Project Deepam

Proposal for setting up computer lab for school children from classes 6 – 10 in Besant Theosophical Higher Secondary School

05/01/2015

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION - Asha

In the year 1991, at the University of California, Berkeley, a group of young and energetic people yearned to aid India in her journey of self–empowerment. They were of the firm belief that socio and economic transformation in India can be guided only by the light of education and they set about lending their hands towards this goal. Thus"ASHA" was born.

"ASHA" means hope – the hope that lights the lives of several children around the globe. We are a worldwide action group formed to catalyze socio-economic change in India through education of underprivileged children.

We are a secular, non-profit and voluntary organization committed towards provision of quality education to deprived children.

The aim of Project Deepam is to establish a well-equipped computer lab for children from classes 6 – 10 in Besant Theosophical Higher Secondary School.

We have had preliminary meeting with the Headmistress Mrs. Charumathy, the Correspondent Mr. Ponnusamy Mudaliar and the Director of Kalakshetra Ms. Priyadharshini Govind to explain the purpose and understand the need.

While the corporation schools have been supplied with laptops and computers the aided schools do not have access to technology aided learning. Many children from the BTHSS are from underprivileged background and do not have access to computers either at home or in school. This day and age computer education and using computers as teaching aid has become order of the day. Computers have become indispensable and children become adept in technology if given early exposure.

With that in mind Asha Chennai volunteers would like to extend our services by setting up a computer lab for children in the school. BTHSS has about 380 children in classes 6 – 10 in both English and tamil mediums. While children from 11-12 standards who opt for computer science have access to computers, rest of the children show keen interest in learning. Our meeting with the HM and teachers prove that they are very keen to support this initiative**. With due permission we intend starting the lab by July 2015 in order for the children to derive benefit for the academic year 2015-16.**

The objective is to set up a lab and hire teacher, lab assistant and run the centre as Asha Chennai project. The Audiovisual room that has been identified for this project has proper ventilation, lighting that is needed. Our goal is to set up and run the lab for two – three years after which the teachers and BTHSS would be fully trained to run the lab. Please find attached below pictures of the existing audio visual room in the school premises which can be used for computer lab.

Photos courtesy Jaya Suresh

Computers in a classroom can be effectively used for a variety of purposes.

We intend to use them for the following purposes in English, maths and subjects,

1.   Delivering lesson plans to the teachers to instruct them how to teach a specific lesson. In particular

2.   Guide for pronunciation, meaning, grammar etc. for English lessons.

3.   Augmenting that with contents like Videos to aid them in understanding how to teach the lesson or in conducting activities related to that lesson.

4.   Contents that can be viewed by the whole class to learn a lesson (like ECTAL) or a related topic better.

5.   Provide materials for the teachers that would be useful while teaching the class incl.,

   •   Worksheets.
   •   Materials to be used during activities incl. offline games.
   •   Assessments.

6.   Allow teacher to enter marks from assessments so that good analytics can be done on the same.

Asha Chennai would nominate a dedicated volunteer as the co-ordinator for this project, who will be accountable for setting up the lab with the help and support from other volunteers and in consultation with the BTHSS management and teachers. We will set up the lab with 10 computers, projector, printer, educational

materials etc. All the hardware and software for the initial setup would be provided by us but we look forward to support in electricity supply, desks, benches, storage cabinets, plug sockets etc. There is enough room for setting up a library as well so the children can read in the event of power failure etc. We need to ensure that there is proper security around the premises to prevent theft.

We request the school management to introduce computer aided learning as part of their curriculum with the class teacher present in the lab to assist and understand and guide the children. This is not part of extracurricular activity but as a tool for learning.

We look forward to your approval at the earliest in order for us to get the due process in place.

Proposal presented by: Vijaya Sundaram with inputs from Saraswati and Sridharan Rangarajan

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"Project Deepam" – Computer Lab for BTHSS – Budget Proposal

All amounts are in INR.

Year	Owner	Items	Unit Cost	One time Capital Exp. (A)	Annual/ recurring exp. (B)	Remarks
2015	ASHA	10 Computers	30,000	3,00,000	30,000	Maintenance
2015	ASHA	1 Projectors/screen	20,000	20,000	2,000	Maintenance
2015	ASHA	Education software applications from 6th std to 10th std	40,000	40,000	10,000	To procure upgrades to software
2015	ASHA	Printer/scanner/paper supplies	50,000	50,000	5,000	
2015		2 Data card for 9th and 10th students to use internet	1,000	1,000	12,000	
		Ear phones / pen drives	20,000	20,000	4,000	Includes replacements
2015	ASHA	100 Computer books for theory/teaching aids for primary school children as well	20,000	20,000		
2015	ASHA	Sundry items like vacuum cleaner, computer covers, etc		15,000		
		Computer Trained Teacher salary	15,000		180,000	
		Computer Assistant	5,000		60000	
2015	ASHA	Admin/Misc	20,000	20,000		
		Bonus			2000	During festival

		4,86,00 0	305,000	Total A & B = 7,91,000
	Total			

BTHSS Responsibility

- 10 Computer desks/benches to seat 3 students each
- 10- Three way supply plug and connections/UPS for backup power.
- Window nets, water prevention shades for windows, additional fans, etc
- Stationery supply i.e. Boards, color pens, etc for teaching
- Library book additions
- Ongoing electrical cost
- Pest prevention treatment – periodic, if needed
- Drinking water & other normal items