Project proposal to Asha for 2015-16

1. Current Status

We are thankful to Asha UF/Florida for sponsoring Payir’s initiatives in improving the learning levels of the children in and around Thenur village since 2008-09.

Some of the major activities of Payir’s educational and related initiatives supported by Asha are listed below:

**Intervention program**
A quick summary of the current scope and activities from the last year:

- 3 government schools of Nathakkadu, Thenur & T. Kalathur being supported — mostly primary sections are the focus
- Key activities include ABL level assessment, differently abled child support, general government school teacher support
- Additionally an evening class for 25 kids supported by 2 teachers at Thottiyapatti
- Key activity highlights:
  - Magudam (‘Thiraimai thiruviza’) a large district level sports and cultural program was arranged that had participation from 14 schools. Over 900+ students were selected for participation of which over 600 student received prizes
  - Academic achievements - Nathakkadu high school has had a 100% result; Thenur had 87% result; Kalathur ADW was the only school to be graded ‘Yellow’ (as the best)!
  - Tour – Every year we take the children on excursions. Last we year we took our school and kids from the surrounding villages for an excursion to Pachmalai - around 45 kids from outside participated.

**Payir School**
A quick summary of the current scope and activities from the last year:

- The School currently has 40 students across UKG to 5th Standard supported by 8 full time teachers including PT & Karate masters
- Additionally Payir is also providing partly government funded residential school support for drop-out kids (ranging from 3rd to 8th std.). About 11 students take advantage of this facility, however we have approval for 50 students.
- The ‘Skype’ based distance learning have stalled due to network connectivity issues, but we are aggressively pushing to get them restarted and also make the same available to government schools
- Key activity highlights from last year:
  - 2 kids won Trichy level Karate competition
  - Co-curricular activities – Kids were encouraged to organize and perform skits no the occasion of Kamarajar’s birth anniversary, Independence Day, Annual day etc. These have provided kids a lot of confidence in public speaking and organizing.
  - Excursion – outings to local planetarium and airport were under-taken
  - Training – 3 teacher training sessions done at Vidya Vanam, Anaikatti and Marudam, Thiruvannamalai to understand teaching without books, understanding child psychology etc.
Payir - project proposal to Asha 2015

Apart from the above programs currently supported by Asha, Payir is working with the location administration around a new ‘Nutrition program’

**Nutrition Program**

This is a new ‘end to end’ program that was started in the February 2015 under the ambit of the Department of Integrated Child Development Services and the State Planning Commission using district infrastructure. Give below are the key highlights of the program objectives and scope:

| Why | • Nearly 70% of girls aged 15-19 are found to have anemia; Malnourishment levels are high  
• This not only affects the girls, but the newborn infants they will have in a few years |
|---|---|
| What | • Develop and distribute supplementary nutrition food items aimed at increasing calorie levels and balancing the daily nutrition intake  
• Provide training to children on nutrition as well as health and sanitary practices |
| How | • Payir will develop the consumable food items for daily consumption and training content  
• Distribution to beneficiary children will happen through government anganwadis (with Payir supervising)  
• Periodic measurement of vitals and Hg levels to track progress |
| Measurement | • Creation of Test and Control schools  
• Baseline measurement of vitals and blood tests  
• Periodic tracking |
| Estimated Budget | • Estimated Budget – Rs. 1,25,00,000 out of which government is funding approximately Rs. 95,00,000 |
| Reach & Duration | • All adolescent girls in government schools in Alathur Block of Perambalur District (~ 3,200 girls)  
• 300 days |
2. Highlights of current programs

- Over 60% of school-designated “slow learners” in government schools have come back to normal learning levels
  - Indirect impact on test performance and drop-out rates (observed)
- 90% of children complete high school. Rate of high school graduates seeking college education has improved to nearly 70% (from negligible numbers a decade back)
- Nearly 50% of severely malnourished children were improved their nourishment levels to move out of the WHO-defined severely malnourished segment. Nearly 70% showed significant improvement
- Thenur and surrounding villages have become a benchmark for the rest of the district

3. Support needed for 2015

3.1 Payir School

Though we have a robust setup now with regards to the regular school activities, we believe we are yet to extend the same rigour outside the classrooms. With this in mind we propose that we invest in the following areas within the next year.

1. Lab area – A science lab area needs to be available for the kids to perform various lab experiments. For the purposes we propose a 570 sq ft. Area to be built within the current Payir premises.
2. Sports – We have created a play area for the younger kids, the older kids (over 6th Std.) don’t have enough play facilities. With this in mind we plan to invest in the following:
   a. Indoor play room – Around 4 carom boards with required furniture, 4 chess boards, 1 Table tennis board.
   b. Basketball court – A full sized basketball court with 6 basket balls
3. Cultural activities – The kids are being actively encouraged to participate and in many cases direct skits, plays, dances and elocution. For purposes of encouraging the kids across Payir School and the local schools we intend to setup a ‘Green room’ complete with make-up kits and props.
4. Co-curricular activities – Payir School already uses the services of Karate, Dance / Music and PT teachers regularly for its kids. We would be grateful if Asha could sponsor the fees for these staff.
5. Special Children – Payir School is inclusive with the differently abled children learning with and like all the children. That said, there is a need to have a special child tutor to address specific aspects about their growth and learning.
6. Training of teachers – We think it is important for our teachers to keep themselves abreast with the latest in teaching in similar institutions elsewhere – with this in mind we would like to send them to 2 to 3 trainings throughout the year. These trainings might be applicable both for the Payir School and as part of the intervention program.

3.2 School intervention

7. Expand Govt. School intervention – Reach out to 4 more schools within the area. This will need an additional support of 6 teachers at roughly a monthly salary of Rs. 3500. They will provide support to existing teachers in the ABL method, will support students with special requirements – currently activities being done as part of the Asha supported initiative.
3.3 Nutrition Program

8. Supporting Nutrition Awareness – There is a grassroots level awareness initiative required to sustain a change in the nutritional habits of the target populations of the X villages within the Perambalur district. For this we will need support of Preethi Xavier (Senthil’s life partner and a trained Homeopathic doctor) along with another 4 senior support staff who have experience with healthcare.

9. Program Monitoring – The above identified health staff shall also additionally support the monitoring of the program – gathering metrics (growth stats, vitals & blood tests etc.) to monitor progress; identify areas of improvement in delivery and administration; ensure acceptance of nutrition at the level of children (school going and dropouts).

3.4 Additional Funds requirement (for 2015-2016)

Below is a summary of outlay for the 2015-2016.

### Capital Costs (One time)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Group</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Unit cost / Month</th>
<th>Annual Cost (Rs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lab</td>
<td>Building a lab area</td>
<td>570 sqft</td>
<td>~6,00,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab</td>
<td>Lab equipment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>~2,00,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Co-currucular</td>
<td>Carrom + Make up – Material + room setup etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Co-currucular</td>
<td>Basketball court – Paving the court + equipment</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,00,000</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

**Totals** | Rs. 9,50,000 |

### Operating Costs (Recurring)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Group</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Unit cost / Month</th>
<th>Annual Cost (Rs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teacher’s support &amp; School Co-currucular</td>
<td>Teacher Training</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6000</td>
<td>48,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity Group</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Units</td>
<td>Unit cost / Month</td>
<td>Annual Cost (Rs.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School intervention teachers</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3500</td>
<td>2,10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>EC Tutors</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3500</td>
<td>1,68,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excursion</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>Support staff (Preethi Part time + 1 experienced staff)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4500</td>
<td>1,62,000</td>
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<td>Other full time staff</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>72,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel – 500/day @ 200 travels</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>1,00,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Rs. 7,90,000</strong></td>
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