

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: Jul. 16, 16

Name of the Project: Yelandur Project

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

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	Himanshu Yajaman	Santhosh K Shankar
Address		2300 OST, Houston 77054
Phone(s)		
Fax		
E-mail	himanshu.yajaman@gmail.com	ssk.stanford@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 20% Education 25% Health 25%
Other 30% (please specify) Arts and Cultural Upliftment

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

Aviratha is a Bangalore basedNGP with over 3000 group member subscription email list. Of these members, over 300 play an active role in the organization. Aviratha is made of about 30 work-groups that focus on various different projects in the region of Karnataka in India. The groups are managed by a 15-person core committee which is governed by a 4-member board of trustees. The board of trustees provide Aviratha on legal and legislative guidance.

Aviratha started as a movie club and slowly incorporated many cultural events and literary development activities before being recognized by the Hampi University in Karnataka. They organized workshops to promote poetry, drama and folk art in Karnataka. In alliance with Ranga-Shankara in Karnataka, they supported production and development of plays and skits and supporting local artists.

Today Aviratha has various focus groups in a diverse field of subjects such as arts and literature, music, photography, environment, primary health care and education. One of their recent efforts in Bangalore to promote afforestation lead to planting of over 600 trees near the town of Davangere in Karnataka.

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
<multiple organizations>	There are over 250 NGOs in Karnataka that work on child-education related areas.

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? The town of Yelandur has a population of approximately 15000 people. The town is further split into many villages and sub-divisions. 18 schools in this district are supported by Aviratha in various ways.

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

Yelandur is in close proximity to various tourist locations in Karnataka (B.R. Hills, M.M. Hills, etc). The tourism industry is primarily dominated by the higher income families. Yelandur also has a fabric industry and an agricultural economy (producing sugarcane).

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?

Parent-teacher meeting is not in the agenda of the schools. This activity does not occur on any regular basis.

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.)

There is no structured support offered by the community to the schools. The schools are run by government employed officials who are responsible for the daily activities.

6. Are there any Government Schools in the area? Yes No

7. If yes, how far are the Government Schools from the community? All the schools supported by Aviratha are government schools. 18 such schools in the area are supported by the Yelandur project.

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

N/A

Why did the parents choose the government school instead of private schools?

Government schools offer education free of cost and also some added benefits as a free mid-day meal to the students and/or free drinking-water and/or free-books, and/or free-uniforms. Hence these schools are chosen over other privately owned schools. Other criteria for the choice of government schools can be driven by factors such as distance from residential area, or sometimes by un-availability of any other educational institution (such as in remotely situated communities).

9. When you visited, how many children were present in the class? A total of 5 schools were part of the planned visit. Of these three of them were working during the time of the visit. Each had approximately 60, 25 and 20 students. The other two schools (project officials claimed each has 30 students) were off during the time of the visit.

What is the regular class strength? <Mentioned above>

Comments:

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

The students and teachers seemed very motivated in the educational activities. The students seemed dedicated to studying and achieving their goals through hard work and persistence. The teachers were dedicated to providing the students with better educational quality and improving the school facilities.

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?**

Most schools offered training upto 7th grade. One of the schools offered training upto 10th grade. However, the schools typically consisted of only 3-5 class rooms. Teaching instructions were imparted to a range of students across various grades simultaneously.

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?** The Yelandur project is run by Harish of Aviratha Project. Harish has at least 5 people from the local community helping him out with the activities on the ground. Harish is a resident of Yelandur and has good working knowledge and is an experienced practitioner.

How many of the staff are women? <Information unavailable>

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

8. **How many new teachers have joined in the past year?** <Information unavailable>

9. **Does the organization train the teachers?** Yes No
If yes, how do they provide the training?

10. **How much is the staff paid?** <Information unavailable>

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: <See question 4 below>

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 question 4 below>

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

Aviratha submitted a project proposal to support 476 students across 18 schools in the district of Yelandur in Karnataka by providing them notebooks for education. The major portion of the budget estimate was the cost of notebooks.

The site visit however made it evident that the needs of the various schools differed. While most of them would benefit by having notebooks supplied to them, some of the schools lacked some basic facilities (such as clean drinking water, fence to keep the school premise secure, benches to accommodate students with special needs, etc). These schools and the students could benefit more from making available to them such facilities.

Recognizing this aspect, I would encourage Asha Houston to offer the project lead from Aviratha flexibility to use the proposed funds as per need basis. I would estimate 80% of the funds raised for Project Yelandur of Aviratha to be used for the proposed notebook distribution drive and the rest to be used on a case-basis. However, if Aviratha is using the funds to procure items other than those mentioned in the proposal, the focal point of Aviratha must communicate this change with Asha-Houston.

PART E: Comments

(Feel free to attach documents if necessary)

<See attached documents with pictures>