

Asha for Education™

Site Visit Questionnaire

P.O. Box 322 • New York • NY 10040-0322

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: Mar. 18, 13

Name of the Project: Gnanadeepam

Name of the Organisation Running the Project (if different): Gnanadeepam

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

No, it was a surprise visit ☐

	Project Contact	You Name (Asha volunteer conducting the visit)
Name	Mrs Uma Dandapani	Prathibha Nandagudi
Address	37, Pozhichalur main road Pammal Chennai - 600 075 Tamilnadu, India	250 SW Valeria View Dr Portland OR 97225
Phone(s)	91-9444051434	423 902 4023
Fax		
E-mail	gnanadeepams@sify.com	aptigudi@gmail.com

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 ____% Education 80% Health 20%
Other ____% (please specify) Special Education and Vocational Training.

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

Managing trustee - Uma Dandapani supported by son (Jay)
5 other trustees
10 committee members
Parents as committee members
1 Legal Advisor
1 Auditor

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

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? All the children come from families that live in the vicinity of the school

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

Most children come from families that are poor & mom is the sole bread winner. Parents are unemployed, daily wage laborers, construction workers 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?

Uma meets with the parents during enrollment & tries to understand the parents & the family background. A pernt-teacher meeting & other activities are encouraged to get the parents to participate. However, there is very little or no participation from the parents.

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.)

Participation is very limited. Mom is working way too hard to make ends meet. A lot of the dads are ignore their mentally challenged child and are not invested in their future. Some come home drunk & actually pose to be a poor role model.

6. Are there any Government Schools in the area?

Yes ☒

No ☐

7. If yes, how far are the Government Schools from the community? A little over an hour

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

Gnanadeepam is prepared well to work with mentally challenged children & so, this is better than the generic attention received in the Government school.

9. When you visited, how many children were present in the class? 35 to 40

What is the regular class strength? 50

Comments: The kids were in in various parts of the school based on the skills learnt and the progress made over time.

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

Yes. The children were involved with their class activity & responding well to the teacher. It was humbling to see the children squat on the floor, greet us gleefully & proudly show off their talents. It takes a lot from each of them to focus & learn. The school is equipped with creative & inexpensive books, toys & other tools to keep their attention. The teachers also seem to be very caring & patient.

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?

B. Non-Formal Education (NFE) ☒

do the students also attend formal school?

C. Vocational ☒

D. Other ☐. Please specify _____

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

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

NA. (They are special children.)

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

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

Yes. The staff is very creative & have come up with cost effective & meaningful toys and tools.

5. If C (Vocational), what do the children do after they finish training?

Some children work at the school as weavers and tailors. Part of the earnings is kept by the school to create a savings for the child. Few students have been placed in jobs outside the school.

6. How many staff or volunteers are recruited from the community? 22 - includes teachers, weaving & tailoring instructors, special educators & therapists

How many of the staff are women? 15

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

None

8. How many new teachers have joined in the past year? 1 therapist**9. Does the organization train the teachers?**

Yes ☐

No ☒

If yes, how do they provide the training? 1 year govt course for special educators, RCI training.

10. How much is the staff paid? 4000 - 10000 per month - salary range is wide. It depends on whether the staff is a weaver, trainer, therapist or a special educator.

N/A for the question below. This is a special school for the mentally challenged the government school does not have comparable staff.

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: The school has given proposals for teacher funding, raw material funding, purchase of a vehicle and others. The school understands that the chapter will chose to fund one or more items on the budget.

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.

The budget will be discussed by the team. The school has several different needs & the volunteers have to decide on what we would be most comfortable funding.

4. Did you discuss the proposed changes with the project? If so, please describe their response.

The school will be happy with whatever support is extended by the chapter.

PART E: Comments

(Feel free to attach documents if necessary)