

Project Proposal - Manigal (Kottur and Indranagar) 2026-27

31 may 26

Project Manigal works with Corporation schools in two places in Chennai - Kottur and Indra Nagar from 2004 onwards. 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 no longer involved in the garbage picking and are employed in auto workshops, 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. Our teachers are closely working with the school teachers and Headmistress in order to serve the narikurava community children. Whenever some gypsy students are not coming to school regularly, our teachers visit their colony to bring them to school.

CPS Indranagar

The Chennai Corporation primary school at Indra Nagar has a strength of 124 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 (teaching Asha Kanini usage) 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 +2 class , Commerce group in Saraswathy Venkataraman school. She has applied for B.Com course in colleges.

CPS, Kottur

Chennai primary school at Kottur has a strength of around 330 students. There are about 23 gypsy students studying in the Primary school. One project teacher is teaching about 15 slow learners including the gypsies in small batches. During 2025-26, 20 gypsy students including LKG, UKG have been admitted with help of our teacher and school teachers. The project teacher visits the colony regularly to educate the parents and help them enrol the gypsy children in LKG and bring children who are absent now and then.

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 11 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 12th std (Commerce group) 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.

The present proposal is for the continuation of the activities of the project in both Kottur and Indranagar corporation schools for the year 2026-27.

SI.No	Budget Item	Budget 2026-27	Comment	Actual Expenses 2025-26	Budget 25-26
		Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
1	a.Honorarium for 3 teachers @22200Rs including conveyance, diwali bonus b.Teachers uniform C.Data plan	799000		700242	702000
2	Laptop for teachers	0		0	0
3	a.TLM -Charts, story books, Flip books, puzzles, science kit, Plastic containers, trays b.Guides for High school students	13500	For 3schools	2112	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	12000	Rs200/student for 60 gypsy students (For 3 schools) .	4323	10000

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	Rs3000 per school	0	9000
6	Student welfare (for 60students) Lunch boxes/Steel water bottles/pencil box	18000	Rs.300 per student(total 60)	13353	15000
7	School fees and Coaching/tuition classes fees (High school/RTE)	40000	Fees for college/special course /vocational course fpr + 2 passed 2 students	20000	70000
8	Uniforms, Bags, Shoes/Slippers(High school /Vocational)	46000	(uniform and stiching for 5 studens, indranagar(Rs 3200*5) Shoes/slippers 6000Rs, School bag Indranagar 6000Rs, Kottur school bags rs18000)	29372	62000
9	Education Coveyance: a. Monthly conveyance expenses for students and Project staff/Volunteer	38500	Auto fare for Aided, Private school (Rs 7*500Rs*11 months)	15111	44500
10	Craft materials - a.colour papers, glue, charts, crayons, sketch pens, paints, scissors and other accessories b. Craft teacher Honararium	20000		1000	20000
11	School Day functions -Gifts, prizes, dresses	15000	3 schools	12158	10000
12	Computer repair for Asha laptops	3000		0	3000
13	students Excursion and teachers excursion	26000	20studentsx700rs, Rs6000x 2 teachers	0	25000
14	Healthcare, Administration & Contingency expenses	25000		8000	40000
	Total	1065000		805671	1024000