

**Project Sangamam**  
**Asha Chennai Proposal – Year 2019-20**  
**July 25, 2019**

**Background:**

Project Sangamam at Asha Chennai has been in existence since 2004. For the year 2019-20, 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. We took a few schools in the Sriperumbudur district and Kadambathur block at the request of Hyundai Steel in 2017-18 who have since stopped funding the project.

Project Sangamam for 2019-20 will become more than just helping schools in the area, but also act as a buffer for Glovis Sangamam for some unforeseen expenses that have not already been approved by Hyundai Glovis. As Asha Chennai continues to grow, we need to find ways to retain quality staff, help develop their skills, provide an avenue for them to grow as people which will eventually benefit Asha. We need to provide them a working environment that they will cherish. We need to have our staff believe that they are making a difference in the lives of the children they teach and buy into Asha's goals rather than just treat it as a job. Some of the things we do include training, excursions and so on for our staff aside from having meetings that they can have fun at.

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.

### **Schools/Teachers Covered**

We will continue supporting 4 of schools from last year. The schools are in 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.

We will be dropping support for Aayakolathur as we have continuously had issues with their cooperation in conducting assessments, Asha Impressions competition and generally the ability to use computers to work with the kids at the school.

Here are some considerations we had while evaluating new schools.

1. One of our old teachers Gayathri is now in Thiruvalangadu block near Athipattu which we support through Glovis Sangamam. She can also be a computer teacher. Initially we are sending her as a regular teacher to Greenvel Natham. We are planning to send her as computer teacher in Thiruvalangadu block.
2. We will also take additional schools in the Ellapuram block and hire one regular and one computer teacher there. We have also promised to provide a teacher to manage the Kinder-garden at Kannigaiper. This extra teacher cannot be supported within the Glovis Sangamam project. Note we are showing this person as a regular teacher as the expectation is that she will work the full teacher hours and also help with other classes as required.
3. We will need to replace an outgoing computer teacher Dharmi Chand for the Sriperumbudur and Kadambathur area. We will be able to support additional schools in the area since Dharmi Chand was only spending 3 days at these schools.

In all we will have 2 regular teachers in Ellapuram block and 3 computer teachers (1 each in Kadambathur, Thiruvalangadu and Ellapuram blocks). Here are the list of schools we have already visited.

School Details	Students and Teachers	Recommendation
<p>PUMS Polivakkam, Kadambathur block</p> <p>Well run. 3 good computers and 3 requiring repair.</p>	<p>1 - 10E  2 - 14E  3 - 14E  4 - 11 (10 T + 1 E)  5 - 13 (8T + 5E)  6 - 18 (9T + 9E)  7 - 21 (7T + 14E)  8 - 12T  Teachers : Primary - 3  Middle - 2 + 1 vacant.</p>	<p>Need a subject teacher for upper primary and a computer teacher.</p>
<p>PUMS Thodukadu,, Kadambathur Block.</p> <p>We have been visiting for 3 years. They really want our support. 40 children going to other schools. Can increase strength with our support.</p> <p>Have 2 laptop and 1 desktop computers.</p>	<p>1 - 4  2 - 10  3 - 7  4 - 11  5 - 8  6 - 8  7 - 5  8 - 7  Teachers : Primary - 2  Middle - 3</p>	<p>Need a computer teacher.</p>
<p>PUMS Vengathur Kandigai, Kadambathur Block.</p> <p>This is situated in a busy area of Manavalur Nagar. The restricted space is well used. It also gets some corporate support etc.</p> <p>Have 2 laptop not working and 1 working and 6 desktop computers working. They have 4 projectors as well!</p> <p>Can increase strength as there are 100s going to private schools..</p>	<p>1 - 15  2 - 25  3 - 31  4 - 35  5 - 26  6 - 32  7 - 34  8 - 31  Teachers : Primary - 5  Middle - 4</p>	<p>They want more projectors!!! I wouldnt recommend it. They would require a computer teacher and play materials.</p>
<p>PUMS Satharai, Kadambathur block (not close to Manavalur nagar but close to Kadambathur town)</p> <p>Computers 3 very old ones + a printer.</p>	<p>KG - 15  1 - 14  2 - 20  3 - 24  4 - 23  5 - 31</p>	<p>The only real reason to visit this school was that it was close to Nishanthi's place. But given they do not need a regular teacher, we do</p>

	6 - 27 7 - 22 8 - 23 Teachers : Primary - 5 Middle - 4	not need to consider this school.
Thiruvallangadu	Not sure of the details. Misplaced my notes. About 150 children. Adequate teachers. No computers!	Need computers and a computer teacher.
PUPS Pazhayalur, Thiruvallangadu block	1 - 5 (+4 exp) 2 - 7 (+2 exp) 3 - 6 4 - 7 (+1 exp) 5 - 12  Two teachers.	HM desperately wants regular teacher even though the numbers do not justify it. We can send a computer teacher.
PUMS Soolaimeni, Ellapuram block  We visited the school several years back along with Michellin. They were supporting the school but haven't been doing much lately. Partner with Pratham to do remedial work.  This is a well run school with beautifully painted walls! They have 8 computers of which 4 work. They have a good lab environment.	1 - 5 2 - 7 3 - 9 4 - 6 5 - 13 6 - 16 7 - 17 8 - 12 Teachers : Primary - 2 Middle - 4	We have started sending a computer teachers one day a week as a Glovis teacher on this side had an extra day. We can change that to a Sangamam teacher for 2 days as this is a middle school.
PUPS Guruvayal, Ellapuram block  They have been regularly requesting our support. They can increase strength if we support. 60+ children in private schools. Shares a campus with higher secondary school. Increased strength from 70 to 110 in 2 years.	1 - 11 2 - 18 3 - 25 4 - 20 5 - 26 Teachers: HM + 3.	They want a regular teacher. Need to monitor the strength.
PUPS Arkampattu  This is on the other side of Kosasthalayar from Annanagar. It also has a lot of Irular children.  School is maintained very well. Very good compound, ground, buildings, garden etc.!!  3 very old computers of which 2 do not work.	1 - 14 2 - 19 3 - 12 4 - 15 5 - 13 Expect another 10 more. Teachers - 3.	They want a regular teacher. Need to monitor the strength.

On the whole we will take 1 more school in Kadambathur block for new computer teacher. (Either Polivakkam or Thodugadu).

We will take Thiruvalangadu + Pazhayalur + one more school in Thiruvalangadu block for Gayathri.

We will take Soolaimeni, Guruvayal and Arkampattu in Ellapuram block with 1 computer teacher. One of Guruvayal or Arkampattu will get a regular teacher along with the additional one for Kannigaiper.

We will have a total of 4 continuing schools and 6 new schools.

### **Other Details**

Moorthy has been working as a part time coordinator for the project and will continue to do so and Project Sangamam will pay half his salary.

As Dharmi Chand is leaving, his portion of the computer maintenance work will fall into Muthu's lap and his approved salary from Hyundai Glovis is Rs. 22,000, but we have decided to increase his salary to Rs. 23,000 partly for his additional responsibility at Project Sangamam and partly for all the additional work he has been taking upon himself.

Buffer from Glovis Sangamam project includes Rs. 50,000 for external training similar to the Scratch training some of our computer teachers went to at Auroville and the other part of the buffer is Rs. 100,000 considering that the excursions are an excellent team building exercise that make the staff feel that they are taken care of.

**Project Sangamam Asha Budget 2019-20**

<b>SNo</b>	<b>Work Description</b>	<b>Cost Details</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1	Regular Teachers - 1 teacher moved from Glovis Sangamam to Kadambathur block side and 2 for a new school that we take up at Ellapuram block or other places.	The salaries for 2018-19 is likely to be Rs 8500 including conveyance between Rs 1,000 and Rs 1500 per month.	204000
2	Computer teachers - 3 One each in Kadambathur / Kanchipuram, Thiruvallangadu block and Ellapuram block areas.	The base salaries for 2018-19 is likely to be Rs 9,500 including conveyance between Rs 1,000 and Rs 1500 per month and a Rs 5,000 bonus during Deepavali for 1 continuing teacher.	347,000
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. 17200 per month + Rs. 5,000 for yearly bike maintenance and Rs. 5000 Deepavali Bonus	113,200
4	Computer Technician Salary for Maintenance of computer labs + part time computer teacher.	We will not have a separate computer technician for this project. Muthu will manage this also. As Glovis approved only a salary of Rs 22,000 we will put Rs 1000 from Project Sangamam.	12,000
5	Educational and Stationery Materials	Stationeries, educational kits, slates, pens, pencils etc. About Rs. 10,000 per school	100000
6	Sports Materials	Skipping rope, plastic balls, footballs, board games etc. About Rs. 6,000 per school.	60000
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	6,000

8	Blackboard and Scribble Area Repainting	This year we intend to paint just once. Expect it to cost around Rs. 2,000 per school	20000
9	Supplies	Printing supplies, Xeroxing, laminating etc. of offline materials for schools.	5,000
10	Mats	Replace Mats at schools 2000*10	20000
11	School day and other school functions	The allocation is approximate based on our usual expenses in our other schools. 7500 per school.	75000
12	Data plan for 5 teachers and 1 coordinator	Rs 500 per quarter for each teacher.	12000
13	Administrative Expenses	Conveyance Documentation, etc.	10,000
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	Teacher Excursion	30 to 35 teachers at approx Rs 3000 per teacher.	100,000
17	External training	Glovis budget only approves regular training meetings etc for ALL teachers not for specific classes we send some teachers to. We have had such training opportunities like Hindu Step, Auroville computer training etc.	50,000
18	Office rental	Rental for one workstation at our Mylapore office at Rs 4000 per month.	48000
19	Contingency Fund	Needs to cover contingency for all of Glovis Sangamam as well.	50,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>		13,04,200