

# GLOVIS SANGAMAM PROJECT REPORT – JUNE 2014

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Project Sangamam was supporting 8 schools during the year 2013-14. Hyundai Glovis had decided to support all the 8 schools through Project Sangamam during the summer of 2014. In May 2014, Asha Chennai conducted RightStart teachers training program in which all the Project Sangamam teachers also participated. We also used the opportunity to bring in some aspiring teachers out of whom we had selected a few potential teachers for Project Sangamam.

All the schools reopened on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Asha – Hyundai Glovis association in this project also started formally on June 2<sup>nd</sup> with a grand MOU signing function held at the Westin Regency hotel at Velachery. Many people from Hyundai Glovis, volunteers of Asha Chennai and all the teachers of Project Sangamam attended the event.

## Teacher Hiring

As mentioned we had done the selection of the teachers during project RightStart. Couple of our teachers had left – Shailaja for Maternity leave, Sathyavani for unforeseen circumstances, Sandhya for her marriage (since then she has returned to work at Ammambakkam a new school we are supporting but may soon leave again as she has cleared TET is likely to get a posting). We have brought in new teachers Jayashree, Hepsiba, Nirmala and Shakila. Currently the teachers working in the schools are,

Placepalayam	Anitha Devi and Hepsiba
Allikuzhi	Nirmala
Katchur	Janova
Kuppammal Chathiram	Deivanayagi
Pattarai Perambudur	Tamilselvi
Gandhigram	Shakila
Thomur	Gayathri
Ramancheri	Asha and Jayashree.

## Functioning of the Schools

The schools started functioning on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Typically new admissions is the main activity at all these schools during June. All the schools have reported pretty much the same numbers as last year. Ramancheri has infact reported a healthy increase in the number of students because of the introduction of English medium.

The schools have started functioning regularly with lessons for all the classes. Our teachers are also teaching their classes.

### Teacher Evaluation and Training

Asha conducted a test on June 14<sup>th</sup> at Olcott Memorial School premises at Besant Nagar Chennai. 11 teachers from Project Sangamam and 2 teachers from FTC Seeyapoondi participated in the test. Note one more teacher from Project Sangamam took the test separately on 19<sup>th</sup> June. In the afternoon I went over the question paper with them and explained the solutions to all the questions.

As was expected the tests were difficult for the teachers. It revealed several areas of weakness. Their weakness in forming English sentences was already known. However this test also showed that they are very weak in basic fractions, converting word problems into appropriate numerical ones (even for simple cases), and even in understanding the question in many cases. We have stressed the message to them that they will be expected to raise themselves to a point where everyone scores above 50 in this in one year time.

To start with we have asked them to become thorough in 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> std Maths. They should all get close to 100% in a small test on that in three months.

We will continue to focus on improving the quality of these teachers. Also as we had mentioned earlier one of the major goals for this year is to come up with some good computer based curriculum that we can use which will ensure good education even in areas where the teachers themselves are weak.

### Bags and School Materials

Glovis and Asha coordinated with Maruthi Industries to make 650 bags for all the children at the 8 supported schools. We got 300 small bags and 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> std. children and 350 bags for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and higher class (only at Ramancheri) children. Further educational materials (chart paper, normal paper, chalk pieces, crayons, sketch pens, mats etc.), sports materials (ring, football, etc.) were also purchased.

On July 2<sup>nd</sup> we had distribution of these at all the schools. Divya and Kaushal from Hyundai Glovis and Rajaram from Asha went to all the 8 schools and distributed the bags to the children, talked a little bit to them and also gave the materials to the school HMs. The black boards and scribble areas were also painted freshly to make this a good new beginning of the year for the schools.

### Upcoming Events

On the whole the project is off to a great start. The coordination between the government teachers, Asha teachers, Asha volunteers, and Glovis is happening very well. At the ground level there continued excellent support for the project from the schools and the villages. If anything there is too many requests from all other schools in the block for our working with their schools as well!

In July/August we hope to organize an excursion for the children to the Hyundai Glovis premises. The Asha teachers will be given Uniform sarees/blouses/bag and also an Atlas/Dictionary for their use. There will be continuation of the teacher training that we have started.