

Project Proposal - Manigal (Kottur and Indranagar) 2021- 22

Introduction: Project Manigal works with the children of Narikuravar community in two areas, Kottur and Indra Nagar in Chennai. The children of this community get enrolled in government schools in these two areas. The Project gives special attention to them inside the school. It supports in improving the enrolment, retention and learning levels inside the school. Besides, the Project supports the schools in improving the quality of learning by way of English classes, audio visual classes, craft activities and providing teaching and learning material, worksheets and library books.

Background: The Narikuravar community is one of the most marginalized communities. They make a living by selling beads in roadside shops and near temples during festivals. With dwindling earnings from these, most have shifted to garbage clearing and rag picking which gives them a more sustained income.

Because of the nature of their profession, one can see tonnes of garbage, stored in huge bags all around their houses. These items are meticulously sorted, categorized and sold in recycle shops to make a living. The children too assist their families in this work from a young age. However, as they grow, they too get sucked into this profession. With no other skills and avenues, most of the youth of the colony, male and female, invariably end up in garbage clearing work or rag picking work, perpetuating the vicious cycle.

Purpose: Over the years Project Manigal had been trying to break this vicious cycle by bringing the children into the mainstream education system. The objective was to use education as a tool to empower the gypsy children and thereby the community as a whole. To achieve this end, firstly, the Project created trust in the community that their children will be cared for in the school. It slowly made school going a practice among children. Over time the personal attention given to the children inside the schools made them bring in other drop outs. As some children stayed and continued in higher classes they became the role models for others.

The initiative of the Project to bring back dropouts and improve learning levels was welcomed by the teachers and the schools. Inside the school, the two Project teachers posted in primary, work with children of diverse age groups and varied levels ranging from class 1 - 5. Often, there is a mismatch between the learning levels and the classes in which the gypsy children study. Hence, the teachers focus on basic literacy and math skills and build learning using a variety of activity-based approaches. Their class textbooks are introduced gradually over a period of time as they settle down and become regular.

Once the children are able to attain necessary learning levels, they are integrated in their classes. The Project again follows them up in higher classes as they have a tendency to drop out. Their nomadic life style makes it harder for them to be regular in school. There are integration problems and gypsy children are more comfortable with peers from their own community. As they move to higher classes their low learning levels and common

learning systems make them lose interest in studies. The Project teachers follow them in higher classes acting as facilitators and mentors. With special attention and additional learning support and close cooperation of the school teachers, several children have begun to stay and continue their education instead of joining work.

Empowering the gypsy children in the primary and building their confidence and self-esteem is crucial for their continuation in school. If adequate attention is given in the early years, there are less integration problems in school. Moreover, better performing children find greater acceptance. The wide range of materials and methods used by the Project too creates an interest in the children. But more important is the human input, personal touch and rapport that the teachers have with the children. In this context the Project teacher's role becomes crucial as they become change agents and the link between the school and the community.

Changes are trickling in the community over the years though it had been a gradual and slow process with several setbacks. The pandemic has put a roadblock in the steady progress and we are hoping that most of the children will get back to school once it reopens. Throughout the year the Project teachers followed up the education of the children, through personal classes inside the colony and through online classes.

Details of schools - At Kottur there are two schools (Primary and High) in the same premises. The primary has a strength of over 350 children and high school has a strength of 356 children. Two Project teachers work in the primary and one in the high school. In Kottur school, around 40 children from gypsy community are studying in Primary and High School. A few slow learners, migrant children are also taught by Manigal teachers along with Gypsy children.

At Indra Nagar, the primary school has a strength of 107 children. 15 gypsy children are enrolled here. Besides helping in the primary school, the two teachers follow up 15 gypsy children who complete primary and are studying in higher classes in different schools. They also follow up children admitted under Right To Education (RTE).

The present proposal is a continuation of the efforts of the Project in these areas

1. Give special attention to the gypsy children, other drop outs and slow learners of the school and help them catch up with learning. Eventually the goal is to gradually integrate these children in their classrooms and help them move on with others.

2. Working with school to improve learning levels of children in other classrooms, by sharing audio visual classes, extend support in teaching English to the school, sharing of TLM, worksheets and story books.

3. Follow up children who complete primary and ensure their continuation in high schools, hostels and help more and more children gypsy children complete schooling. Extend support in vocational and higher education where necessary.

4. Maintain relationship with gypsy community and motivate the parents.

PROJECT MANIGAL BUDGET FOR 2021-22

SI.No	Budget Item	Budget 21-22	Comment
		Rs.	
1	Honorarium		
	Manigal Indranagar		
	a. Teacher 1 (No Conveyance)		
	Rs 12700 x12+5000	157400	
	b. Teacher 2 (No conveyance)		
	Rs 8800x12+5000=Rs. 1,13,000	110600	
	c. Colony tuition Rs.1000 x10 = Rs.10,000	10000	
	Manigal, Kottur		
	1. Primary Teachers 2		
	a. Senior teacher -(17800Rs+700Rs conveyance) x12 + 5000	227000	
	b. teacher – (10700Rs+1000Rs. Conveyance) X12+5000	145400	
	2. High school Teacher – 10800Rs x12 +5000 (No conveyance)	134600	
	3. Colony tuition 2000Rsx12	24000	
	Teachers' Honorarium Total Rs.	809000	
2	Stationery (Procured in bulk once or twice) Long note books, geometry box, pencils, pens A 4 sheets, A4 Plastic sheets, Marker pens, chalks, slates, Erasers and files	12000	120 students* Rs100/student(For 70 gypsy students (both schools) and other 50 children in remedial classes, English classes.
3	Print outs, lamination, Xerox of Worksheets, study materials	11000	
4	Craft materials – colour papers, glue, charts, crayons, sketch pens, paints, scissors and other accessories	0	Will use available material this year.
5	TLM -Charts, story books, Flip books, puzzles, science kit, Plastic containers, trays	15000	3schools*5000Rs
6	Guides for middle, high school	6000	
7	Sports material – Skipping ropes, badminton rackets, ball, tennikoit rings, board games, foot ball	6000	
8	Replacement mats	6000	
9	Toys/ blocks/play material/baskets/water bottle	3000	
10	Student welfare (for 70 children) Lunch boxes/Steel water bottles/pencil box	17500	Rs.250 per student (total 70)

11	School Day and other functions -Gifts, prizes, dresses	10000	
12	Fees (for /high school, vocational courses)	40000	(10000rs for 6 students, 2* 15000Rs for vocational/ college fees)
13	Uniforrms, Bags, Shoes/Slippers(High school /RTE/ Vocational)	70000	(uniform 3sets f o r 10 students, Indiranagar (Rs 3000*10) Shoes/slippers 10000Rs, School bag Indiranagar 10000Rs, Kottur High School-school Bags 10000Rs., Uniform 10000Rs.)
14	Coaching/tuition classes fees (High school/RTE)	30000	Indiranagar, Tuition fees for 3 students 3*1000Rs. *10months. If we are not finding tuition teachers for 10th, higher classes, our project volunteers teach the students.
15	Hostel children's expenses (4 children)	10000	
16	Education conveyance		
	a. Monthly conveyance expenses for students	26400	Auto fare for Aided, Private school (Rs 6*400Rs*11 months)
	b. For project staff/volunteers	20000	Visit to school, hostel, Vocational colleges, For admission, TLM purchases)
17	Health care/hygiene kit/ snacks	25000	Emergency essential medical treatment, Hygiene kit,
18	Data plan for project	15000	Rs 3000* 5 teachers
19	Computer accessories to school/ hot spot/ mobiles, mobile repair for students	25000	4 Computer tables for Indiranagar school for Asha donated computers
20	Laptop for Asha Teachers	30000	1 laptop for Indiranagar
21	Craft teacher to school	32000	Rs.2000 *8months * 2 schools
22	Contingency certificate procurement- income, caste, photos, application forms, fitness certificate, e t c	20000	
23	students outing	10000	Rs 5000 * 2 school
24	Administration	20000	Electrical Repair etc.
	Total	1268900.00	