

SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDENTS - SUPPORT A CHILD (SAC) PROJECT

HISTORY : Asha Chennai scholarship project started in 2000. A lot of the funding came from the Princeton chapter of Asha US for the initial 2 years. In 2002, with Asha code AA, the project came to be known as Support A Child, where individual donors came forward to sponsor students' education. Since then, there has been steady increase in the number of students under this project and equally steady increase in # of donors/donations. Year after year, the project is streamlined more and more. Currently we have 131 students on our list of Scholarship project. The project completed 15 years and we are all set for starting the next academic year (2017-18) with AP series

Last year, a new IRS rule has come into place which mandates that all earmarked donations must be spent for the purpose that the donor intended and proof to be submitted to this effect. Since this is not possible in the donations received for scholarship project, we decided not to accept earmarked donations, This means a donor cannot select a specific child/children as in previous years. This new rule is having a negative impact on our donations since donors are deprived to choose child/children of their choice .

HOW WE WORK : A Focus Group comprising of Asha volunteers meet periodically and plan events for the year. Applications for Scholarship are given on a Sunday in June/July and announcement to this effect is made on Asha Website. Students are selected for scholarship by the Focus Group and a Home Visit is made by a person appointed for the same to ascertain the correctness of facts given in the scholarship application. Once we are fully satisfied with the facts, the student is finally selected. We disburse the amounts to the students in 3 installments in order to monitor/review their academic performance and give them counseling. We try to understand their needs and help them.

REPORT FOR 2016-17: We received over 125 applications last year and we selected 29 students (AO Series) in 2016. We had the approval to provide scholarship for 130 students in general category and 10 in special category. However we selected only 128 in general category and 3 in special

category. Scholarship Eligibility for students for the academic year were set as follows:

Class 1 to 10 - Rs 12000 ; Class 11 & 12 - Rs 17000 ; College Students - Rs 20000

SCHOLARSHIP STATISTICS :

	GIRL S	BOY S	TOTAL
CLASS 1 TO 10	27	33	60
CLASS 11 & 12	17	11	28
COLLEGE STUDENTS	26	17	43
TOTAL	70	61	131

FINANCIALS FOR 2016-17 : Amount required to meet the education expenses of above 131 students was Rs. 2056000. We have received donations to the tune of Rs. 2150000 (this number is based on data received from Rajaram in January this year and it also includes USD 10000 coming from a single donor on 18/5/2017) We have paid out first and second installment to students and 3rd installment payment is scheduled for June 17 & 18th.

Disbursement details are as follows:

First Disbursement in October 2016 = Rs 661052
Second Disbursement in Jan 2017 = Rs 815691
Third Disbursement scheduled in Jun 2017 = Rs 450000 (estimate)

PROPOSAL FOR 2017-18: This academic year, 2017-18, we will be starting the AP Series for the new scholars. Announcement will be made on our website around 6th of July 2017. Scholarship Application Forms for new students will be issued on July 16 at Raga Sudha Hall. We plan to have the same number of students as last year, ie, 130 students in the general category and 10 students in the special category. Number of students to be selected is not decided as yet and depends on discontinuation/rejection of present scholars. 15 students will be completing their degree/diploma this year. Considering the problems faced by us in the previous years, Focus Group has decided not to provide scholarship to students outside Chennai.

Some students are paid amounts far lower than their eligibility amounts as their fee structure is extremely low. We feel these students are genuine, they do not produce false documents, they go to government schools and

colleges and they are the real needy ones. We would like to compensate these students in any other manner like tuition, conveyance, clothes or any other.

TECHNOCRAT : The proposal to use the services of Technocrat was sought last year and was approved. To recap, Technocrat is an organization that identifies the potential of the students and connects them to the courses that the government offers with job potential. It offers career guidance until they become gainfully employed. They help the students in finding the job in the government sector. We had arranged a session wherein Technocrat did a presentation to class 10, 11 and 12th students and a one to one counselling/guidance which was attended by 12 students. We are negotiating with them for a reasonable fee and once it is done, we will pick up deserving students from our list of scholars and help them build a strong career.

BUDGET 2017-18

	BUDGET 2016-17	ACTUAL 2016-17	BUDGET 2017-18
#of students	140	129	140
Scholarship to 140 students for the academic year 2016-17	64*12000=768000 31*17000=527000	16,76,675 + 1,75,000	21,75,000
Total	44*20000=880000 21,75,000	18,51,675	21,75,000
Travel Expenses reimbursed to students for disbursal	12,000	8,430	10,000
Spoken English Career Counselling	30,000 2,00,000	0	0

		10,000	2,00,000
ADMIN EXPENSES:			
Data entry	5,000		
conveyance for home	6,000	0	5,000
verification	72,000	3,513	3,000
Malliga's salary	4,500		
Postage	5,000	75,225	72,000
Stationery/Xerox	3,000		
Conveyance	5,500	7,412	8,000
Tea/Snacks/Refreshments	1,000		
Contingencies	1,000	3,101	5,000
Others	103,000		
SUB TOTAL		2,092	3,000
		4,905	7,000
		1,000	1,000
		1,000	1,000
		98,248	1,05,000
Computer for Admin/SAC (50%)			13,000
GRAND TOTAL	25,20,000	19,68,353	25,03,000