standards and three teachers for classes 1 to 5. They also have English medium option available for classes 1, 2 and 3. The school is doing well and we found the headmaster to be very motivated. The children from the school have been doing well at Chess competitions with training by our Asha teacher John Baul.

The Balwadi has 25 children and there are no government teachers since the teacher was shared between this Balwadi and that in a neighbouring village. Our teacher Pechiammal has been working at this Balwadi.

### **Ayyanar Ootru**

There is a high school and a primary school in the same campus. This makes for a good academic setting for the primary school which has 213 children and 7 government teachers. Class 4 also has English medium, and hence all classes from 1 to 4 have both English and Tamil mediums which makes it very

challenging to manage with the existing teachers. We had appointed one teacher initially but with a total of 9 classrooms and existing teachers, there was a shortage and we appointed a second Asha teacher during the academic year 2015-16.

### **Koppampatti**

This is a middle school with classes 1 to 8 in quite a remote village. The primary school had about 61 children and two teachers and the middle classes had 37 children and two teachers including the HM. At the time of our visit, the school did not have any teacher for Maths and English. The HM is an extremely motivated person and the mothers of a few kids studying in the school certainly appreciated the efforts he was taking to make the school better. The school would certainly benefit from Asha's involvement.

### **Chidambarampatti**

This is a large primary school with classes 1 to 5 in a village about 15 kms from both Kovilpatti and Kayathar. The school has about 125 children and had four government teachers, including the HM as of November 2017. The school has classes in both Tamil and English mediums, and so four teachers were not adequate to handle all the classes. An ex-HM of Nagalapuram PUMS Ms. Iyyammal referred the HM of this school to us and the latter got in touch with our Project Coordinator Mr. John Baul. Given the shortage in teachers, we visited the school before deciding to take it up.

## Project Proposal for the current year 2018-19

#	Work Description	Cost Details	Total Cost
<b>Ashs teachers' honorariums</b>			
1	Teachers at schools Nagalapuram - 1 Ayyanar Ootru - 2 Koppampatti - 2 Chidambarampatti - 1  <del>Computer teacher - 1</del> Computer teachers - 2	Average salary of Rs.8000 per teacher and festival bonus of Rs.3000. One computer teacher to rotate between the three middle schools. She/he will receive a little higher salary.  <del>7*8000*12 + 7*5000</del> 8*8000*12 + 8*5000	<del>7,07,000</del> 8,08,000
2	Coordinator Salary	Costs would include conveyance and mobile expenses. Once a week he will need to visit the schools, Balwadis and libraries (except the one in E.Velayuthapuram) 5500*12 + 5000	71,000
3	Balwadi teachers Nagalapuram - 1	Average salary of Rs.4400 per month and festival bonus of Rs.3000  4400*12 + 5000	57,800
<b>Sub Total</b>			<del>8,35,800</del> 9,36,800
<b>Educational and other requirements for schools</b>			
4	Laptops and hotspots for teachers	<del>Rs.30000 per set for 2 teachers + One extra hotspot</del> Rs.30000 per set for 3 teachers + One extra hotspot	<del>60,000</del> 90,000
5	Data plan for net access	Rs.500 per two months for 7 connections 7*500*6	21,000
6	<b>Stationery items</b> - ABL Drawing bundles - Long-size note for middle school - A4 sheet bundles - Dictionaries	Average of Rs.150 per child for 600 students in four schools Nagalapuram - 120 students Ayyanar Ottru - 220 students Koppampatti - 110 students Chidambarampatti - 130 students	90,000
7	Sports/games materials such as skipping ropes, chess boards, balls, etc	Rs.7500 per school for four schools	30,000
8	Trays to hold ABL materials (Tamil & English separate; phonetics cards)	140 trays at Rs.50 for four schools	7,000
9	Fans for Ayyanar Ootru	Three fans at Rs.4000 per fan	12,000
10	Bureaus for ABL materials	Bureau at Rs.9000 for two schools at Koppampatti and Chidambarampatti	18,000
11	New/replacement mats for students to sit	80 mats at Rs.240 per mat for 4 schools Nagalapuram - 13 Koppampatti - 12	19,200

		Chidambarampatti - 25 Ayyanar Ootru - 30	
12	Annual day expenses	Rs.10000 per school for four schools	40,000
13	Chalks and dusters for schools	75 chalk piece boxes at Rs.50 for 4 schools Nagalapuram - 15 Koppampatti - 15 Ayyanar Ootru - 25 Chidambarampatti - 20	3,750
14	Blackboard painting	Painting classroom blackboards and children wall scribble areas - including paint and labour; Rs.4000 per school	16,000
15	Water bottles for children	Rs.75 per child for 600 children	45,000
16	Uniform sarees for teachers	Rs.2000 per teacher for eight teachers	16,000
<b>Sub Total</b>			<b>3,77,950</b> <b>4,07,950</b>
<b>Educational &amp; Other requirements (for Nagalapuram Balwadi)</b>			
17	<b>Stationery items</b> Drawing notes + crayons	Rs.50 per child for 30 children Nagalapuram - 30 children	1,500
18	Toys, charts, mats, books for teachers	Rs.5000 per balwadi	5,000
19	Water bottle for balwadi children	Rs.75 per child for 30 children	2,250
<b>Sub Total</b>			<b>8,750</b>
<b>Community Libraries (at Nagalapuram, Suriyaminikkan, E.Velayudhapuram)</b>			
20	Rent for the three libraries	Rs.600 on average per month for three libraries 3*600*12	21,600
21	Honorarium for three librarians (educated, preferably from the same village)	Rs.1250 per librarian + Rs 1250 as festival bonus 3*1250*12 + 3*1250	48,750
22	Books, magazines and newspapers for three libraries	Newspaper subscriptions at Rs.500 per month per library and books for Rs.5000 per library; for three libraries 3*500*12+3*5000	33,000
<b>Sub Total</b>			<b>1,03,350</b>
<b>Miscellaneous expenses</b>			
23	Volunteer/Interns - site visit, field trips	Four trips a year	8,000
24	Admin expenses		10,000
25	Contingency		20,000
26	Materials for teaching English, Maths and Science	Includes materials from Ramanujan Centre	15,000
27	Teacher training expenses	Food during teacher meeting in Kayathar. Expenses for travel to Chennai	25,000
<b>Sub Total</b>			<b>78,000</b>

**Grand Total - Rs. 15,35,850/- (Fifteen Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand Eight Hundred And Fifty Only)**