Background:

Project Sangamam at Asha Chennai has been in existence since 2004. For the year 2018-19, the project has gone through major changes in the schools we support, although the fundamental goals have remained the same. Asha supported many schools using computer teachers as part of Sangamam Kanini, most of which have now become part of Glovis Sangamam due to their expanded funding initiatives for the next 4 years. Hyundai Steel invited us to support a few schools in their area in 2017-18 and funded the project. However, their funding goals have changed and have withdrawn support for the 2018-19. As part of Project Sangamam for 2018-19, Asha will be supporting 5 schools that were discarded from the Hyundai Steel Sangamam program and 3 additional schools in the Thiruvallur district.

We typically do the following work at the Project Sangamam schools we support,

1. Provide regular teacher where the teacher student ratio warrants it.

2. Provide a computer teacher. Depending on the size of the school we typically provide a teacher for 1 or 2 days a week to work at these schools providing curriculum and computer literacy education to students.

3. Undertake minimal civil works at the schools including blackboard repainting. Optionally more things like building of kitchen sheds, repair roof leak etc.

4. Train our teachers.

5. Maintain the computer labs at these schools.

6. Support the schools in conducting annual day functions.

This project has also been augmented by other projects like RightStart. RightStart is the annual teacher training that is held in May for the teachers of Asha Chennai from all the projects as well as teachers from partner organisations.

1. Provide laptops for our teachers. Train the teachers on using the laptops.

2. Provide Internet enabled Wifi hotspots to the teachers along with data plans so that they can all use the Internet. Provide Wifi dongles for the computers in the schools so that they can also access the Internet through these hotspots.

3. Provide contents that are aligned to the lessons in the curriculum to improve the education. We would provide contents suitable for primary schools with particular emphasis in English and Maths.

Most people in these villages are extremely poor and are from families who have never had any formal education.

The people work as farmers in the fields and some others have found jobs in the industrial enterprises that have come up in these areas. The scenario as regards education in these areas are similar to the rest of Tamilnadu. Government schools exist but with serious deficiencies. Private (read English medium) schools are coming up and eating into the student force of the government schools. But the private schools are often worse in terms of the quality of the teaching. Asha Chennai believes the revival and strengthening of the government schooling system is essential to the implementation of any mass education initiative in India.

Government has been progressively giving more funds to the education sector. This has also had a beneficial effect on these schools in our project. All these schools follow a combination of Samacheer Kalvi and SABL (Simplified Activity Based Learning). Most of these schools have some computers. Training is not provided to the teachers to use the computers effectively at the schools. We are looking at plugging these holes.

We will continue supporting 5 schools from last year. The schools are in Aayakolathur, Sengadu, Bhaktavatsalam Nagar, AN Kandigai and Valasaivettikadu. Our experience in these schools have been mixed. Many of these schools are used to getting funds from the companies in the area for infrastructure projects. Some of them have RO water facilities, some have Solar panels installed on their roof and some have bathrooms constructed for them. Unfortunately, there is no help in terms of educating the kids the way Asha feels they need to be educated.

Aayakolathur – We had a regular teacher going to this school every working day and a computer teacher twice a week since this is a middle school. The support for our teachers have been less than optimal. Our teacher was switched from 3rd to 4th standard and after stressing the importance of continuity, they allowed her to continue with 3rd standard, but she ended up helping with 4th standard also at different times during the year. The computers are situated in a classroom that the HM teaches and our computer teacher has had difficulty using them because the kids are noisy when the computers are being used while another class is happening in the teacher's room. However, the situation has improved as the year progressed.

Sengadu – We have a computer teacher going there once a week. We have good support from the HM and the assistant HM. There is also an Organizer at the school who is quite motivated. They have worked with us and supported us throughout the year.

Bhaktavatsalam Nagar - We have a computer teacher going there once a week. This is an extremely small school. The HM is there mostly by herself since the assistant has medical issues. Our computer teacher who goes there once a week seems to make a difference with the kids. The town is very small and extremely poor and our help has improved things a great deal.

AN Kandigai – We have a computer teacher going there once a week. This school has two very motivated teachers and our computer teacher is really helping. This school does not get the benefits from the industrial establishments like other schools because it is a little remote. The kids are economically much worse off than the other schools but they consistently perform well because of the support from the Government teachers.

Valasaivettikadu - We have a computer teacher going there twice a week. This is a middle school that has 9 computers given to them by the Government. They have a HM that is very motivated and all the teachers seem to be very motivated too. This is also a little remote, but the HM approaches people for help and gets them to pay for some of the infrastructure needed for the school.

We will be adding three more schools in the Thiruvallur district by providing a computer teacher. Athipattu is one of the schools identified and is in desperate need of our support. We have yet to identify two additional schools for 2018-19.

Locally the activities of the continuing schools havel been coordinated by the project coordinator Moorthy. Hyundai Steel sponsored the annual day functions at all these schools which was well received by the people in the village and the children. Some schools performed them very well especially AN Kandigai, Valasaivettikadu and Sengadu where the villagers have promised to support these schools by sending their kids to these respective schools.

For the year 2018-19, we will remove the regular teacher from Aayakolathur because of lack of proper support. We will also remove our computer teacher from Sriramapalayam. Even though the kids are extremely deserving in Sriramapalaym, we don't believe we can effectively make a difference at this school. We will continue working with the other 5 schools and the two new schools.

We will have two computer teachers going 5 days a week and one computer teacher going 3 days a week. The other 2 days of the week, we will use the computer teacher as a computer technician taking care of all the computers at these schools. We will also have a coordinator who will be working half time managing the project. We will also hire another computer teacher who will be shared 60/40 with Glovis Sangamam to support the two schools in the Thiruvallur district that we intend to support.

		Project Sangamam Asha Budget 2018-19		
SNo	**Work Description**	**Cost Details**	**Cost**	
1	Regular Teachers - 2 For schools that we take up at Ellapuram block or Kancheepuram Dist.	The base salaries for 2018-19 is likely to be Rs 7500 including conveyance between Rs 1,000 and Rs 1500 per month.	90,000	
2	Computer teachers – 2 Computer teachers will visit the elementary schools one day and middle schools 2 days a week. 3 schools - 2 days a week, 4 schools - 1 day a week	The base salaries for 2018-19 is likely to be Rs 9,000 including conveyance between Rs 1,000 and Rs 1500 per month and a Rs 5,000 bonus during Deepavali. 18,000 x 12 + 10,000	226,000	
3	Coordinator. The coordinator would need to handle the purchases, handle cash on behalf of Asha, travel to Chennai to provide vouchers, collect cheques give to the teachers etc. He should possess the skills required to maintain good relations with the village leaders, school teachers, education dept. officials etc. and ensure smooth functioning of the project.	The coordinator will be used part time for this project while also working on other Asha related activities. His/her salary will be prorated 50% for Project Sangamam out of a total of Rs. 16,000 per month + Rs. 5,000 for yearly bike maintenance and Rs. 5000 Deepavali Bonus	101,000	
4	Computer Technician Salary for Maintenance of computer labs + part time computer teacher.	Rs 13,500 per month for Dharmi Chand incl. conveyance of about Rs 2500. He also does hardware repairs, system/network administration.	167,000	
5	Educational and Stationery Materials	Stationeries, educational kits, slates, pens, pencils etc. About Rs. 8,000 per school for small schools and Rs. 15,000 for large schools	92,000	
6	Sports Materials	Skipping rope, plastic balls, footballs, board games etc. About Rs. 8,000 per school for large schools and Rs 4000 for small schools.	44,000	

7	Gardening Materials	Two schools have land available and are willing to help the children maintain a garden. Asha will provide tools and plants for these schools at Rs. 6,000 per school. A volunteer from the village and Asha teacher will support the program	12,000
8	Blackboard and Scribble Area Repainting	This year we intend to paint just once. Expect it to cost around Rs. 2,000 per school	16,000
9	Supplies	Printing supplies, Xeroxing, laminating etc. of offline materials for schools.	5,000
10	Mats	Replace Mats at schools 2000*8	16,000
11	School day and other school functions	The allocation is approximate based on our usual expenses in our other schools. 10,000 per school	80,000
12	Data plan for 4 teachers, 1 system engineer and 1 coordinator	Rs 250 * 12 * 6	18,000
13	Administrative Expenses	Conveyance Documentation, etc.	5,000
14	Computer Maintenance Hardware and Software Purchases for 8 schools and 5 teachers	There will be a total of about 30 computers that we will manage for this project. About 2,000 per computer	60,000
15	Teacher Kits	Two uniform sarees and bag for teachers. Rs 2000 for each of the 5 teachers and one coordinator	12,000
16	Contingency Fund	Events, Functions, Emergencies	6,000
	TOTAL		860,000