

# Asha for Education™

## Site Visit Questionnaire

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www.ashanet.org

Dear Volunteer

Thanks for conducting this site visit.

The following set of questions is only a suggested guideline. Some of the following questions may not be relevant or applicable to the particular project you are visiting, but please do try to answer as many of them as possible. Please note that Part sB & C necessitate that the information be gathered through conversations with the children and their parents, and not simply the group's teachers and staff.

Please feel free to attach any documents/photos you feel are pertinent to the project.

Thanks.

- Asha for Education

**Date: Jul. 24, 21**

**Name of the Project: Asha Trust - MUMBAI CENTER**

**Name of the Organisation Running the Project (if different): Asha Trust/Asha**

Was your site visit announced? Yes, it was planned ☐

No, it was a surprise visit ☒

	Project Contact	You Name (Asha volunteer conducting the visit)
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**PART A: Particulars about the organization and its environment**

**1. What are the different focus areas of the organization? (give a rough estimate of the % of their total effort/funding)**

Community development 20% Education 70% Health 10%

Other \_\_\_\_% (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**2. What is the administrative structure of the group (e.g. Board of Directors/Grassroots-based)?**

There are 6 volunteers who are otherwise fully occupied in their own professions and day-jobs. These volunteers support the project in their spare time. The functional roles supported by these volunteers are- coordinator, treasurer, project steward and webmaster

**3. Are there any other organizations working in the area providing any one or all of the services provided by the visited organization? (Briefly mention their names and their objectives)**

Organization	Objectives of the organization
Sahyog	Working in the community to support the people with food rations during the lockdown period.
Vashi Parivar Foundation	Support the needy with nutrition and support the Bajaha and Ghomadih projects in UP village

**PART B: The organization and the community it serves**

*(Information to be gathered from parents and children)*

**1. Approximately how many families live in the area?** There are around 4 to 5 thousand families in the area.

**2. What do the parents do for a living? (Agricultural worker, Daily wage laborer etc.)**

Informal sector workers - street vendors, house maids, daily wage labourers, autorickshaw drivers, construction labourers etc.

**3. At the time of enrolment, does the school ask for the names of both parents?**

Yes ☒

No, just the father's name ☐

No, just the mother's name ☐

**4. How often do the teachers meet the parents?**

Only twice during the whole year, as the classes were closed offline. Only online classes were going on.

**5. How do the parents participate in the organization's activities? (e.g. by contributing their time, money or labor in the school's activities etc.)**

Negligible. Occasional volunteers.

**6. Are there any Government Schools in the area?**

Yes ☒

No ☐

**7. If yes, how far are the Government Schools from the community?** The nearest government schools are 2 Kendriya Vidyalyayas in the area with limited admissions. There are a couple BMC/municipal schools in the area.

**8. Why did the parents choose this school over the Government School?**

I would say that both parents and children love the Asha centre. Parents look at Asha as an avenue for the betterment of their kids. Students spend 3 hours here but seem to learn much more than their other / formal school teaching. The teachers work hard to make the subject more interesting and understandable and to engage the students. This keeps their motivation to learn high. The students are also given free access to several desktop computers and tablets- this truly brings them on the 'right' side of the digital divide.

**9. When you visited, how many children were present in the class?** Online attendance of around 15 kids per class.

**What is the regular class strength?** 10-15

**Comments:** Due to the covid situation, classes are being conducted online.

**10. Do the children seem to enjoy coming to school?**

Very much.

### **PART C: Project particulars**

*(Information to be gathered from students and staff)*

**1. What is the mode of teaching in the school? (Check the appropriate choices)**

A. Formal (State Board, Central Board etc.) ☒

**till what class?** 10 th

B. Non-Formal Education (NFE) ☒

do the students also attend formal school?

C. Vocational ☐

D. Other ☐. Please specify Yes, children attend formal school and visit the Asha center for tutions.

**2. If A (Formal), up to what grade(LKG, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> etc.) does the school conduct classes?**

6 th to 10 th

**3. If B (Non-Formal Education) how many of the children also attend formal schools in the area?**

                      
**If none do, does the project plan this for the future?** yes

**4. If Non-Formal Education, does the organization create its own study material (books, games)?**

They have a few students following the NIOS curriculum.

**5. If C (Vocational), what do the children do after they finish training?****6. How many staff or volunteers are recruited from the community? 5**

**How many of the staff are women? 2**

**7. How many teachers have left the school in the past one year, and why?**

3, as Asha Mumbai has stopped the 11 th and 12 th classes so the teachers conducting these classes have left Asha. Two of them will be returning as volunteers for shorter periods.

**8. How many new teachers have joined in the past year? 4****9. Does the organization train the teachers?**

Yes ☐

No ☒

**If yes, how do they provide the training? .**

**10. How much is the staff paid?** There is one cleaner who is paid 3 to 4 thousand INR p.m. and one Admin who is paid INR 9 to 10 thousand plus conveyance

**Is it on par with the salary paid to the staff in the Government schools?**

Yes ☐

No ☒

**PART D: Financial resources of the organization**

*(Feedback from the person conducting the site visit)*

**1. Do you think the proposed amounts in the budget are reasonable?** Yes ☒ No ☐ Maybe ☐

**2. Are all items covered in the budget?** Yes ☒ No ☐ Maybe ☐

Comments: Most of the things are covered

**3. Is there anything you think should be added or removed from the budget?**Yes ☐ No ☒***If you recommend any changes to the budget, please explain your reasons for this.*****4. Did you discuss the proposed changes with the project? If so, please describe their response.**

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**PART E: Comments***(Feel free to attach documents if necessary)*

I have had the opportunity to work with the Asha center and Asha volunteers (both current and ex-) in various activities. As part of Sahyog, we had partnered with Asha Mumbai during the pandemic induced lockdown periods for community-based medical, foodgrain sustenance and sanitization activities. This has been a slight detour from the usual role that Asha Mumbai plays in the sphere of education. However, it was a very timely one and very much appreciated by the local communities here. It is worth noting that the beneficiaries of these actions included families of both current and ex alumni of the Asha centre. What has been even more satisfying that the foot soldiers on the ground, driving these community outreach activities have largely been Asha alumni volunteers. I was privileged to see this direct positive impact of Asha on community and individual development.

We visited the new space where the Asha center has relocated to - it was a timely move from the old premise and gives Asha Mumbai a better handle on actual content delivery / offline teaching of the students because of the larger available area. As the pandemic has ebbed and surged over the past year and this, Asha Mumbai has been quite flexible with managing both online and offline modes of teaching. Looking through the attendance registers, one can see that the average attendance through the months of October to February has been around 60. Since the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of the pandemic, all offline classes (for the younger kids) have had to be unfortunately shut down. Currently, the same space is being utilized for up-skilling training of 10<sup>th</sup> grade-passed students; this includes tailoring and nutrition classes. There was an ongoing class of around 20 students at the time. I have been informed that a total of 50 students are benefitting from this (2 batches). We also got a chance to interact with some of the beneficiaries of both a- a recent ration provision drive and an emergency fund drive to enable payment of school fees (external, formal school) of a few students in the community. In addition, this space supports coordination activities for the other projects (Sai Bangoda tribal area centre of 25-30 students and basic education of 60-70 students in 2 villages in UP)

The major takeaway for me has always been the confidence of the kids going through the 'Asha system'. It may be a sweeping generalization but the overall 'development' at both the individual and community level does feel tangible at Asha Mumbai!