

Asha for Education™

Site Visit Questionnaire

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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: Jan. 17, 18

Name of the Project: Nirmaan

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

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	Chandrashekhhar Puch	Tanushree Rawat
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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 50% Education 50% Health ___%
Other ___% (please specify) _____

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

There is a governing board with Chandrashekhara Puch, Mayur Patnala, and Nagesh Palla as the core founders. The governing board oversees the work done by Central team comprising of CEOs of all Nirmaan projects. Each CEO then has center heads, COO, and CFO for each project. There are individual center based teams.

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
	No

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? Not relevant, as the main education service (career counselling) is provided through tele-helpline, and that spans geographical boundaries of immediate community.

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

Parents of most student callers work as farmers, or daily wage laborers. A report shared by Nirmaan states that 60% of overall parents are illiterate, and only 4% of the parents (usually fathers) have completed graduation. Occupation wise, 75% of the parents are marginal farmers followed by 13% daily labourers and others. 98% of the families have less than Rs. 1 Lakh annual income. More than 50% of them have less than Rs. 50,000/- annual income.

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?

N/A

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.)

Parents of students who are served through telecounselling do not participate in any way, however for career workshops and career sathi programs, if parents are encouraged to interact with the counsellors.

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

7. If yes, how far are the Government Schools from the community? N/A

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

Since Nirmaan isn't a school, this question is not entirely related as is. Nirmaan Vidya Help Line is chosen by parents and students because it is one of its kind help available to students from rural Indian communities that guides them about their career.

9. When you visited, how many children were present in the class? I spoke to 4 students from Career Sathi mentoring program. I did not see a Career counselling workshop happen in person.

What is the regular class strength? N/A

Comments: N/A

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

Yes! They have testimonials of students' feedback in their office. I spoke to four students from Career Sathi program (mentor ship program). They expressed great gratitude for getting opportunities to pursue Computer application, medical technician, and diploma in engineering courses because of counselling provided through Nirmaan.

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 Career counselling

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

Nirmaan doesn't run a formal school, but they support students in High School (Grades 6th to 10th) to get into Junior college to pursue careers of interest to them, as well as help students find scholarships, and other funding opportunities to support their education.

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

All children that Nirmaan helps, attend formal schools in their own communities.

If none do, does the project plan this for the future? N/A

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

Yes, Nirmaan has its own career counselling books that they provide to students in Career Counselling workshops that they conduct in Government schools. The booklets are available in vernacular languages and English. They have details about career opportunities, scholarships, and educational requirements needed for those opportunities. Pictures of the English version of this book are attached in the email. Book can be looked at here too:

1. in Telugu: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eX9bIxqfIIA&feature=youtu.be>
- 2, in English: <http://anyflip.com/azse/sktr/>

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

Nirmaan's work is not entirely vocational, however, they do teach students basic computer literacy, and soft skills of communication, and personality development. Students also go for exposure visits with Nirmaan staff. Last exposure visit took students to T-Hub. It is the largest incubator for startups in India, located in Hyderabad.

In career sathi program (mentorship program), students stay in touch with a mentor from the same field until they finish their degree, and move into a job.

6. How many staff or volunteers are recruited from the community? All

How many of the staff are women? ~50%

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

Less than 20% of Nirmaan staff have changed over the last year, this includes all volunteers, tele counsellors, and student mentors, as well as CEO, COO, and Board Members. More than 80% of Nirmaan staff continues to work with them still.

8. How many new teachers have joined in the past year? N/A**9. Does the organization train the teachers? Yes No**

If yes, how do they provide the training? Nirmaan doesn't train teachers, however, they train telecounselors to talk with callers, and support the students, as well as career counselors who conduct career workshops in schools.

10. How much is the staff paid? Rough average of salary is about 16,000/- per month

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: They have been given feedback to share detailed breakdown of 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.

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

Yes, I did discuss the proposed changes, and they agreed to send a modified proposal by January end.

PART E: Comments

(Feel free to attach documents if necessary)

Images from site visit can be found here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ashaforeducation/sets/72157691554956971>

Reflection on Nirmaan Site visit: Tanushree Rawat, Asha Volunteer

Nirmaan as an organization is filling a huge gap of career guidance for students in the Indian education system. Through multiple projects like Vidya Helpline, Career Sathi, and Career Counselling workshops, Nirmaan is providing career counselling resources to students from rural communities in India. They are currently present in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Assam states. Majority of students that they serve come from families of farmers in rural areas, or daily wage laborers. More than 50% of students have yearly family income of less than Rs. 50,000/- (roughly 780 USD).

When I visited Nirmaan for the first time, team from Bengaluru was visiting Hyderabad center for training purposes, as this is their first year running Vidya helpline in Karnataka. They thanked Nirmaan Hyderabad's team for allowing them to shadow their work, and for showing the nuances of everyday tele counseling.

Nirmaan office is in an independent house, with three rooms, kitchen, and bathroom. First room is the entrance, where Nirmaan staff members analyze their own data, or work on other reports etc. This room has 3-4 computers that staff members work on. Vidya Helpline runs out of the largest room, with at least 10 computer systems where tele counselors answer calls from students all day. The last room is the storage room, that houses the career workshop books, and other print material. It is worth noting that they are a very data driven organization. Their analysis of data is represented in their office for all to see. Nirmaan's dedication towards students shines through all that they do. Not only do they provide career counselling to students who need it the most, they also comb through government websites, and newspapers each morning, to keep a daily updated database of scholarships and opportunities available for students.

As the number of calls received far exceeds the number of calls that they can answer at full capacity, they are looking to add more lines to support calls. Till that happens, local center heads monitor number of calls that are answered at each center for accurate resource allocation of people and distribution of calls. Student details are recorded in their database, so that students can get continued support. Sometimes adults also call to ask for resources on behalf of their students, or to get guidance themselves as adult

learners. All these services are free of cost.

Nirmaan also conducts career workshops in government schools, where they provide career counselling books to students. See this video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eX9bIxqfIIA&feature=youtu.be>), and this video (<http://anyflip.com/azse/sktr/>).

I met four students who are part of Career Sathi program and had come to meet me to talk about their program. Three out of these four students are first cohort students, where as the other student is a third cohort student. He is still in school. Nonetheless, all students expressed great gratitude for getting opportunities to pursue higher education/ degrees in computer application, medical technician, and diploma in engineering courses because of counselling provided through Nirmaan. Their mentors are working professionals in fields aligned with students' interests. One of the mentors is in US pursuing higher education. Through Nirmaan, these students have also become fluent in computer literacy. They can fill out college and admission forms online, use email, and Microsoft Office tools.

Nirmaan staff try to take care of students as much as they can. This can be seen in the following example, where Nirmaan wants to open Spoorti Bhawans, residences for students in Career Sathi program to live. They explained that students oftentimes come from localities outside Hyderabad, or from rough housing situations. These residences will provide a community to students from Career Sathi program.

Overall, Nirmaan is a student centric organization trying to fill a gap that is often overlooked by urban educators, and corporate CSRs. They are meeting the needs of rural students, and empowering adults in communities where knowledge about career opportunities is very limited. Even when students might have access to resources, these resources are usually in English, and students have limited literacy skills in English. Nirmaan makes knowledge accessible by presenting it in local languages.