EDUCATION PROJECT PROPOSAL 2019 – 20

of PAYIR TRUST submitted to Asha for Education U Florida Chapter

Organizational Details

Name of the Submitting Organization : Payir Trust
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Introduction

Payir was founded in 2004 January by Senthilkumar Gopalan, an engineer who had worked in India and US in various industries ranging from Thermal Power Plants to Information Technology.

Vision: Payir envisages the transformation of Indian villages into a socially stimulating, self reliant, growth oriented community rooted in the principles of Truth - a society where people practice and interact with the highest moral values

Payir believes that the eventual ownership and implementation of ideas of holistic community development should come from and be owned by the community having its own set of leaders/experts. The existing learning environment does not provide scope for the development of such leaders/experts- leaders in local village governance; in areas of rural arts, crafts and culture; in local ecology; in traditional practices of farming, health and engineering; in local water bodies management and such areas of expertise which focuses on holistic rural empowerment and development. A customized learning center is an effort in line to nurture such leaders by working with a small set of children from their formative years.

The intervention program in existing government schools aims to introduce a number of systemic changes needed to increase the percentage of attendance at school around Thennur.

- By making school more engaging and activity oriented for students
- Creating the right environment in terms of infrastructure, social education to parents and community at large on shift on attitude towards inclusive and holistic education.
Updates from 2018-19

Learning activities within the campus

Payir School

This year, we had a combined strength of 56 kids – kids from the nearby villages and kids from away villages who left school in between. While the additional number of students added this year were satisfactory, the changes brought into the teaching methodologies have been of great satisfaction. We are no longer tied to complete the syllabus – but spent more time in taking children out on nature excursions, working on crafts and helping them build their own kitchen gardens (they harvested and cooked them too!) There was also drama and dance practices that continued throughout the year.

Experiential learning

- This year 4 of our kids stayed 8 days at Puvidham school in Dharmapuri and learnt many methods to live sustainably. They were also exposed to water conservation and sustainable agricultural practices. The kids not only shared their experiences with others but also put into practice a few, leading other kids. Tooth powder making is one of them!
- A 3 day workshop was arranged for kids of 6 to 8th around Pottery and various traditional dances such as – kolatam, silambam, puliyattam etc.
- The students from Thenur, Nathakadu, Kalathur including Payir schools attended a 5 day sports training camp at the District Sports arena. They practiced swimming, basketball, football, athletics and other sports during this time. The kids got a certificate to the kids.
- 15 children from our residential school (including 7 girls) attended summer camp at “Trichy Kalaikaveri”. They were exposed to classical dance (Baratham), vocal and instruments like Tubla / drums etc.
- The children participated at the IIM, Trichy Kite festival, travelled to Svanubhava at Anaikatti, attended craft week at Marudham, participated as part of a music troupe at Vaanam festival by the Casteless Collective & Neelam at Chennai.
- Some of our children were part of the rehabilitation work being done for victims of cyclone Gaja at the Nagapattinam

Parent Teacher’s Association

We have been having regular PTA meetings where we have had almost 75% attendance from parents. Parents continue to support and encourage our teaching methods and their involvement is seeing tangible results.
In-School Nutrition

We continue to serve food in school during mid-day, additionally we also provide fruits, nutrition ladoos, millets, legumes/pulses as supplements a various snack and interval breaks during the school day.

Career guidance for 10 and 12 kids

This year career counselling was conducted under guidance of Mr. Aravind from Coimbatore. Counselling was attended by 35 parents and around 50 children. This year we saw 15 students go on to higher education with 12 of them being girls. Of these kids 10 of them will require our financial support to complete their degrees.

Initiatives with government schools

School Intervention

We are currently supporting 5 primary schools and 3 high schools. Payir had to replace a permanent Tamil teacher who retired, and our replacement teacher was able to handle 40 students in a ad-hoc request and still deliver 100% pass. Payir intervention staff bring in the alternative teaching methods from the Payir schools to the government schools as well – which has seen good reception.

Thiramai Thiruvizha (7th edition)

A sports cum cultural festival has been conducted yearly by Payir for the government schools in Alathur Block of Perambalur District. This year 1600 students from 17 schools ranging from standards 1 to 9 participated in the event. Various athletic events and cultural events like – mime, fancy dress, quiz etc. were conducted. Over 800 winner certificates were given away. We are thankful to the Rover, MSW students who helped in conducting the finals of the events in district sports arena. We would also like to express our gratitude to ‘Dream India’ for helping us conduct the finals for Cultural events.

E-vidyaloka classes

Through Skype based teaching, English, Maths and Science are taken for 6 to 8th standards. Currently these classes happen at the Nathakadu government school and are attended by around 46 students.

Special coaching

We have identified kids in 6-9 standard who are lagging behind and provide them special coaching as part of the school, this has shown very good results. Kids from Thottiyapatti and T.Kalathur show great interest in the evening classes and hence these continue to be progressed by us.
School health education

Our school health education, a sustained initiative, has now reached 22 schools – an increase from 15 the previous year. The initiative has become far more structured with permission granted by the Chief Educational Officer of Perambalur District.

During an interview with teachers and children about this program, a couple of School Head Masters appreciated our health workers for talking about reproductive health which is normally skipped by the school teachers. A transformational change for many girls has been their understanding of menstruation – a cultural taboo.

Teacher Training

- Azim Premji Foundation organized “Mediyil thisai maani” (Stage orientation) - a 3 day event in Kodaikanal. It was attended by Karthika and Preethi, they had a chance to interact and share our experiences with 50 other participants from various government schools and alternate schools.
- A student education engagement workshop conducted by Mr. Senthil of ‘Cuckoo’ was attended by 12 of our teachers. The workshop dealt with various techniques to teach Mathematics and English.

It is refreshing to see our teachers evolve in concepts of child development by observing and learning. For a long time, everything that was taught about child friendly learning seemed new and contrary to all that our teachers were told about education. One of our teacher expressed “once we realize that there is joy in learning something new, that teachers are now the students, the mind seems limitless, eager to be filled with richer experiences!”

Budget for 2019-20

Below is our entire budget for the various initiatives we do for children at Payir School and Government schools, not including food for residential children, children excursion, summer camp, Thiramai Thiruvizha, School Health Education, Supplementary Nutrition and Career Guidance.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Group</th>
<th>Activity Details</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Unit Cost/Mo (INR)</th>
<th>Annual Cost (INR)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alternative Learning Centre</strong></td>
<td>Junior teachers (less than 5 yrs. experience)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>2,16,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Senior teachers (5 - 10 yrs. experience)</td>
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<td>9,000</td>
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<td>Head teacher (More than 10 yrs. experience)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Special teacher – for special kids</td>
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<td>8,000</td>
<td>96,000</td>
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<td>PF @ 12%</td>
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<td>Karate master (no PF)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PT master (no PF)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Excursion – 3 day trip 30 junior kids and 4 teachers 350 per person /day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Excursion – 5 day trip 25 senior kids and 4 teachers 350 per person /day</td>
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<td>Teacher Training – 5 day residential training</td>
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<td>16,000</td>
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<td><strong>Government School Intervention</strong></td>
<td>Primary school support</td>
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<td>Slow learners at grades 6-9 for 4 schools</td>
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<td>4,500</td>
<td>2,16,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Resource person(s) on extra-curricular programs (Rs 200 per day for 100 days)</td>
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<td><strong>Sub Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Asha-U.Florida Budget</strong></td>
<td>Payir funding through other sources</td>
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<td>Funding from the previous financial cycle</td>
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