Asha Scholarships – Proposal for 2026 - 27

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 maintain the program from last year, both in terms of program rules and structure and number of children being supported. 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 introduced a workshop from TICF but it was not particularly successful. Hence we will try to build in-house capabilities for college counselling. A brief note on this below
- 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 atleast 10 students in the Asha Scholarship program have to be from Olcott Memorial school.
- Rajeev Rangachari, an individual in the US has donated $3,500 this year, second year in a row. We need to see if we can merge the students that he is funding into the program or not. That evaluation was committed to be concluded for the academic year 2026-27. He is interested in understanding programs that use AI for education. Will visit us in June.

STUDENTS COVERED AND SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT

Here are some details about the scholarship students from 2026 - 27

- Total number of students = 125
    - Students continuing in class 10 or below = 2
    - Students continuing in classes 11, 12 = 29
    - Students continuing in college = 94
- Outgoing students from this (students who will complete college) = 30
- Expected number of continuing students = 95
- Number of new students to be added = 30
- New students to be added = 30 (budgeting assuming 40% or 12 at school and 60% or 18 at college levels)

- Total scholarship students = 125
- College counselling, we will explore the use of Claude or equivalent LLMs and build capability in-house with our existing teachers whose children are in the school going age.

The budget for this year works out to INR 30,45,000/- and the details are explained below:

Class	No of students	Amount/ Student INR	Total Amount INR
1 To 10	0	15,000	0
11th, 12th	16	20,000	3,20,000
College	79	30,000	23,70,000
New Addition (school)	12	20,000	2,40,000
New Addition (college)	18	30,000	5,40,000
Total	**125**		**34,70,000**

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 1,65,600 (Assuming her salary is being increased from INR 18,000 by 15% with 2/3rd share coming from the scholarship project since she spends 2/3rd of her time here. Hence provisioning INR 13,800 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 4,500
- Postage, stationery, refreshments etc. – INR 20,000
- Conveyance for outstation students, home visit – INR 20,000
- Total Administration expenses – INR 2,59,600

Scholarship Budget for 2026 - 27 (All values in INR):

Budget Item	Budget 2025 - 26	Estimated Actuals 2025 - 26	Budget 2026 - 27
Scholarship for 125 students	34,95,000		34,70,000
Travel expense reimbursement	15,000		15,000
Career counselling	50,000		50,000
Admin expenses	1,88,000		2,59,600
Contingency	20,000		20,000
Total	**37,68,000**	*	**38,14,600**

*Actuals spent till date is INR 27,29,318.
*Budget is practically flat with a 1.25% (INR 46,600)