

Right Start Teacher Training Program

Proposal for 2025

The RightStart teacher training initiative is an important component of Asha Chennai's work with the government schools. Under the RightStart program we train the teachers hired by us for various government school supporting projects. A common training is held at the beginning of the year for all our teachers from all projects. This provides them a right start for the year.

We have other teacher training programmes throughout the year. RightStart kicks off the initiative with a long format training right at the beginning of the school year. The focus is on regular subjects like English, Maths and Science. Computer Science training is held separately.

Objectives of the Project

1. Ensure that the teachers have basic skills required to teach their classes (primary schools and hence class 1 to 5) and also have good grounding on methods that they can use during their teaching for primary and higher classes.
2. Get them acquainted with Asha, our goals, our volunteers, all the other projects implemented by Asha and partner organisations.
3. Get acquainted with the developmental aspects of children and relate their teaching strategies to them.
4. Share their classroom experiences.
5. Introduce them to new learning teaching materials to make learning a increasingly student centred process.
6. To learn the above through interactions facilitated by experts and experienced teachers

Participants

The following participants have confirmed participation in the training sessions.

Project Sangamam, Asha Kanini : 80 teachers, and 4 system admins and coordinators.

Project Manigal : 3 teachers.

Project Poorna Vidhya : 10 teachers + 1 coordinator.

Project Thulasi : 23 teachers + 1 coordinator.

Project Pearl : 30 teachers + 1 coordinator.

Project Cauvery: 6 teacher + 1 coordinator.

Olcott Memorial School : 4 teachers

Gandhiji School : 4 teachers + 1 coordinator.

TOTAL: Approx 160 teachers + 8 coordinators.

Plan for RightStart 2025

We typically place emphasis on Maths, Science and English for our RightStart training. This year too Maths training with Mrs. Meena Suresh and Science training with Ms. Poorva Bhattar are going to be central to the RightStart. As we are adopting the KaradiPath methodology in many of our projects, we have invited them for half a day of training. The other sessions are still being worked out.

The teacher training will be conducted by the following people.

Mrs. Meena Suresh and Mrs. Kalyani

Mrs. Meena Suresh has been training Asha teachers since 2015. She has been playing a part in helping us build a broader program for improving Maths education which includes improving our lesson plans, improving the content offering through Asha Kanini, equipping our schools with Maths kits, conducting regular assessments for our students as well as teachers etc. She will continue her training this year as well.

Ms. Purva Bhattar from KrVidya

Ms. Purva, started KriVidya with the idea of improving science education in India. She has been working with Asha for the last couple of years in improving our science content offered through Asha Kanini as well as training the teachers in Science. Like last year, this year too, she is attempting something new. Her training continues to focus on helping teachers understand and appreciate what is the scientific method. This year she had teacher perform measurements and conduct a research of sorts verifying a hypothesis. The teachers will present their results during RightStart and Purva will also help them understand the work they have done.

Team from Karadi Path

Karadi Path has developed a method for teaching English through actions, songs and stories. Their idea is to create an environment for learning English the same way as children learn their own mother tongue. Asha is already implementing the Karadi Path programme to 10 of our schools and hope to expand that to cover 35 schools this year. As all the teachers can benefit from an understanding of how language learning works, we are offering their training to all our teachers.

The schedule for this year is as follows.

Day	Slot	Session
22nd May	9:00 am to 10:00 am	Registration
	10:00 am to 1:00 pm	Teaching Maths by Mrs. Meena Suresh
	2:00 pm to 4:30 pm	Teaching Maths by Mrs. Meena Suresh
23rd May	9:30 am to 1:00 pm	Scientific Method by Purva Bhattar

	2:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Scientific Method by Purva Bhatler
	After 4:00 pm	Sightseeing in Chennai
24th May	9:30 am to 1:00 pm	Teaching English with KaradiPath
	2:00 pm to 4:30 pm	
25th May	9:30 am to 12:30 pm	Teaching Maths by Mrs. Meena Suresh
	1:30 pm to 4:30 pm	Teaching Maths by Mrs. Meena Suresh
26th May	9:30 am to 12:30 pm	Scientific Method by Purva Bhatler
	1:30 pm to 4:00 pm	Programme by Asha teachers. Valedictory function to distribute certificates, loyalty awards etc.

Venue for RightStart 2025

Like the last several RightStarts, this time too RightStart will be organized in the IIT Madras campus. The teachers will stay in the hostels and the sessions will be held in the Vanavani auditorium.

Vanavani school has graciously allowed us to the auditorium for the entire 5 days for the teacher training. Breakfast and dinner for the teachers is arranged at the IIT mess. Lunch for teachers (both those staying in the hostels and those coming for the day), volunteers and trainers will be organized at the Vanavani itsle or the IIT staff canteen.

Budget for RightStart 2025

	Heads of expenses	Details	Cost
1	Accommodation and food for outstation participants	About 100 teachers and staff staying at the hostel for 4 days and 20 for 6 days. Rs 350 per day for lodging. Rs 120 per day for bedding that IIT does not provide. Rs 150 per day for breakfast, and dinner. Total – Rs 620 per person per day.	3,22,400
2	Resource persons and facilitators Honorarium and travel expenses	Mrs. Meena Suresh is paid an annual retainer. We are provisioning a small fee of Rs 5000 for some of the other trainers.	15,000
3	Local travel for teachers/staff who will be commuting every day	We are providing up to a maximum of Rs 500 per day for 4 days for teachers coming locally. About 40 teachers will be commuting daily.	80,000
4	Travel Expenses for Outstation Participants	Rs 7500 * 6 * 2 for minibus rental to and from Thiruvallur. Rs 100000 for a bus both ways for Pearl and Cauvery teachers. 600 * 25 for train/bus tickets for Thulasi teachers. Food expense during travel for outstation teachers. Rs 200 * 60.	217,000
5	Lunch and tea for all participants, volunteers, helpers and trainers.	Rs 120 per person per day for 150 people.	90,000
6	Local sightseeing for outstation participants.	Arrange 5 vans to take the teachers for 4 hours around Chennai on one evening at Rs 5000 per van.	25,000
7	Materials for participants and during sessions	Participant kits, books and other materials for participants to take back. Also materials like chart paper etc. to be used during sessions. Rs 250 per participant.	40,000
8	Certificates and Trophies	Certificates are given to all the participants. Further we also give service awards for teachers who have completed 5, 10 or 15 years. They are provided a certificate and trophy. Rs 20000 for the participant and service award certificate and Rs 800 per trophy for the 10 trophies.	28,000
9	Cost of Venue	We need to cover basic costs at Vanavani including cleaning charges, electricity, other personnel etc.	30,000
10	Documentation, Administration and Misc	Some expenses like photos, invitations for the Felicitation function, conveyance for helpers etc.	22,600
	Total Budget		Rs 8,70,000

Note that 60 of the teachers are covered by support from Amazon and Code.org, their training expenses of about Rs 3 Lakhs will also be covered by them.