

## SASTRAPOSHINI SCHEME

### GUIDELINES

1. Sastraposhini is a programme envisaged by Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE) for strengthening science education in schools of Kerala. Under the programme, model science laboratories are established in selected Government high schools of the State to provide a better learning environment. The programme was launched by KSCSTE in association with the Department of Education, Government of Kerala in the year 2003. So far, KSCSTE has successfully established more than 200 science laboratories throughout Kerala. Presently, KSCSTE has decided to implement the scheme only in government high schools of Kerala.
2. The objectives of the Programme are:
  - To stimulate interest in science at the school level by the performance of experiments in Physics, Chemistry and Biology by students
  - To provide hand on experiments to students for observation, inference, interaction and self-designing of experiments
  - To organize training programmes for the teachers for demonstrating scientific experiments
  - To evolve low cost laboratory kit based on readily available material for the performing of a range of experiments
3. Presently, government high schools in the state are eligible for this scheme. Currently, the total estimate to establish Sastraposhini scheme is around Rs.8,00,000/- (Rupees eight lakh only) per school.
4. Applications are invited in the month of **JULY** every year. The Principal/HM of the school shall apply for the scheme in the prescribed format given in KSCSTE website and forward it through the Head of the Institution for required financial support.
5. The schools applying for the scheme shall have the following basic requirements:
  - ◆ Sufficient space to establish Sastraposhini laboratories (separate rooms for physics, chemistry and biology laboratories)
  - ◆ Qualified teachers in three subject areas (physics, chemistry and biology)
  - ◆ Sufficient number of students in the high school section.
  - ◆ Extend of administrative support from the Headmaster/Principal/Management for the smooth implementation of the scheme.
6. The application in the prescribed format should be submitted to: Director, Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment, Sasthra Bhavan, Pattom P.O, Thiruvananthapuram – 695 004.
7. The **Apex Resource Group** (ARG - Consists of subject experts/academicians/ nominees from DPI) of Sastraposhini scheme / an Expert Committee constituted by KSCSTE will inspect the schools applied for the scheme and based on the report of the committee, KSCSTE will decide on implementing the scheme in the respective schools.

8. As the initial step, KSCSTE will issue sanction letter for the implementation of the Sastraposhini Scheme and the HM/Principal of the selected school shall submit an undertaking to KSCSTE in Rs.200 stamp paper within two weeks from the date of sanction.
9. As the next step, KSCSTE will release a refurbishing grant of Rs.2,00,000/- to the HM/ Principal of the selected school to establish the basic infrastructural facilities like flooring, painting, wiring, plumbing, tables and racks in the designated rooms. For more details, please refer *How to utilise the refurbishing grant?* attached in Downloads section.
10. KSCSTE finalizes the list of equipments, consumables, perishables and miscellaneous items (more than 500 items) required for the laboratories with recommendation by the Apex Resource Group based on the present school curriculum. The supply of laboratory items directly to the schools will be done by the agencies selected by KSCSTE through open tender process as per government rules.
11. KSCSTE will release the amount required for the purchase of laboratory items to the respective schools.
12. The HM/Principal shall intimate KSCSTE regarding completion of the refurbishing activities, after which KSCSTE will entrust the selected firms to supply the laboratory items to the schools. The school authorities shall verify the quantity and other specifications of the delivered laboratory items as stipulated by the Council. Based on the satisfactory report of the HM/Principal, the Council recommends for the release of the payments due to the concerned firms.
13. **Training programme for teachers:**
  1. Two teachers each in Physics, Chemistry and Biology from Sastraposhini schools are invited to participate in a training programme. The trained teachers will be in charge of each laboratory
  2. Scientists/academicians offer classes on creating science awareness, good laboratory practices, setting up of laboratories and practical demonstrations. Based on the training received, the teachers will be encouraged to carry out innovative projects in science for children utilizing the facilities of Sastraposhini laboratories
  3. Laboratory manuals and the visual experimental aids and models will be provided to the selected schools
14. The project has to be completed within one year from the date of sanction. Any delay in completion of the project shall be intimated to the Council at the earliest.
15. In connection with inauguration of the Sastraposhini laboratories, a public function should be conducted in consultation with the KSCSTE.
16. After the successful completion of the work, the HM/Principal should submit a report along with ((i) Project completion certificate, (ii) Copies of photographs of each laboratory (interior and exterior including name boards), (iii) Certificate stating the receipt of all laboratory items as per the list sanctioned by KSCSTE, (iv) Utilization Certificate and Statement of Expenditure within three months).

17. Separate detailed Statement of Expenditure and Utilization Certificate for refurbishing grant and grant for the purchase of equipments, perishables, consumables and miscellaneous shall be furnished. Further, all the documents shall be certified by the Headmaster/Principal of the school.
18. A **Monitoring Committee** will be constituted by KSCSTE consisting of expert members from different subject areas to evaluate the status of established laboratories and guides the faculty to take necessary steps for the smooth functioning of the laboratories.
19. A **Management Committee** shall be constituted at the school level consisting of Principal/HM, science teachers, representatives of students and PTA to co-ordinate the day today functioning of each laboratory.
20. The utilization of laboratory facilities at the school by students/teachers from nearby high schools should also be encouraged.
21. Separate stock registers with details of all the laboratory items should be maintained and the particulars of experiments conducted in the laboratories should be regularly recorded. The asset created in connection with Sastraposhini scheme at the school has to be properly maintained by the school and upkeep of the same will be ensured. The sale/transfer/disposal of the assets shall not be undertaken without the prior approval of KSCSTE.
22. The Council may enforce additional guidelines for the operation of the Sastraposhini scheme from time to time and the institution is required to observe such directions in the conduct of the scheme.
23. The Council reserves the right to terminate the project at any stage if it is convinced that the grant has not been properly utilized or appropriate progress is not being made. In addition, the Council may designate Scientist/Specialist or an Expert Panel to review the progress of the scheme.