



Sikshana Foundation

One-time budget proposal budget proposal for 2026-27 (Year 26/27)

Asha Projects

Sep 9, 2026



Project ArivuKendra.ai & Schools.ai

Empowering Rural India through Localized, Offline AI.

14 Centers

28 Devices

14,000+ Youth



Our Legacy of Scaling Programs Statewide

2003 – 2026



2.9M

Children Reached

Designed, developed and scaled motivational program called PRERANA across 48,000 government schools in Karnataka in collaboration with Edu. Dept.



Official

Curriculum Partner

Designed Digital Skills curriculum for High Schools under Karnataka State Education department for statewide adoption across all Government High Schools.



~10 Lakh

SHG Members

Setup 11,140 Digital Device Libraries in Gram Panchayat libraries as part of Grama Digi Vikasana and ran various programs like Digital literacy training for Self Help Group women in collaboration with RDPR dept.



2003



2018



2022



2026

Journey from 2003 to 2026

"20+ years of scaling grassroot programs across Karnataka in collaboration with the Government"

AI – Urgency

AI adoption is expanding rapidly and is already concentrated in sectors including Education, **Financial Services, Healthcare, Telecom, Retail, Transport and Logistics**

Implication for rural youth

Urban Students
↓
Early Exposure
↓
Experimentation
↓
Acquire Essential Skills
↓
Greater Opportunities

Rural Students
↓
Limited Exposure
↓
Limited Experimentation
↓
Weaker Skills
↓
Fewer Opportunities

Digital Literacy vs AI

Digital literacy is not the same as AI literacy

Known

- Search Google
- Watch YouTube
- Use WhatsApp
- Browse Social Media
- Make Digital Payments

Unknown

- What AI actually is
- How generative AI works at a basic level
- How to formulate an effective prompt
- How AI can help acquire skills to support employment, overcome language barrier
- How to use AI ethically in education, agriculture, skill enhancement etc.
- How to use AI to solve a real local problem.

AI Portals for students, youth and community available on AI PCs



Bhasha Mitra

Bilingual Bridge Tool

- 1 Helps students to transition to English medium schools after primary schooling in Kannada – covers classes 6 thru 10
- 2 AI feedback for pronunciation, comprehension and sentence construction while answering.
- 3 Aligned to Karnataka State Board



AI for Upskilling

Prompt Engineering for youth

- 1 Prompt engineering templates for various exams like Bank PO | State Exams | Agniveer
- 2 Mock interviews and career building options for youth facilitated by AI
- 3 Certificate available for youth who successfully complete the online exam



Digital & Financial Literacy

SHG & Community Modules

- 1 Self-learning smartphone skills module including safety
- 2 Basic financial literacy including safety in the digital economy
- 3 For SHG members & community adults



Sikshanapedia

Kannada Academic Content

- 1 Class 6-12 academic content in Kannada/English
- 2 Online AI bot for student queries with limited **offline** capabilities
- 3 Aligned to Karnataka State Board

Hardware Innovation: The KEO AI PC

KEO AI PC



₹23,429

per unit (CPU with accessories)

vs ₹1 Lakh+ for standard AI-ready PCs



RISC-V Architecture

Locally designed micro-form factor PC with 4TOPS GPU.



No Internet Needed

Fully offline — works in the most remote rural areas.



Buddh SLM

Pre-loaded Karnataka State Board curriculum (Grades 6–10): Maths, Science, Social, English, Kannada.



High-End AI Performance

4TOPS GPU ensures fast, responsive AI at a fraction of the cost.

Sustainable Funding Model – 2026-27



Contribution



₹7 Lakh

Funds towards installing 28 KEO AI PCs and project implementation costs at 14 Arivu Kendra



Contribution



₹22 Lakh

Space & full-time Librarians/Teacher across 14 Taluks in Karnataka (Recurring)

Total Combined Program Value: ₹29 Lakh

(Centres with high community footfall and a need for additional devices are being shortlisted)

KEY BENEFITS

- One-time investment to equip 14 Arivu Kendras with KIO AI PC
- Enhanced access to digital devices for youth and community members
- Improved access to AI-enabled learning and upskilling opportunities for youth and community members

PROGRAM SUSTENANCE

- The Government is committed to sustaining the program by providing a dedicated librarian at each center, along with the required physical infrastructure and basic facilities.
- Transform Arivu Kendras into digital hubs and provide communities with meaningful exposure to AI involving the librarians



Program Road Map – Asha Seed Funding Community Initiative

Contribution

Contribution

2022-23

Asha supported the establishment of 10 Digital Inclusion Centres as part of the Grama Digi Vikasana initiative. The program benefited 500+ youth from the community

01

02

The program, seed-funded by Asha, was subsequently scaled across 4,000+ Gram Panchayat Libraries across Karnataka, benefiting approximately 5 million community members.

2023-24

2024-26

The program was expanded across 6,000+ libraries in the state of Karnataka

03

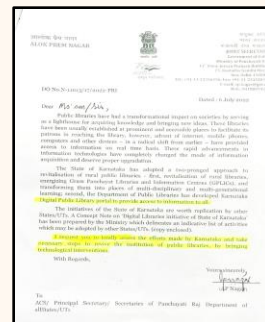
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Asha's seed funding to equip Digital Inclusion Centres with KIO AI PCs is likely to be scaled across all districts in Karnataka, making it a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country.

2026-27

2026-27 beyond

The GDV including KIO AI PC initiative is likely to scale across multiple states, following its recognition by the Ministry of Panchayat Raj, GoI, as a unique model for replication.



Letter from Joint Secretary addressed to States to revive GP Libraries on similar lines of KA

Budget – KEO AI PC

Asha for Education Contribution

KEO AI PC - Budget - Asha for Education - Sep 2026 - Mar 2027								
Sl No	Category	Account Head	Quantity	Units	Cost per unit (₹)	HNI/CSR (₹)	HNI/CSR (\$)	Remarks
1	CAPEX	KEO AI PC	14	2	₹23,429	₹ 6,56,012	\$ 7,718	14 GDV centers will be equipped with two AI PCs per center. The hardware includes monitor, keyboard, headphone
Sub total - CAPEX						₹ 6,56,012	\$ 7,718	
2	OPEX & Admin	Implementation and Admin	1	1	₹44,000	₹ 44,000	\$ 518	
Sub total - Admin						₹ 44,000	\$ 518	
Total (CAPEX + OPEX & Admin)						₹ 7,00,012	\$ 8,235	

State Govt Contribution

Sl No	Category	Account Head	Quantity	Units	Cost per unit (₹)	HNI/CSR (₹)	HNI/CSR (\$)	Remarks
1	OPEX	Librarian	14	7	₹18,000	₹ 17,64,000	NA	Monthly expenses. (Sep 2026 to Mar 2027)
2		Center Maintenance	14	7	₹3,000	₹2,94,000	NA	
3	CAPEX	Internet	14	1	₹15,000	₹2,10,000	NA	
Total Govt Contribution						₹22,68,000	NA	

14 Centers

28 Devices

14,000+ Youth

Why Asha for Education support

Seeded Programs. Scaled Impact.

RDPR Contribution



PRERANA



STATES
6

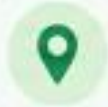


BENEFICIARIES
3 MILLION

Improving learning outcomes
in government schools across
6 states.



GRAMA DIGI VIKASANA



STATES
1



BENEFICIARIES
4.5 MILLION

Enabling digital inclusion and
empowering rural communities
at scale.



EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM



STATES
1



BENEFICIARIES
0.2 MILLION

Building strong foundational
skills for a brighter
tomorrow.