

Asha Scholarships – Proposal for 2025 - 26

BACKGROUND

Asha Chennai scholarships is the oldest project of Asha Chennai. We have been executing the project from 2002 - 03. It has continued uninterrupted till now. The intention of the project is to support children who are at risk of disruption to their education because of economic hardship. For school children we do not look at their performance as a criterion for selection as education is a universal right for all children.

This year we are looking to keep the program construct to be the same as last year with practically no changes. But we are looking to increase the number of students in the program from the current total strength of 115 to 125 (see justification below). We will continue to keep the eligibility criteria to be a family income of INR 2,40,000.

- We are keeping the per student threshold to be the same as last year - INR 15,000 for students until 10th grade; INR 20,000 for students until 12th grade; INR 30,000 for college students in the UG degree
- We will look to reinstate the career counseling program that was piloted through Dheya trust. We will look to do this before Dec 2025. The goal is to implement the same for the pre final and final year college students and the students in class 12
- Asha St. Louis has promised a commitment to Asha Chennai for \$40,000 per year for two years. A part of this will be used to fund an additional 10 students. The Asha St. Louis program is tied to Olcott Memorial School and so at least 3 students in the Asha Scholarship program have to be from Olcott Memorial school.
- We also received a donation of Rajeev Rangachari, an individual in the US for \$3,500 this year. He has been funding 14 students in her personal capacity and would like to merge his students into our program. That evaluation will be taken up for academic year 2026-27.

STUDENTS COVERED AND SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT

Here are some details about the scholarship students from 2024 - 25

- Total number of students = 114
- Outgoing students from this = 20
- Expected number of continuing students = 95
- Number of new students to be added = 30 (including a proposed addition of 10 students from Olcott memorial as described above)
- This year, we also propose to provide career counseling for college students (pre-final and final year students) and class 12 students. The counseling shall be provided by Dheya trust after the successful pilot done with them this year.

For the academic year, 2025 - 26, we plan to add 30 students that will essentially replace

the outgoing students.

- Students continuing in class 10 or below = 3
- Students continuing in classes 11, 12 = 9
- Students continuing in college = 83
- New students to be added = 30 (budgeting assuming 40% or 12 at school and 60% or 18 at college levels)
- Total scholarship students = 125

The scholarship budget for this year works out to INR 34,95,000/- and the details are explained in the table below:

Class	No of students	Amount/ Student INR	Total Amount INR
1 To 10	3	15,000	45,000
11th, 12th	9	20,000	1,80,000
College	83	30,000	24,90,000
New Addition (school)	12	20,000	2,40,000
New Addition (college)	18	30,000	5,40,000
Total	125		34,95,000

The total budget including other items is INR 37,68,000 with additional items and budgetary estimates discussed and outlined below.

Administration

Malliga is working as the coordinator for the scholarships project on a part time basis. So two thirds of her salary will be borne by the Scholarship project. Following expenses have been budgeted

- Malliga's salary – INR 1,44,000 (Assuming her salary is being increased from INR 15,000 to INR 18,000 with 2/3rd share coming from the scholarship project since she spends 2/3rd of her time here. Hence provisioning INR 12,000 per month for Malliga's salary)
- Rent for workstation used in Asha office not budgeted as it is covered in Admin & Asha Kanini - Assumed 1 workstation at INR 4,000
- Postage, stationery, refreshments etc. – INR 20,000

- Conveyance for outstation students, home visit – INR 20,000
- Total Administration expenses – INR 1,88,000

Scholarship Budget for 2025 - 26 (All values in INR):

Budget Item	Budget 2024 - 25	Estimated Actuals 2024 - 25	Budget 2025 - 26
Scholarship for 125 students (last year was 114 students)	30,45,000		34,95,000
Travel expense reimbursement	15,000		15,000
Career counselling	50,000		50,000
Admin expenses	1,60,000		1,88,000
Contingency	20,000		20,000
Total	32,90,000	23,60,862*	37,68,000

* Actuals spent till date is INR 23,60,862. An additional disbursement of INR 4,19,785 has been approved on June 7, 2025.

*Budget represents an 15% (INR 4,78,000) increase that is covered by the additional incoming donations