

Project Proposal - Manigal (Kottur and Indranagar) 2025-26

Project Manigal works with Corporation schools in two areas of Chennai - Kottur and Indra Nagar. It had focused on enrolment, retention and on improving the learning levels of gypsy children- the Narikuravars. The Narikuravars were traditionally a nomadic community selling bead jewellery near temples, collecting scrap or undertaking garbage clearing work and eking out a living. Their children were often left out of the school system. The learning support and special attention given to the gypsy children by the project has helped the gypsy families gain trust in the school system and their parents are coming forward to enrol the children in the school and continue their education. Educated gypsy children are gradually moving away from the profession of garbage clearing and trying out other options that are opening up such as delivery boys in Swiggy, cable relaying work, helpers in Gyms and offices etc

During the previous years, the school authorities have decided to integrate all the gypsy children in their respective classes. The project teachers were assigned the task of teaching slow learners of classes 4 and 5 in batches and these included gypsy children. This process helps the gypsy children mingle and integrate with other children, though a few gypsy children have started lagging behind in the process.

CPS Indranagar

The Chennai Corporation primary school at Indra Nagar has a strength of 110 students. The project teacher divides her time, giving learning support to children of class 4, working with gypsy children from classes 1-3 in their respective classes, conducting computer classes for children of classes 4 and 5 using the four desktops donated by Asha. This school has upto class 5.

Once primary schooling is completed, gypsy children have to move to distant high schools, which throws up a number of problems- irregularity, being late, lack of learning support, discrimination and inability to adjust in the new school, absence of tutors near the colony etc. The project teacher visits the colony regularly, and follows up the children studying in other high schools and hostels and meets the teachers of those schools off and on. Overall, 20 gypsy children are continuing education from this colony. This year one student, Thilothamma, who was studying under RTE, has completed 11th in Saraswathy

CPS, Kottur

Chennai primary school at Kottur has a strength of around 330 students. There are about 15 gypsy students studying in the school. One project teacher is teaching about 15 - 20 slow learners including the gypsies in small batches. Some gypsy children get enrolled in a neighbouring aided school initially but drop out later. The project teacher is unable to admit these dropouts to the Corporation School. We have discussed with HM many times. HM

says she is unable to enrol them in the school unless they bring TC. The project teachers visit the colony regularly to educate the parents and help them enrol the gypsy children in LKG.

CHS, Kottur

The Kottur high school has a strength of around 350 students, and the project has one teacher in the high school who undertakes remedial classes for gypsy children and other weak students referred by the school. She teaches 20 students, including 10 gypsy students, from 6th std to 10th std. The teacher also follows up the children in the colony for regular attendance. This year a gypsy student, Chinnathai has completed 11th and is studying in 12th std in Rani Meiyammai school. Since her house does not have a conducive environment, she visits the project teacher's house regularly to study and to clarify doubts.. This year, one gypsy student, Ramya has passed 10th board exam taught by our teacher. She wants to pursue vocational training such as -tailoring.

The present proposal is for the continuation of the activities of the project in both Kottur and Indranagar corporation schools for the year 2025-26.

Sl. No	Budget Item	Budget 2025-26	Comment	Actual Expens 2024-25	Budget 24-25
		Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
1	a. Honorarium for 3 teachers @19500Rs including conveyance, diwali bonus b. Teachers uniform C.Data plan	702000		608295	612000
2	Laptop for teachers	0		80000	80000
3	a.TLM -Charts, story books, Flip books, puzzles, science kit, Plastic containers, trays b.Guides for High school students	13500	For 3schools	1967	13500

4	a.Stationery (Procured in bulk once or twice) Long note books, geometry box, pencils, pens A 4 sheets, Erasers and files b.Print outs of study materials	10000	Rs200/student for 50 gypsy students (For 3 schools) .	2080	9000
5	a.Sports material – (Skipping ropes, badminton rackets, ball, tennikoit rings, board games, foot ball) b.Mats for Kinder Garden c.Black board painting	9000		0	11000
6	Student welfare (for 50students) Lunch boxes/Steel water bottles/pencil box	15000	Rs.300 per student(total 50)	9259	12000
7	School fees and Coaching/tuition classes fees (High school/RTE)	70000	Fees for High school 3 students and vocational courses and Tuition fees for 4 students (Indranagar)4*1000Rs.*10months.	30350	70000
8	Uniforms, Bags, Shoes/Slippers(High school /Vocational)	62000	(uniform for 9 studens, indranagar(Rs 3000*9) Shoes/slippers 5000Rs, School bag Indranagar 10000Rs, Kottur Uniform 10000Rs. Bags Rs10000)	31815	55000
9	Education Conveyance: a. Monthly conveyance expenses for students and Project staff/Volunteer	44500	Auto fare for Aided, Private school (Rs 7*500Rs*11 months) +Rs6000 teachers	34680	44500
10	Craft materials - colour papers, glue, charts, crayons, sketch pens, paints, scissors and other accessories and Craft teacher Honorarium	20000		0	28000
11	School Day functions -Gifts, prizes, dresses	10000	2 schools	8828	8000

12	Computer repair & accessories	3000		0	13000
13	students Excursion and teachers excursion	25000	Rs 20x650rs, Rs6000* 2 teachers	0	20000
14	Health care/hygiene kit/ snacks	25000	Emergency medical treatment, Hygiene kit, snacks	24827	15000
15	Administration & Contingency expenses	15000		1060	15000
	Total	1024000		833161	1006000