

Project Sugadharam Extension
Construction and Repair of Toilets in Government Schools
April 15th 2017

Background:

In late 2016 and early 2017 Asha Chennai launched Project Sugadharam with assistance from Hyundai Glovis to construct and repair toilets at all schools supported by it in the Thiruvallur District. Asha Chennai is also working with schools in Villupuram / Thiruvannamalai districts (Project Thulasi) and in Thoothukudi District (Project Pearl). The schools supported through these projects need similar work at their toilets as well.

Asha focus in these projects has been education. While we have couple of times in the past built toilets for schools that lack them, this has not been our focus area. Hygiene and health are extremely important for children. Good education cannot happen without good health.

The toilet facilities in many of the schools are inadequate. The children end up openly defecating during the break time. But with rising urbanization, in many of the schools there aren't even fields near the school. Further lack of toilet facility at middle and high schools is a major cause of girls to drop out as they attain puberty. Thus middle schools particularly require proper toilet facilities.

For the toilet work at schools we need the school to have the space for a new toilet or an old toilet in good enough condition to at least be repairable. Further we need support from the Panchayat, the Block officers and broadly the people from the village to be able to take up those activities. The schools/villages mentioned below offer us this supporting environment.

Schools/Villages to be covered:

Asha prefers to work with villages on a long term basis. Just providing a toilet or school building to a school rarely achieves the purpose the effort sets out to achieve. Therefore we are only proposing villages/schools that we are already working with and will continue working with in the foreseeable future.

Koppampatti (from 2016)

The school is a middle school. There are about 100 children. Asha has been providing two teachers at this school from about June 2016 as part of Project Pearl. The HM Mr. Ganesan is a very motivated teacher and administrator. He was actually an AEO at another district. But he preferred to be a teacher and head master. So he relinquished his position as AEO and returned to be a head master! After taking over he has brought up the strength of the school from 48 to about 100 in just 2 years at a time when most government schools are losing students.

They currently have just one toilet which the teachers and the older girls alone use. This is totally insufficient. Ideally they should keep the current toilet for just the teachers. We would need one toilet building (with 3 commode rooms and a urinal area) for girls and another similar one for the boys.

The HM Mr. Ganesan is willing to get the required permissions and make sure that there are no hindrances for our work. The school also has sufficient space for two such buildings.

Nagalapuram (from 2010)

This is the oldest school that we are supporting as part of Project Pearl. In addition to the school Asha has also been supporting the Balwadi and an evening library where the children come and assemble. Thus we have a long history with the school and the village. The school is a middle school with about 150 children.

The school has toilet buildings for both girls and boys. But unfortunately they are in very bad shape and badly need repair. Currently they are not using it at all! Another problem is water. The government water tank is some 150 mtrs away. They need to lay pipes to bring this water into the school.

Once again the HM Mr. Thirumalai is a very motivated person. He is willing to get the required permissions and make sure that there are no hinderances for our work.

Kaatu Sithamboor

This school was recently brought in for support for Asha as part of Project Thulasi. This is a middle school with about 210 children. It is supported through Project Thulasi. Two of our teachers at Project Thulasi came from this school. Further the teacher who taught them is one of the teachers who has been most actively requesting Asha's support.

They currently have just one toilet each for boys and girls that is also shared by the teachers. This is totally insufficient. Like in Koppampatti ideally they should keep the current toilet for just the teachers. We would need one toilet building (with 3 commode rooms and a urinal area) for girls and another similar one for the boys

The HM Mrs. Malathy is also willing to get the required permissions and make sure that there are no hinderances for our work. The school also has sufficient space for two such buildings.

One problem in this area is that there is very bad water shortage. So getting water even for the construction work will be very difficult. So they would prefer to start the project after there are some rains and the water situation improves. which would probably be late 2017. The other two places would be happy to take up the work in May 2017 if we can fund them by that time.

Project Details and Cost Estimates

The amounts stated here are approximate. The cost of construction materials (like sand, cement, bricks etc.) varies a lot with time and further weather events can cause damages that affect the cost. Since Asha has already constructed toilet complexes at Placepalayam and Allikuzhi (in 2013), the cost for the new toilets have been estimated for constructing toilet to the same specifications as that at Placepalayam.

The cost of the repairs may change even more if we start the work and find that there are other problems, which we did not find earlier.

SNo	Work Description	Cost and Modification Details	Approx. Cost
New Toilets			
1	New Toilet(s) at Koppampatti	12' x 10' with 3 close door toilets, urinals, watertank and an external septic tank. Ideally two required.	Rs 2.5 Lakhs per toilet complex
2	New Toilet(s) at Thandalam	12' x 10' with 3 close door toilets, urinals, watertank and an external septic tank. Ideally two required.	Rs 2.5 Lakhs per toilet complex
Toilet Repair Work			
3	Nagalapuram – 2 Toilets	Misc repairs (need details) plus plumbing line from the government water tank (150 mtrs)	Rs 75,000

Fund Requirement Summary

Here we are not mentioning the total amount required. This project is being taken up in close cooperation with the donor. We will take up the activities listed above upon clearing of each individual work item with the donor. The scope may also increase as we find more schools in need of good sanitation arrangements. We hope to start initially with one toilet complex at Koppampatti and the repairs at Nagalapuram. These two together would cost Rs 3.25 Lakhs.