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Modified TEA Trust Proposal

From Lakshmi Suryanarayanan – observations based on site visit with N.N.V.Prasad and Jebadurai a couple of weeks back.

The modified proposal is drawn up in consultation with Mr. Arputham of TEA Trust..

The TEA Trust Proposal was submitted to an Asha Chapter in the US in January 2002. It originally aimed to provide environmental education and other non-academic yet important aspects of education that are not now addressed by schools directly. The plan was to support 5 government schools in the villages in the vicinity of Tea Trust office in Reddipalayam. TANPIC, an NGO in Tamilnadu was supporting the TEA Trust with expertise and resource persons. However, closer look at the government schools points to the need to improve the basic literacy and numeracy skills of the children. Their awareness of environmental issues is fairly satisfactory.

What seems required now-

The government schools are inadequately staffed. It is a teacher on voluntary retirement, or no teacher posted in an existing vacancy, whatever be the reasons the children are faced with a situation of one teacher for as many as 50 of them and that too in all grades from 1 to 5. It was therefore decided by TEA Trust to focus on strengthening the government schools through providing teachers as soon as possible. So, in January 2003 the TEA Trust appointed one teacher each in the schools at Kolathancherry and Venbakam village schools where the situation was at its worst. It is also realized that it is imperative to provide training to teachers with special emphasis in developing skills required for handling multi-age classrooms, using learning- teaching materials, using discussion techniques and facilitating peer to peer learning strategies. This is expected to help real learning happen, as opposed to more memory based learning. (rote learning systems now). A reworked proposal based on the present requirements of the schools is submitted below.

The reworked proposal aims at working thoroughly with just 2 schools *that will be covered within the budget approved earlier*, and based on this experience of the year 2003-2004 to decide to continue support and or expand.

Kolanthanchery – Primary School (govt. school)

No.of students who will be benefited is 55 to 65. With school improvement it is expected that at least 20 more village children might enroll in the school every year.

The school has a temporary Headmaster on deputation from a neighbouring village, who will be relieved of this duty in May 2003. Should another permanent person not be posted in the school it would be wise to have two teachers so that the students learning will not be affected very much. Otherwise one teacher (the existing teacher with required training should be sufficient)

Estimated Costs for the academic Year 2003-2004

Village Level meeting	-	1000
Learners Achievement Tests	-	3000
Infrastructure, floor	-	35000 (Flooring in very bad shape, as children are seated on the floor)
Vessels for kitchen (noon meal scheme)	-	1000
Plates for students	-	1000
Learning Materials	-	15000
Salary for teacher (May2003- April2003) (Max 2, min -1) @ 1000 / month	-	24000 (15000 if one tr. is sufficient)
Toilet	-	10000
Worksheets and other materials	-	2000

Total		92,000

Venbakam Panchayat Union Primary School (govt. school)

No.of students who will be benefited is 110 to 120. With school improvement it is expected that at least 20 more village children might enroll in the school every year. The school has 2 decent buildings and the roof repair work is expected to be completed by end of May 2003.

The TEA trust teacher and the government teacher have shown keen interest in training

Village Level Meeting	-	1000
Learners Achievement Tests	-	5000
Plates for students	-	2000
Vessels for kitchen	-	1500
Learning Materialals	-	20000
Salary for teacher 1 teacher @1000/month	-	12000 (May2003- April2003)
Worksheets and materials	-	3000

		44500

TEA Trust School – Little Flower Primary School (LFPS)

The school has

- 2 Airy well-ventilated, spacious rooms, newly built with funds from Japanese agency CARITAS.
- 2 teachers and nearly 60 children of age groups 3-10 years.

Many this have changed since the time the proposal was submitted.

As things are now the Tea Trust School really also needs support for its functioning.

A note on what was happening in Jan 2003 and changes that have happened since Jan 2002

According to Mr. Arputham –

TANPIC was supporting TEA Trust with expertise and money. TANPIC was getting funds from other NGOS and was able to fund TEA Trust to some extent. They supported the opening and sustaining of TEA TRUST School – Little Flower Primary School near Karumbakkam village. This school was started in June 2002 for the children of the nearby brick kiln workers and the children of Karumbakkam village. The children from the village have to walk about 0.5 km to Little Flower Primary School, Whereas earlier they had to go to Palur 4 km away for the school till Dec 2002, TANPIC was paying the salaries of the co-ordinator (Mr. Arputham) and the teachers of the LFPS. However with TANPIC not receiving their funding they have stopped helping LFPS from Jan 2003. Hence teacher salaries are pending for Feb and March 2003.

The children after TEA TRUST School are from very poor backgrounds. They come to school without breakfast or lunch. Hence the request for the nutrition

- a. Rs 2 per child / day for breakfast
- b. Re 2 per child / day for lunch for 212 days in the year for the children estimated to be 100 in June 2003. (Now only 60 children in the school)

Mr. Arputham expects the government to provide the noon meal after 3 years. The chances of the school being taken over by the government completely is very small because it had already started, but there is a possibility of this becoming an government aided primary school. (if TEA Trust moves correctly).

Mr. Arputham wants to complete the toilet and ensure water facility for the TEA TRUST School.

Estimated Costs for 2003-2004

Learners Achievement Tests	-	3000
Learning Materialals	-	15000
Vessels for children	-	1000
Salary for teachers(2 teachers)@1500/month	-	36000
Worksheets and materials	-	3000
*Bore well for water	-	15000
*Complete the toilet	-	10000
*Motor + tank	-	15000

For kids Breakfast and mid day meal expenses		
Rs. 4 x 100 x 212 days	-	84,800

1,81,000

*(May be Arputham could find local funding for the infrastructure of the TEA Trust School)

Common Expenses

Co-ordinator's salary (May2003- April2003)-	48000
(Travel) M R Report (BDO)	- 1000
Printing & stationary	- 1000
Travel Expenses @ 500 / expenses	- 6000
Administrative – postal, audit, account,	- 12000
Photography-telephone-hospitality	
Facilitator From Chennai (2000*12)	- 24000
(Note the cost would really be Rs 48000 which would be shared with another project).	
Travel expenses for Facilitator	- 6000

Total	- 98000

The Balwadis near the above two schools to help improve the the very precious pre school time of 2-5 age group children. These children will be coming to the above mentioned govt. schools. Hence the plan to include the balwadis and equip them with learning material for the children.

Materials for the balwadis and primary schools	-	20,000
(boards, learning materials can be made in house at Tea Trust with the help of a young man and his asst. on salaries of Rs800 and Rs500 respectively for 6 months. It is expected that the materials made in the Tea Trust workshop could fetch some earning for the Trust by selling to other schools.- (800+500)*6		7800

		28000

Total Budget

Total Budget for 3 schools to be taken up by TEA Trust

Government Kolanthanchery	- 92000 (Can be reduced by 40000 if the flooring is not done and mats are provided for the children to be seated, and only one teacher is employed)
Venbakam Panchayat Union Primary School-	44500
Private Tea Trust School	-181000 (Can be reduced by 10000 if the tank need not be built)
Making materials	- 28000
General Admin	- 68000
For facilitator from Chennai	- 30000
<u>Other schools Reddipalam and Guruvamedu</u>	
<u>Mid-day meals Plates / bowls for children</u>	
<u>@Rs 15 / piece (60+ 200)</u>	<u>- 4000</u>

	411500

(Can be brought down by 50,000 to Rs 3,61,000 close to the original amount asked for.)

Mr. Arputham requests that Asha take up the responsibility of paying the teachers appointed at Kolathanchery and Venbakkam, for 4 months (Jan-April 2003 – Rs 8000) and Tea Trust teachers and the coordinator for 3 months (Feb to April 2003 – Rs 21000). This would add an additional Rs 29,000/- to the budget. Otherwise the funding period for the project should be considered as Jan 2003 to Dec 2003.

Please note- The estimated budget does not include teacher training, which we hope to be able to take care from a common ASHA Chennai training programme planned third week of MAY 2003 at Chennai. (May be Arputham should find local funding for the infrastructure of the TEA Trust School)