

Proposal for

**Addressing the Widening Digital Divide Efforts in  
Quality Education in Remote Tribal Regions**

**Submitted  
To**

**GIVING CIRCLE FOUNDATION**

**By**

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## **Background**

It is now widely recognized that the pandemic has affected children's education very seriously all over the globe. While a large number of children have managed to continue their education through online facilities, a very large proportion of children have per force dropped out for the simple reason that these facilities are not accessible to them. This could be for a number of reasons, beginning with age – how can children in primary grades be expected to study online courses? to location, to ability of the parents to afford an appropriate phone/tablet, etc. This has led to a significant widening of the already existing digital divide. As the Governments continue their lockdown of schools and other educational institutions, in their anxiety to protect children and youth, there are several children in imminent danger of dropping out and/or finding it too difficult to cope with studies. The parents on their part are hard put to find a way for taking the education of their children forward, as they themselves are unschooled, and can provide little or no support for their offspring's learning.

In the tribal regions, poor quality of teaching, too low a teacher-student ration, overcrowded classrooms and inadequate learning spaces, have placed tribal school children as such at an extreme disadvantage, which their parents have been unable to address through private tuitions, etc. due to poor economic conditions. The pandemic has thus literally created an educational crisis in the tribal villages.

## **The solution:**

Aragamee has sought to address this crisis through learning centres, which cater to children and youth below 18 years of age. Youth volunteers from the village, with minimum qualification of 10<sup>th</sup> pass are trained, and supported to develop as Edu-volunteers to provide quality education in the learning centres. Learners are supported with necessary TLM. This effort has not only helped to bridge the learning gaps brought on due to the pandemic lead lock-down, but also enabled learners to develop a love of learning, and a sense of joy in reading. The sense of fear and stress that children often felt in going to normal schools has quite disappeared, and much before their teachers enter the classroom, children are ready and waiting for classes to begin.

It is proposed to take this effort for bringing excellent and joyful learning to the villages through learning centres forward with the support from **Giving Circle Foundation**. The support from Giving Circle Foundation would be used as follows:

- a. Support to 2 Edu-volunteers for 2 learning centres
- b. Support to 80 children for Learning material
- c. Monitoring and handholding of Edu-volunteers

**Budget Break up:**

<b>Giving Circle Foundation Proposal II - Budget for Jan to Dec 2021</b>		
<b>Expenditure head</b>	<b>Unit cost</b>	<b>Total cost</b>
Remuneration to 2 youth volunteers for one year@ of Rs.3000 per month per volunteer	36000	72000
Learning material for 80 learners @Rs.250 per learner for 80 learners	300	24000
Travel for monitoring @Rs.800 per month	800	9600
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>105600</b>