

Computer Education at Rajatalab

This project is envisioned as a way to transport some of the things Asha Chennai has been doing at the schools it supports to the primary schools near the area where Asha Rajatalab works.

Asha Rajatalab has been working in the ground on various activities related to education for 2 decades. We run an Asha Samajik Vidhyalaya in the village of Mehdiganj. We have also been conducting One nation One Education campaign to get people to join government schools.

Today education system in UP is passing through its worst phase. Government's attitude towards government school education is not good, due to which the enrollment of children in primary school is continuously decreasing. This situation is even more alarming in Uttar Pradesh. The number of children in the schools near Rajatalab is fine but due to lack of teachers the school is not doing well. In some government schools, computers have been provided. But to run it there is no arrangement for teachers. The computer is only for school promotion.

Asha Chennai has been working with government schools in Tamilnadu for over 15 years. Over the last 5 years Asha Chennai has also been engaging computer teachers to teach computer science as well as use the computers to teach regular curriculum subjects in more innovative ways. It has been improved over the years and Asha Chennai is now effectively reaching the children at over 80 schools with its computer teachers. Computer teachers are engaged in Sangamam, Pearl, Poorna Vidhya and Thulasi projects. The drive towards the computer teaching started with the Asha Kanini project which now focuses on further enhancing the software for content delivery to be distributed to all government schools as well as continue enhancing the data analytics being done on the assessment results so that this can be a model for the government's own assessment efforts.

Computer Education

Basic computer education is becoming essential for everyone these days. Hence Asha Rajatalab started computer training program for the purpose of providing computer education to children of primary schools in Rajatalab.

In terms of teaching computer science we hope to cover the curriculum that is being followed by Asha Chennai. This includes,

1st to 3rd Std

Familiarity with screen, keyboard and mouse using games. Many of the games developed by GCompris fits this need. The games also end up being practice for Maths and English.

Paint on the computer using TuxPaint.

Learn about parts of computer. Switch on and off the computer. Basic idea of persistence and saving files.

| | |
|---|---|
| 4 th and 5 th Std | Learn how to use the Windowing system. Basic ideas of multi-tasking. Task bar, Action tray etc. |
| | Basics of hard disk, files, folders, partitions etc. File operations – copy, move, delete etc. |
| | Office software (either MS office or OpenOffice) – Text document, spreadsheet and presentation. |

For the present we will teach the same syllabus for 6th to 8th students as well as this is the first year of the program. In subsequent years we will also move to programming using Blockly, and Scratch and also teach them the basics of Internet.

Technology Aided Education

While teaching computers itself is important, we will also use the computers to teach Maths, English, Science and other subjects better. In this regard we hope to achieve the following things in the first full year of our operation.

1. Use some of the contents collated by SSA for CAL (Computer Aided Learning) centres like Azim Premji Foundation CDs, Hello English, Fun with English, Toon Masti etc.
2. Collect contents available on the net mainly in Hindi like Khan Academy videos, PhET, NLVM, Starfall etc.
3. Use these contents in classes to teach the students as appropriate.
4. Start mapping these to the UP state board curriculum.

The idea would be to work towards using a UP/Hindi version of the Asha Kanini app not just for our schools but even for other schools following UP state board.

Our work area

As of now we are working in one primary school and we want to work with 4 other primary schools in and around rajatalab. The schools are described below:

1. **Mehandiganj Primary Vidyalaya:** There are 412 students in the school and 14 teachers. There are 96 student in class 4 and 98 student in class 5. There are no computers in the school. The student don't know about the computers.
2. **Payagpur Upper Primary School:** This is a upper primary school. Payagpur is about 12 kilometer for from Rajatalab. There are 370 students in the school. There are two computer system in the school but they are not working. There is a computer teacher in the school but he is busy with other work.
3. **Harsos primary school:** This school has both primary and upper primary sections. There are 620 student in the school. There is a computer system in the primary school but that is not working. There are no teachers for teaching computers. We started computer training first at this school

from the month December. The students are very happy. They learnt to start and shutdown the computer. The school teachers are also happy with the work we are doing.

4. **Nagepur primary school:** This is primary school. There are 90 students in class 4 and 5. There are no computers in the school.
5. **Benipur upper primary school.** There are 212 students in the school. There is no computer system in school. The teachers and student want start computer centre there.

Training and Monitoring

Asha Chennai will work with Asha Rajatalab to train and monitor the coordinator and teachers involved with the project. Rajatalab teachers and coordinator will travel to Chennai twice a year for seeing how these are being implemented in Chennai as well as get trained on how to use the software and contents. Volunteers and/or senior teachers from Chennai will travel to Rajatalab twice during the year to monitor the effective functioning of the project and do some more training on the site. Language will be an issue as the teachers and volunteers in Chennai largely do not know any Hindi. Asha Chennai will try to identify teachers and volunteers with Hindi knowledge to help with this project.

Budget for computer training program 2019-20

| SNo | Budget Item | Cost details | Amount |
|-----|---|---------------|----------|
| 1 | Program Coordinator / Lead teacher salary | 10000 x 12 | 120,000 |
| 2 | Teachers salary (5 computer teachers) | 6000 x 12 x 5 | 360,000 |
| 3 | Laptops and accessories for teachers, staff and extra laptops for schools that do not have computers. | 30000 x 8 | 240,000 |
| 4 | Data plan for all teachers | 2000 x 5 | 10,000 |
| 5 | Conveyance / petrol for travelling for teachers and coordinator. | 5000 x 12 | 60,000 |
| 6 | Rajatalab staff visit to Chennai (twice in the year) | 25000 x 2 | 50,000 |
| 7 | Asha Chennai volunteer / staff visit to Rajatalab – May include air travel for one volunteer for each trip. | 20000 x 2 | 40,000 |
| 8 | Teacher meetings – food, conveyance, TLM materials etc. | 2000 x 12 | 24,000 |
| 9 | Purchase of teaching materials, photocopy of documents etc. for teaching. | 2000 x 12 | 24,000 |
| 10 | Administration, Miscellaneous, documentation etc. | | 20,000 |
| | TOTAL | | 9,48,000 |

Total Funds Required: Rs 9.48 Lakhs.