



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: 1/27/2023

Name of the Project: Digambarpur Angikar-Angikar Kishalay Niketan.

Name of the Organization Running the Project (if different): Digambarpur Angikar

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

No, it was a surprise

| | Project Contact | Your 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 10 % Education 70 % Health 20 %
Other % (please specify)

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

The group is more grassroots based. They have set leadership, including Swapan Mandel, Sourav Sannigrahi, and Narayan Shamontho. Teachers include Ashok Mishra, Uma Rai, Tumpa Bhari, Priyanka Das, Tanusvi Rao, Sona Moni, Momota Mandal.

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 |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Government School (operating across large river from DA KSSN) | Youth public education |
| Local Health Centers | Healthcare |
| | |

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?

~100k families

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

Some parents are daily-wage laborers around Kolkata, some work in agriculture, and factories mostly unskilled manual labor. Some of the mothers are also involved in the sex trade, as there is a brothel nearby. It is typical of the area for many boys to turn to crime and young women/girls to join the brothels. Some mothers are also housewives.

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?**

Once a month the teachers meet with the mothers and discuss progress and challenges for their students. They also talk about uniform, shoes, cleanliness, grooming, etc., and talk about what's going on with kids' studies. Some mothers also interact with the teachers outside of these meetings.

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.)

The parents participate by spending time at school meetings with teachers, where the teachers often try to teach them hygiene tactics to make sure their kids are well-groomed. The mothers are also taught how to encourage their kids to study and deal with behavioral issues.

6. Are there any Government Schools in the area?

Yes ✓

No ☐**7. If yes, how far are the Government Schools from the community?**

Pretty far, across a large river. It would be difficult for the students to commute there and back everyday.

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

Distance plays a major factor, as well as safety traveling to and from school. The parents respect the teachers as well. The school cultivates a good social environment for the children as well. The school is also committed to the educational journey of students beyond grade 6 when they transfer to government school. They follow up monthly to see progress of alumni. The drop out rate for those going on to secondary school is low.

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

171 in total at the school we support, the classrooms appeared almost full. Good attendance rate and several parents attended for the site visit as well.

What is the regular class strength?

171 students, 87 girls, 85 boys

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

The children do seem to enjoy coming into school. They appeared enthusiastic and recited poems for us. A long line formed for the poem reciting. They were very excited. Several students commented that they viewed school as a good social outlet. A few also commented that they liked their teachers. Many of them talked about their hopes for the future; they want to be nurses, lawyers, engineers.

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 _____

They follow the government standards for education. They get some books from the government, but they use their own books as well.

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

6th grade

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?

4. If Non-Formal Education, does the organization create its own study material (books, games)?**5. If C (Vocational), what do the children do after they finish training?****6. How many staff or volunteers are recruited from the community? How many of the staff are women?**

All of the staff are recruited from the local community. A majority of the staff are women. The top leadership are men, but the teachers are primarily women. We were able to meet 5-6 teachers, 2 support staff, and a treasurer. There are a total of 7 teachers.

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

One female teacher did leave due to marriage commitments.

8. How many new teachers have joined in the past year?

One teacher replaced another teacher.

9. Does the organization train the teachers?Yes ☐No ☒

If yes, how do they provide the training?

10. How much is the staff paid?

The staff is paid around \$46/month (INR 3850)

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 could use funding for midday meals, as they do not have it and many students do not have the means to bring lunch to school. Also, they would benefit from physical exercise equipment to provide the students more opportunities to remain physically healthy.

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.

^^^See comment to Part D Q2

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

Currently working with Irish Non-Profit Educo to improve or create new facilities for the project. It has also been proposed to increase the school's offerings up to grade 12. As mentioned previously, it would also be good to get funding for a midday meal provided by the school. The project has expressed their concern for mid day lunches as well as physical exercise equipment which will be prioritized during disbursement.

PART E: Comments

(Feel free to attach documents if necessary)

The organization noted a lack of material for physical education. It would be nice to have a fundraiser to raise money for PE supplies for the kids. Currently, they have a couple swing and jump ropes but not

much else. While talking with the teachers, they expressed a need for more technology to introduce pictures and video into the education. We will follow up with the project and ask if there is anything that our volunteers can assist with such as teaching them how to use certain software. We spoke with many parents who said they enjoy the monthly meetings and the attitude of the school. Their children like their studies and are happy. Overall, the children seem to be enjoying the amenities in the school but there are some things that we can focus on during our disbursement season.