

Strengthening Education for Rural Students in 25 Government Schools (2025–26) Proposal to Asha for Education

Chengalpattu District, Tamil Nadu

I. Background and Rationale

In the rural areas of Chengalpattu district of Tamil Nadu, children face significant challenges in achieving foundational literacy and numeracy skills. The 2022 ASER report shows that even by Class VI, many children cannot read or do basic arithmetic. School dropout remains high beyond Class 8, especially for girls. A combination of socio-economic disadvantage, poor foundational education, and lack of remedial or enrichment support contribute to these outcomes.

II. Summary of Impact – Year 1 (2024–25)

In 2024–25, Kalanjiyam successfully implemented the Rural School Strengthening Project across 25 government schools (17 primary, 8 middle) in Lathur and Madurantakam blocks of Chengalpattu district, reaching over 1,400 students. The project focused on foundational education, holistic child development, and inclusive practices, supported by a team of 25 trained para-teachers and subject specialists.

Key Achievements

Strengthened Foundational Learning

- 25 para-teachers provided individualized remedial support in Tamil, English, and Math.
- Para-teachers were trained on inclusive education, ADHD, autism, and learning disabilities.
- Regular assessments (using ASER tools) showed significant improvement:
 - Tamil Reading: % of Class 3 students reading full stories rose from 56% → 90.2%
 - English Reading: % of Class 3 students reading stories rose from 23% → 72.1%
 - Arithmetic (Division): % of Class 5 students proficient in division increased to 98.2%

Expanded Co-curricular Activities

- Regular drawing, music, speech, recitation, quiz, and spelling competitions were conducted.
- Structured art and computer classes introduced for Classes 3–8.
- Vacation computer camp trained students on MS Word, PowerPoint, and typing basics.

Health & Well-being Interventions

- Health check-ups revealed malnutrition and minor untreated conditions.
- Personal grooming, hygiene, and nutrition counselling were integrated into classroom
- Monitoring cards tracked 10 child development indicators monthly (attendance, hygiene, communication, parental support, etc.)

Enhanced Community and Parent Engagement

- Regular parent-teacher meetings improved **awareness and involvement** in children's education.

Inclusive and Individualized Support

- Special educators guided para-teachers in identifying and supporting children with special needs.
- Tailored learning plans (IEPs) helped students like Rohith, Jagadeesh, and Sainath overcome specific challenges through multi-sensory methods.

The groundwork laid in Year 1 positions the program for even greater impact in Year 2, with planned enhancements including structured digital literacy, expanded health education, and continued para-teacher training. We request your continued support to sustain and scale this critical initiative.

III. Proposed plan for 2025-26

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Kalanjiyam proposes to continue the proven education model to 25 government schools (including primary and middle schools) to strengthen foundational skills, promote digital and English literacy, and build an enabling environment for improved learning outcomes.

IV. Objectives and Activities

1. Strengthen foundational learning in Tamil, English, and Math for students in Classes 1–8 through remedial and co-curricular support
2. Support inclusive education for children with learning delays and special needs.
3. Enhance digital literacy for Classes 3–8.
4. Provide life skills, hygiene, and value-based education to increase confidence, participation, and motivation.
5. Foster creativity and student engagement through extracurricular and talent development
6. Engage parents and local communities to support children's learning.

Para-Teacher and Remedial Support

Deploy 25 trained para-teachers to provide remedial classes in Tamil, English, and Math and individualized support for students with learning delays.

Computer Literacy

Specialized para-teachers for computers for Classes 3–8 including hands-on training in MS Office, Paint, PowerPoint and basics of internet tools.

Life Skills & Awareness Programs

Sessions on hygiene, health, discipline, gender awareness, communication, and peer relationships for Classes 6–8.

Extracurricular & Talent Development

Drawing, crafts, drama, music, sports and competitions and school-level competitions annually on Tamil/English elocution, essay writing, quizzes etc.,

Supportive School Environment

Provision of educational materials (notebooks, storybooks, learning aids). Coordination with school heads to support improved infrastructure and learning climate.

IV. Expected Outcomes

1. More than 85% of children receiving remedial support will read and write in Tamil and English and perform grade-appropriate math operations.
2. 80% of students exposed to computer and English classes will use MS Word, Excel, and PPT and read and write short stories and sentences in English.
3. Life skills sessions will lead to improved confidence, public speaking, hygiene, and discipline.
4. Overall increase in school attendance, classroom participation, and reduced dropouts.

V. Monitoring and Evaluation

The following processes will be carried out : assessments using ASER-aligned tools for Tamil, English, and Math; tracking 10 child milestones (attendance, hygiene, communication, interest in learning, etc.) and para-teacher reports, teacher feedback, and community feedback.

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Strengthening Rural Schools (25 schools) in Chengalpattu and Kanchipuram Districts: 2025-26							
	Particulars / Budget Line	Unit Cost	Months/schools	Total	Support requested from Asha	% of support required from Asha	Remarks
1	Para teachers' honorarium, including welfare (25 Primary and middle schools)	5800.00	11	1,595,000.00	1,116,500.00	70% of the salary	The average salary of the para teachers increased by 300 INR per month
2	Drawing Master	8000.00	11	88,000.00	88,000.00	100%	No change
3	Computer Teacher	8000.00	11	88,000.00	88,000.00	100%	No change
4	Part-time Child Development Specialist	6000.00	11	66,000.00	66,000.00	100%	No change
5	Full-time counsellor	8000.00	11	88,000.00	88,000.00	100%	Increased to full-time based on the requirement
6	Educational aides, notebooks, color pencils, Story books, flash cards, dictionaries, prizes, exposure visits, summer camp, exhibitions, etc, unit cost per school, etc (6000 per school per year)	6000.00	25	150,000.00	150,000.00	100%	No change
7	Mentoring and Career counselling for 10th-12th students	5000.00	4	20,000.00	20,000.00	100%	No change
8	Staff training	15000.00		15,000.00	15,000.00	100%	No change
9	School events and meetings	5000.00	25	125,000.00	125,000.00	100%	No change
10	Project Manager and documentation specialist	5000.00	12	60,000.00	30,000.00	50%	No change
11	Communication and travel (partial support) Rs. 500/ school	700.00	25	17,500.00	17,500.00	100%	Increased to 100% based on the project requirement
12	Administrative cost (5%)			115,625.00	57,812.50	50%	Increased to 50%
	Total Budget		INR	2,428,125.00	1,861,812.50	76.7%	
			USD	28,566	21,904		