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Project Sangamam Kanini
Employing Computers and Internet to Enhance Education in Govt Schools
Asha Chennai Proposal – Year 2018-19
June 1ˢᵗ 2018

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Background

The Asha Chennai chapter of Asha for Education has been working with government schools to try and improve the quality of education since 2003. Our primary strategy has been to appoint teachers in schools that have insufficient number of teachers, provide training to our teachers and to government teachers, provide materials to aid the teaching at the school, and improve the infrastructure at the school to make it effective.

Using technology to improve the education has always been part of our goal. In the years 2005 to 2008 we developed ECTAL (Educational Contents for Technology Aided Learning), a comprehensive set of presentations to teach more difficult concepts in all subjects from 3rd to 8th standard. In 2008 we donated 100 computers from Inautix to the schools we support. We have been maintaining computer labs in these schools and have been using these to teach the children about how to use computers.

In 2015 we started more actively engaging with the classroom process. With support from Oracle Foundation we took up the Phase I of the project in 2015-16. We provided laptops to 24 teachers from 15 schools. We have been maintaining the computer labs in these schools and have also provided content materials and guided the teachers on how they can use them in the classes.

In 2016-17 we started the Phase II of the project. In addition to providing laptop, network connections and contents to the teachers we have appointed to schools, we also started sending computer teachers once or twice a week to the schools where we do not have a regular teacher. We have reached 30 additional schools in the Poondi block through these teachers. These teachers teach computer science and also teach Maths and English to the children using the innovative contents on the computers. The support to the Phase I schools also continued.

In 2017-18 we continued Phase II in the Poondi block in the 30 schools. The Phase I effort also continued. Qualitative changes were introduced while we were retaining the support at the same level.

Proposal

The project does the following.

1. Provide laptop with the necessary accessories to our teachers. Provide internet access to our teachers.
2. Maintain these laptops as well as computers at the school.
3. Conduct training for the teachers over the internet.
4. Provide contents on all these computers to enable use in the classrooms to teach English, Maths, Science at primary and middle school levels. Provide software Asha Kanini to access these mapped contents easily. While most of the contents are third party free contents we have also developed some of these by ourselves.
5. Teach computer science for children in primary and middle school levels. Develop a curriculum for the same.
6. Conduct oral and written assessments for all primary school children in English and Maths. Analyse the results of these assessment for useful inputs to ourselves, the schools and the government.0

We intend to continue doing all of the above. The expenses can be broken into the following.

1. Salaries for computer teachers who go to multiple schools to teach computer science as well as curriculum subjects to children at these schools.
2. Costs of maintaining computers, purchase of computer accessories, data plan for teachers etc.
3. Cost of conducting assessments.
4. Cost of procuring contents and software/hardware for teaching or maintaining computers.
5. Salary and other costs for system administration and maintaining all the computers.
6. Salaries of 2 content developers – one for English and one for Maths. Computer and office expenses for the content developers.
7. Salary for 1 software developer. Computer and office expenses for the software developers.

Cost of items 1 and 2 are being covered by the specific projects. In particular projects Sangamam, Pearl, Thulasi and Poorna Vidhya have included in them the salaries and other costs associated with computer teachers. Cost of data plan and computer maintenance for teachers from Olcott Memorial school is not covered in other projects. Cost of the common items 3 to 6 is being covered under Project Sangamam as well. Only item 7 and the uncovered part of item 2 are being proposed here in this project.

Software and Content Development Work

As a volunteer based organization, our main effort will be to get as much of the work done using voluntary effort of people from Chennai and the rest of the world. In particular we hope to get most of the software development and content development work done for free using volunteers. In 2015-16 to 2017-18 all the software work and some of the content work was done by volunteers. We hope to continue using volunteer work for some of these efforts. However without a core team to coordinate the software and content development work, driving it completely through volunteer effort proved to be difficult. We hope to have such a core group to pull all the work together and coordinate things with the teachers.

Budget for 2018-19

SNo	Work Description	Cost and Modification Details	Total Cost for Asha
1	Data plan for 8 teachers from Olcott Memorial School. Rs 400 per month.	12 * 8 * 400	Rs 38,400.
2	Maintenance of 8 computers at Rs 1500 per computer.	1500*8	Rs 12,000.
3	One software engineer incl office cost.	Rs 40,000 * 12	Rs 480,000.
4	Computers and accessories for the software developer.		Rs 40,000
Total		**Rs 5,70,400 /-**	