

Asha For Education

Uddami-CTC Project Site Visit Report

Date of project site visit: 01/05/2026

Name of the Project: Uddami India Foundation-UCTC

Name of the Organisation Running the Project (if different): Uddami India Foundation

Was your site visit announced? Yes, it was planned ✓ No, it was a surprise visit ☐

	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)?

It is an NGO that is registered as a trust under the Indian Trust Acts. Harsha is the executive director working with a group of trustees.

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)

The primary objective of the Uddami-CTC project is providing job oriented training such as computer training and communicative English and life skill education to underprivileged youth of first generation learners.

Uddami began informal computer training in 1999 with a simple but powerful mission: to empower underprivileged youth through practical skills for sustainable livelihoods. In 2005, its graduates formed Uddami India Foundation (UIF) to carry this vision forward. UIF's flagship program, UCTC, continues to offer free computer access and job-oriented training to youth and women from low-income communities. Over the years, UIF's work has grown to include feminine health, gender equality, and mental well-being.

There are for profit tuition centers for computer training and spoken English classes in Sovabazar and Lake Gardens areas of Kolkata but none of them provide completely FREE training to youth that are first generation learners from indigent families.

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?

Uddami has two computer training centers in Kolkata. They are located in Sovabazar and in Lake Gardens. Sovabazar is in North Kolkata while Lake Gardens is in South Kolkata. Youth from families that live in immediate localities around these computer centers as well other parts of Kolkata and even its suburbs are students of Uddami-CTC. Thus Uddami caters to millions of families.

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

The parents of these students are mostly daily wage laborers with occupations such as taxi drivers, mechanics, electricians, domestic maids, itinerant food sellers, street rag, paper, plastic, scrap metal collectors, etc. Most of the parents have not gone to college, while some (especially women) have not completed or even attended secondary school

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?

Parents and teachers meet twice for the six month program. The first meeting is at the beginning of the course as an orientation where teachers discuss rules, regulations, expectations, and time management with parents. The second occurs 3-4 months later or closer towards the end where parents can provide feedback and are asked if they see changes with their children. Teachers also update parents on their child's progress. Uddami also conducts home visits when necessary.

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 job course training is free, so no money is required for their children to complete school activities. The only requirement for parents is their attendance at the two parent-teacher meetings. Students that are selected for enrolment in Uddami are chosen through an initial home visit by Uddami staff to verify indigent and first generation learner status of applicant.

6. Are there any Government Schools in the area?

Yes ✓ No ☐

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

Uddami's computer training centers impart vocational training. There are many government schools that are nearby where the medium of instruction is in Bengali or Hindi and not in English and where children have no access to computers. The six month Uddami course is intended to supplement

education in government schools and prepare students for job interviews and workplace skills that are missing from curriculum in these schools, i.e. computers, communicative English, and life skills. Most students register for Uddami CTC training while being enrolled in post secondary schools or bachelors degree colleges.

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

This school helps students prepare for job interviews to increase their chances of finding high-value employment. The goal of Uddami is to supplement government schools and colleges instead of competing with them.

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

I visited Uddami's CTCs in both Sovabazar and Lake Gardens. Uddami's training is conducted in batch sizes of 10 students in each location. I could meet with two batches of students in the Lake Gardens CTC and one batch of students in Sovabazar during the course of my project site visit. 20/20 students were present in the Lake Gardens CTC.. 7 out of 10 enrolled students who had scheduled classes during the time of my visit were present in the Sovabazar CTC.

What is the regular class strength?

Uddami imparts it six- month training in two course sessions/year in two locations-Lake Gardens and Sovabazar. Annual enrollment capacity for each course session at each location is 40 students. Therefore a combined total of $(40 \times 2) + (40 \times 2) = 160$ students should graduate annually from the two Uddami's CTCs, if enrollment is at full capacity. The Lake Gardens CTC functioned at overcapacity in the period April 2025 to March 2026. 110 students received course completion certificates. 72 students received course completion certificates in Sovabazar during the same period and enrollment in this CTC was at ninety percent of full capacity.

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

The students were very enthusiastic about attending Uddami's CTCs. They receive a lot of help from teachers in both academic and non-academic matters. There was a counseling room available to allow students to discuss even non-academic matters with teachers. There are also many resources and programs available to students.

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? N/A

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

N/A

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)?

N/A

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

They use their computer, english communication, and life skills to find employment. The school also helps students acquire employment and follow-up with the jobs and students to make sure they are being compensated fairly.

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

All staff are recruited from the city of Kolkata. Some/most are former students.

7. How many of the staff are women?

All (100 percent) teachers are women

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

No teachers have left Uddami in the past one year. One teacher was recruited from the CTC program and another teacher was transferred to a separate program run by Uddami that is not funded by Asha (this program is funded by SMILE Foundation).

9. Does the organization train the teachers?

Yes ✓ No ☐

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

All senior teachers lead class curriculum, younger teachers shadow them initially, learn curriculum and material, then start teaching with guidance of senior teachers

11. How much is the staff paid?

Associate teacher minimum salary is 15k, senior teachers and communicative English teachers is 18k, life skills is 17.5k

12. Is it on par with the salary paid to the staff in the Government schools? Yes ☐ No ✓

The pay for the school is competitive and reflects the market price, but the school does not have the same funding as government schools, so those teachers get paid more because, as well, of their status as government employees.

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 X ☐ No ☐ Maybe ☐

2. Are all items covered in the budget?

Yes X ☐ No ☐ Maybe ☐ Comments:

3. Is there anything you think should be added or removed from the budget?

Yes ☐ No X ☐

If you recommend any changes to the budget, please explain your reasons for this.

N/A

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

N/A

PART E: Comments

(Feel free to attach documents if necessary)

Uddami fills a much needed gap in vocational training geared towards job oriented education in Kolkata for first generation learner youth from economically distressed families. Apart from the technical training that they provide, their counselling services are also beneficial to high risk children. Their methods of training are very practical. They also have support for other programs from international and domestic sources such SMILE Foundation, Her Future Coalition, Infosys. The students that I met really enjoyed the training and career help they have received from Uddami. Most of the students that are enrolled in Uddami's CTC program have done so based on recommendations of former students that have benefitted from Uddami.

I strongly support continuation of support for the Uddami-CTC program.

Uddami-CTC Project Site Visit Photos



Classrooms in Uddami-CTC Sovabazar campus.

Uddami-CTC Project Site Visit Photos



**Three rooms in this building are rented by Uddami for their
Computer Training Center in Sovabazar**

Uddami-CTC Project Site Visit Photos



Classrooms in Uddami-CTC Lake Gardens campus.

Uddami-CTC Project Site Visit Photos



Various rooms and spaces in three floors of this building are rented by Uddami for their Computer Training Center in Lake Gardens.