

Concept Note: Parental App for Nurturing Early Learning

Background and Need:

In 2024-25, the collaboration with Asha for Education expanded to support the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) program, recognizing that Anganwadis play a critical role in early childhood development but face persistent challenges such as undertrained Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and inadequate learning resources. With Asha's support, Sikshana introduced the Sikshana Early Education Program (SEEP), equipping AWWs with guided audio packs through the Shishuvikasana App to conduct structured early learning activities aligned with the Chilipilli curriculum prescribed by the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Karnataka. A pilot across 14 centres in Kanakapura showed strong potential, leading to scaling-up to 350 Anganwadi centres in 2025-26 with the support of Asha for Education.

Building on this, Sikshana now seeks to engage parents actively in their child's early education. This direction is influenced by the Grama Digi Vikasana (GDV) program, another key intervention that was enabled by Asha for Education. Through GDV, 5,159 Grama Panchayat libraries were transformed into Digital Inclusion Centres, these centres have imparted basic digital literacy to community members, including parents, thereby narrowing the digital divide that widened during the pandemic.

There is now a critical need, with the expansion of SEEP, to ensure continuity of learning beyond Anganwadi centres and into the home environment. The proposed **Parent-Level App will leverage this digital readiness to extend early learning resources directly to parents, to reinforce the learning for the children at home using the parental app.**

Why a Parent-Level App Now:

- Increased smartphone penetration in rural households makes it feasible for parents to access structured early learning resources.
- Children spend significant time at home; reinforcing learning outside Anganwadis is essential for school readiness.
- Providing parents with access to the same audio teaching packs used by AWWs ensures consistency between centre-based and home-based learning.
- Provides the government with a complete set of tools to scale to additional Anganwadis across the state.

Proposed Intervention:

Sikshana Foundation proposes to develop a Parent-Level App linked to Shishuvikasana. The app will:

- Deliver audio-based teaching packs directly to parents.
- Require minimal data for audio pack downloads.
- Provide learning activity instructions in Kannada for easy adoption.
- Provide nudges/reminders for daily engagement.
- Bridge the gap between home and centre, ensuring children receive holistic support.
- AWW's will educate the parents to install and use the app.

Expected Impact:

- Enhanced learning continuity: Children will practice activities both at Anganwadi centres and at home.
- Stronger parental involvement: Parents become active partners in early education, fostering a supportive learning environment. Data collected from the parent app will be correlated with Shishuvikasana app data.
- Improved school readiness: Children enter formal schooling with stronger cognitive and numerical skills.
- Scalable model: With demonstrated adoption at 350 centres in Kanakapura, the parent app can be rapidly expanded across multiple geographies.

Proposed Budget:

Activity	Units	Unit Cost	Frequency	Total Amount
Parent App Development	1	₹ 84,000	3	₹ 2,52,000
Program monitoring dashboard	1	₹ 60,000	2	₹ 1,20,000
Stakeholder Awareness Program	350	₹ 285	1	₹ 99,750
Program Management	7	₹ 4,000	1	₹ 28,000
Total				₹ 4,99,750

Cost/Anganwadi across 350 Anganwadi's: ₹ 1428