



# Asha for Education<sup>TM</sup>

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[www.ashanet.org](http://www.ashanet.org)

Please attach additional sheets wherever necessary. Thank you for your time and patience.

**Name of the organization:** CLT India (Registered as Children's Lovecastles Trust)

**Date of establishment :** December 1997

**Location** Jakkur, Bangalore

**Description of area** Education K-12

Children's Lovecastles Trust (CLT) is a non-profit, non-government organization devoted to the simple idea that every child has the right to equal learning opportunities and quality education. That can be realized only when opportunities to learn are made available in their own environment. Based outskirts of Bangalore, CLT has worked since 1997 to provide solutions to support and strengthen Government schools in under-served communities in India.

CLT Resource Center acts as a Hub where our teachers, resource people and volunteers work with technology experts to develop repository of curricula-aligned digitized multi-media content in regional languages that supports State-Board syllabus. The digital content, under the banner of *CLTe-Patashale*, transfers the best teaching practices and innovative lesson resources to remote schools!

CLT e-Patashale is both a product and service, where master teachers design low-cost, localized curricula-aligned e-content for K-12 in English and Kannada languages (State language in Karnataka) and go online to teach for some of the schools. The digital courseware is modular, replicable, and adaptable to different delivery models. CLT uses technology for giving access to good pedagogy in remote schools. Our delivery of e-content is done in 2 ways –

1. DVD libraries where the local teachers integrate CLT e-Patashale content with their black-board teaching. (Sankya Partnership)
2. Distance Learning: CLT teachers connect online to remote classrooms for live during-school intervention (Cisco Inclusive Growth, 2011-current). CLT e-Patashale has plans to replicate the e-courseware to more State languages. Our solution uses technology exactly for its strength – as a channel for scaling distribution – and to transfer pedagogy, but it does not attempt to replace teachers that are still the best resource.

**Contact person(s)** Bhagya Rangachar

**Address** CLT India, Jakkur Village Post, Bangalore 560064

**Phone number** +91 98801 40887

**Number of children currently enrolled in the project :**

For Distance Education - 1800

For DVD Library - 10,000 (2007-2010). This program is revived with Sankya partnership and we have plans to add 1,000 schools this academic year)

**Current Girl/Boy ratio**    Boys: 55%  
                                         Girls 45%

**Current Teacher/student ratio** : NA

**Over all school attendance percentage** : 80%

**Medium of instruction**    Kannada

**Below are some general questions regarding the project. Since your is valuable to us, please make your answers as detailed as possible.**

**Details on the school curriculum (please attach additional sheets if necessary)**

We are basically involved in developing low-cost curricula-aligned digital content that is mapped to the State Board syllabus of Karnataka. We are in the process of developing every lesson, in every subject for every grade (K-12) in regional languages. The delivery of this content is through Distance education and DVD libraries in remote classrooms, where we can not do Distance-education.

**Long-term goals of the project (mention any changes you foresee)**

We want to upgrade all content and replicate it to other State languages, so it may be used in other States. We want to add more Science video experiments and voice-over.

**Description of current school facilities (building, equipment etc)**

CLT is a resource center for government schools. We work with existing government schools.

**How do you need to improve these facilities?**

NA

**How do you think the school has improved in the last year?**

According to our initial findings, we have been able to bring them to their grade level, as most lag behind. However, with FICCI funding, we will be getting external evaluation done, before we can scale our project.

**What are the problems you have faced in the last year?**

Sourcing good teachers for the NGO budget; and teachers that could teach Science and Maths in Kannada for online teaching; keeping our expenditure low, yet coming up with quality e-lesson modules.

**How would you rate the overall effectiveness of this project over the past year?**

We have 1.2 million shortage of teachers. Rural India is impacted more, especially for Science, Maths and English. Teachers find the resources very valuable and find the resources very helpful. It is easy to navigate, totally low-cost.

**How much longer do you foresee requiring *Asha* funding, and for what purposes?**

2 more years. Basically, we develop basic modules with best pedagogy. This is further improved as we get funding. ASHA funds will help us to refine and upgrade the quality of our content.

**Current expenditure details** \$100,000

**Current total income of your project** \$ 90,000

**Please give us details on the sources and amounts of funding the project receives**

Cisco, ASHA AZ, British Engines, Microsoft Research Foundation (\$90,000)

**Percentage of funds currently sponsored by *Asha*.** 10%

**Is there any other feedback you would like to provide to *Asha*?**

We have also partnered with Sankya to set up computers in schools. (Please see the attachment e-newsletter – Addendum 1). Every PC will be loaded with CLT e-Patashale content and will be distributed across Districts. ASHA could direct their other partner schools for this program. (The schools pay Rs. 3000 per PC with content).

Addendum 1  
E newsletter  
Digitalk Apr-Jun 2013

## SANKYA'S PROGRESS DURING APRIL-JUNE 2014

The last quarter – April-June was a period of many events at Sankya. AXA signed up with us to donate used computers. We welcome AXA as our valued partner and we are proud to be associated with the prestigious company.

We also signed up with Children's Loveshale Trust (CLT) for distributing e-Patashale, their flagship product for schools. Sankya will distribute the software across Karnataka, leveraging on their strong database of beneficiary schools. Sankya also conducted one-day workshops for teachers about using e-Patashale for teaching students.

Sankya Pune has started their activities in Pune. Four young Rotarians have taken the lead in promoting Sankya programs in Pune and parts of Maharashtra. Rtn. Balvir and his young, enthusiastic team will no doubt do an excellent job. They are starting their operations with a stock of 250 system sets, primarily sourced by us from CISCO, Pune.

Rtn. Jayaraman and I visited Agasthya camp at Kuppam to see firsthand the excellent work the organization is doing in promoting Science. The creativity lab campus is located on a sprawling 170-acre land given by the Andhra Pradesh government. The land is also used to create biodiversity and teach children about water conservation and harvesting besides sustainable agricultural practice. We are keen to collaborate with Agasthya in promoting science in our beneficiary schools spread across the state.

CLT has made it a habit of winning awards with a consistency that is enviable. The recent Millennium Alliance award is the latest feather in their cap.

During the quarter, Sankya distributed 65 systems across 16 institutions.

Read on for more information about the events.

## SANKYA SIGNS MOU WITH CLT

CLT has been researching on education in schools for several years. Their accumulated knowledge and experience counted when Cisco was scouting for a suitable partner to conduct distance education programs for a cluster of government schools in Raichur district. CLT bagged the contract and set up class rooms in their office and implemented their school software and hired experienced faculty to conduct classes. The program was a success and is continuing even now, after nearly three years.

Sankya and CLT have come together to distribute and support e-Patashale, CLT's flagship software product for schools across the state. An MOU was signed recently by Sankya and CLT.

e-Patashale is a teacher-friendly, state syllabus-mapped software for Std. 1-10 covering Science, Mathematics and English grammar. e-Patashale offers several unique advantages and benefits to schools and teachers in particular:

- Teachers can prepare lesson plans easily as the software is fully compliant with the state syllabus and lessons for each subject/standard are organized in exactly the same order as specified in the syllabus.
- The software is simple to use and teachers can familiarize themselves in navigating through lessons in a matter of hours.
- The contents are rich with examples to strengthen the understanding of the concepts. The contents help the teacher in engaging the students in lively discussions about the subject, thereby improving retention abilities.

**Contd....**

- Science subjects are generously dotted with experiments captured in Video (the next best alternative to having a full-fledged lab).
- The software is conveniently packaged in three groups – Std. 1-4, 5-7 and 8-10. A school may choose to install e-Patashale for Std. 5-7 (three sections). The school will have the flexibility of conducting the classes for a Std. between 5 & 7 in any of the three class rooms.
- The software enables a predictable level of quality in teaching as it effectively bridges any knowledge gap that the teacher is handicapped with.
- Teacher absenteeism is effectively managed as another teacher can substitute easily.
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- Teacher absenteeism is effectively managed as another teacher can substitute easily.
- e-Patashale contents are in English and Kannada and a teacher may switch from one medium of instruction to another, effortlessly.
- e-patashale is teacher-centric and assists the teacher in delivering lessons more effectively. The software does not take away the importance of teacher-student interaction and in fact improves the bonding between them.

Sankya conducts one-day workshops to give a hands-on experience to the teachers about the effective usage of the software. Teachers can take advantage of the workshop which is free of charge.

#### **PROJECT L.E.A.D - SANKYA'S NEW INITIATIVE**

Information & Communication Technology (ICT) has a dual role in schools:

- Familiarize students with computer technology and its applications through Learning Labs set up in the school
- Usher a paradigm shift in the pedagogy using e-Patashale installed in each class room, as an aid to the teacher in making learning process inclusive and interesting.

Sankya has been helping schools set up Learning Labs and has reached out to nearly 3,000 schools benefitting over 1,00,000 students, each year.

**Contd....**

Through Project L.E.A.D (Learning Labs to Enable All round Development), Sankya has set itself an audacious goal of implementing a comprehensive ICT-based Teaching Solution in 1,000 class rooms during the academic year 2013-14. The components of Teaching Solution are:

- e-Patashale
- Microsoft Windows 7 Operating System and Office software
- A refurbished and quality-certified computer with appropriate configuration, monitor, mouse and external speakers for installation in each class room.

### ONE-DAY WORKSHOP ON e-PATASHALE

Sankya, in association with CLT, conducted one-day workshops on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June. Teachers from schools selected for the pilot installation of the Teaching Solution were invited to participate in the workshops. The response was overwhelming and 104 teachers from over 40 schools enthusiastically participated in the workshops. Majority of the participants were from government and aided schools.



*Hands-on experience in using e-Patashale*

The workshop gave a glimpse about the e-Patashale by explaining snippets of lessons drawn from science, mathematics and English grammar. During post-lunch session the teachers had hands-on experience navigating through lessons and most of them took the stage later on for some time teaching a subject of their choice, as if the audience were the pupils!

The workshop was basically aimed at obtaining a buy-in from the teachers and most of the schools, based on the feedback from teachers have conveyed acceptance of the Teaching solution.



*The workshop in progress*

The workshop was held at Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium (JNP). JNP has excellent infrastructure and the right ambience for conducting activities relating to science and mathematics and its director Ms. Shylaja kindly permitted us to conduct the workshops and also assured of continued help to Sankya on such activities. Sankya is grateful for her support and encouragement.



*A demo session on e-Patashale*

Teaching solution deliveries will begin during July 2013.

### **SANKYA PUNE GETS BUSY**

Sankya Pune has started with a bang. They have a stock of 250 systems to begin with and AXA has 50 systems ready for delivery. Sankya Pune will be delivering systems to the International Association for Human Values, an NGO supported by Art of Living foundation. The association runs 210 schools across India for under-privileged children in tribal areas and slums in cities.

The education is free and includes uniform, books, stationery, mid-day meals and transport. Sankya Bangalore will take up the project for the schools in and around Bangalore.

Gavin Antony, a member of Sankya Pune team, visited our office to familiarize with our processes and web-based operations. Sankya, Pune will be shortly starting populating the inventory data on the web site.

We wish Sankya Pune the very best in their Endeavour and trust that many deserving schools in villages and towns around Pune will benefit from the learning labs they can setup with their help.

### **WE WELCOME OUR NEW PARTNER - AXA BUSINESS SERVICES**

AXA Business Services is a 100% owned AXA Group subsidiary based in Bangalore and Pune. AXA BS came into existence in 1999 and was the first company to mark AXA's presence in India. Protecting people over the long term risk mitigation is their core business. It is their responsibility to use their competencies, resources and expertise in risk management to help create a society that is safer and stronger. The commitments also extend to protecting the environment and offering support to the communities through risk research and education.

AXA's association with Sankya has started recently. AXA looks forward to a long and mutually benefiting partnership with Sankya. AXA BS would like the association to be beyond donating computers. They would like to engage with Sankya also in other community initiatives through volunteering opportunities.

### **ANOTHER FEATHER IN CLT CAP!**

Close on the heels of Manthan award, CLT bagged Millennium Alliance Award, an Indo-US partnership for Affordable Innovation. The award is the result of a joint initiative of the Technology Development Board (TDB), Department of Science and technology (DST), Government of India, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to leverage Indian creativity, expertise and

resources to identify and scale innovative solutions being developed and tested in India to address development challenges that will benefit base of the pyramid populations across India and the world.



*Bhagaya Rangachar receiving the award from Mr. Jaipal Reddy, Minister for Science and Technology*

e-Patashale, the flagship product of CLT grabbed the attention of the committee that audited CLT for its innovation and syllabus mapped software for schools and recommended the award. Congratulations CLT – way to go!

### **AGASTYA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION CAMPUS IN KUPPAM**

Rtn. Jayaraman and I visited the campus at Kuppam on May 3, 2013. It was a day program and we were taken around the various creative labs where the children from surrounding villages were deeply absorbed in several activities including science experiments, ecology, arts etc. Agastya conducts regular teacher training programs to motivate teachers to enhance their performance, raise the quality of child-teacher interaction, spark curiosity and creativity. The training programs are residential.

Agastya has also set up a Planetarium to kindle the students' quest for knowledge about space and the planetary system.

The visit was an eye opener. We also had the privilege of meeting Prof. Baluragi an eminent science teacher who has been researching setting up simple and cost-effective experiments in science subjects. Incidentally, Prof Baluragi is associated with CLT and has helped them with science experiments, evaluated the contents and generally played a significant role as advisor.

Sankya would like to associate with Agastya and we plan to move decisively during the current academic year.

### **THE YAWNING SKILLS GAP**

There just isn't enough talent around. Take a look at the mess in engineering education. Purple Leap, a Pearson and Educomp company, had a couple of years ago surveyed 34,000 students from 198 engineering colleges across the country: only 10 per cent from Tier 2, 3 and 4 colleges were readily employable, and one-third were unemployable even after training. The survey, mind you, was restricted to students who had done well academically. Aspiring Minds, based on a study of 55,000 students from 250 engineering colleges, had found that 25-35 per cent students were unable to comprehend English. That shouldn't have been a problem, except that most books and instruction manuals are in English. Only 57 per cent could write grammatically correct sentences in English; less than 48 per cent understood "moderately sophisticated" words; and almost 50 per cent possessed grammar skills no better than a Class VII student. Not more than 30 per cent of the students, who went through stress and exhaustion while preparing for engineering college, were acquainted with the word "exhaust". "Absurd" was a word not understood by 50 per cent!