

Right Start Teacher Training Program

Proposal for 2026

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.

RightStart-CS training is held in December for training our teachers in Computer Science.

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 an increasingly student centred process.
6. To learn the above through interactions facilitated by experts and experienced teachers.

Specifically for RightStart-CS, additional objectives are,

1. Train the teachers to use Asha's various computer science curricula effectively.
2. Provide them a broader context of computer science, AI and technology in general which will help them more effectively implement their lessons.

Participants

The following participants are expected in the main RightStart.

Project Sangamam, Asha Kanini : 90 teachers, and 4 others.

Project Manigal : 3 teachers.

Project Poorna Vidhya : 13 teachers + 1 coordinator.

Project Thulasi : 30 teachers/librarians + 1 coordinator.

Project Pearl : 40 teachers/librarians + 2 others.

Project Cauvery: 10 teacher + 1 coordinator.

Olcott Memorial School : 4 teachers
Gandhiji School : 4 teachers + 1 coordinator.
Other Orgs: 5 teachers

TOTAL: Approx 200 teachers + 10 others.

For RightStart CS, the regular teachers, KaradiPath teachers and librarians will not be expenses. This will reduce the total count to Approx 150 teachers + 10 others.

Plan for RightStart 2026

We typically place emphasis on Maths, Science and English for our may RightStart training. This year too Maths training with Mrs. Meena Suresh and Science training with Ms. Poorva Bhatte 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. There are some interesting other sessions also planned.

The teacher training will be conducted by the following people.

Dr. Meena Suresh

Dr. 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.

Dr. Purva Bhatte from KrVidya

Dr. 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. This time her training will mix language-arts, Science and Computer Science by making each team handle one fairy tale and the scientific impossibilities in the tale!

Dr. Hema Ramanathan

Dr. Hema Ramanathan plays many roles: Teacher and Teacher Educator; Author and Writer; Podcaster and Blogger. She has taught at PS Senior Secondary school and Rishi Valley school in India as well as in schools and colleges in the US. She is going to have an interesting session on the “Importance of Questioning”.

Dr. V.R. Devika

Dr.V. R. Devika, educationist, author, and actor is the founder and managing trustee of The Aseema Trust - a nonprofit organization for linking traditional performing arts and education. She has been training teachers and schools for decades in how to use story telling and heritage in the classroom to

enhance engagement and learning. She is going to have another interesting session on “Story Telling and Heritage” for our teachers.

Mr. Arun Venkataraman

Mr. Arun has been in teaching for the past 29 years. He is a nature conservationist and an educator. He is a long term coordinator in the SSTCN, sea Turtle conservation network and one of the Founders of Marudam Farm School. He will be engaging with teachers on "Nature around us". Observation based learning.

Ms. Thilakavathi

<TBD>

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 at about 75 of our schools which will further expand to additional 20 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
18 th May	9:00 am to 10:00 am	Registration
	10:00 am to 1:00 pm	Learning through Heritage and Stories by Dr. VR Devika
	2:00 pm to 4:30 pm	Nature Around Us by V.Arun
19 th May	9:30 am to 12:30 pm	KaradiPath Methodology by KaradiPath team
	1:30 pm to 4:00 pm	Dealing conflicts and Discomfort by Ms. Thilagavathi
	After 4:00 pm	Sightseeing in Chennai
20 th May	9:30 am to 12:30 pm	STEAM training by Dr. Purva Bhatte
	1:30 pm to 4:30 pm	STEAM training by Dr. Purva Bhatte
21 st 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
22 nd May	9:30 am to 12:30	Importance of Questioning by Dr Hema

	pm	Ramanathan.
	1:30 pm to 4:00 pm	Programme by Asha teachers. Valedictory function to distribute certificates, loyalty awards etc.

Plan for RightStart-CS 2026

The sessions at RightStart-CS are typically by our own lead teachers, volunteers and software engineers. There will be some sessions by external experts from other organisations. We haven't yet decided on these as there is still more than 6 months to December 2026.

Venue for RightStart 2026

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 the first 4 days for the teacher training. The sessions on the final day will be at the Central Lecture Theater. 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 or the IIT staff canteen.

RightStart-CS is likely to be hosted at the Irshad hall in Kanakamma Chathram or another hall in our Thiruvallur project area. Accomodation will be at the hall itself as well as in hotels in the vicinity as well as Asha office and RTCs in the area.

Budget for RightStart 2026

	Expense Head	Details	Cost
1	Accommodation and food for outstation participants	About 120 teachers and staff staying at the hostel for 4 days and 30 for 6 days. Rs 700 per person per day for lodging, food and bedding rental.	462000
2	Resource persons and facilitators Honorarium and travel expenses	Most of our trainers do this work with a sense of charitable giving and thus we provision a small amount of Rs 5000 for 6 sessions.	30,000
3	Local travel for teachers/staff who will be commuting every day	We are providing up to a maximum of Rs 600 per day for 4 days for teachers from Thiruvallur and Guduvanchery commuting every day.	60,000
4	Travel Expenses for Outstation Participants	Rs 9500 * 8 * 2 for minibus rental to and from Thiruvallur. Rs 100000 and Rs 50000 for a bus both ways for Pearl and Cauvery teachers. 600 * 30 for train/bus tickets for Thulasi teachers. Food expense during travel for outstation teachers. Rs 200 * 80.	336,000
5	Lunch and tea for all participants, volunteers, helpers and trainers.	Rs 150 per person per day for 200 people.	150,000
6	Local sightseeing for outstation participants.	Arrange 6 vans to take the teachers for 4 hours around Chennai on one evening at Rs 5000 per van.	30,000
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.	50,000
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 15 trophies.	32,000
9	Cost of Venue	We need to cover basic costs at Vanavani including cleaning charges, electricity, other personnel etc.	20,000
10	Documentation, Administration and Misc	Some expenses like photos, invitations for the Felicitation function, conveyance for helpers etc.	30,000
	TOTAL		₹1,200,000

Cost per teacher: Rs 6000.

Note that 40 of the teachers are covered by support from Amazon, their training expenses of about Rs 2.4 Lakhs will also be covered by Amazon budget.

Budget for RightStart-CS 2026

	Expense Head	Details	Cost
1	Accommodation for outstation participants	About 50 teachers staying for 3 days at Rs 500 per person per day. Remaining 50 teachers will be staying for free at hall, RTCs etc.	75000
	Dinner for outstation participants.	About 100 teachers at Rs 150 per teacher for 3 days.	45,000
2	Resource persons and facilitators Honorarium and travel expenses	Mostly handled by internal trainers. Rs 5000 allocated per day for invited trainers, car from and to Chennai etc.	15,000
3	Local travel for teachers/staff who	For Thiruvallur teachers as well as outstation teachers travelling longer	45,000

	will be commuting every day	distance Rs 15000 per day.	
4	Travel Expenses for Outstation Participants	Rs 100000 and Rs 50000 for a bus both ways for Pearl and Cauvery teachers. 600 * 30 for train/bus tickets for Thulasi teachers. Food expense during travel for outstation teachers. Rs 200 * 80.	184,000
5	Lunch and tea for all participants, volunteers, helpers and trainers.	Rs 150 per person per day for 150 people.	67,500
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.	37,500
9	Cost of Venue	Rental cost at Irshad Hall including cleaning charges, electricity, other personnel etc.	45,000
10	Documentation, Administration and Misc	Some expenses like photos, invitations for the Felicitation function, conveyance for helpers etc.	11,000
	TOTAL		₹525,000

Cost per teacher: Rs 3500.

Note that 40 of the teachers are covered by support from Amazon, their training expenses of about Rs 1.4 Lakhs will also be covered by Amazon budget.