

HYBRID SITE VISIT REPORT – DUGLAPURA BRIDGE SCHOOL PROGRAMME

Project Implementing Agency : VIKASANA (*Organisation for Education and Social Development*)

Project name : Children bridge school programme-Duglapura

Location : Duglapura and K Chattanahalli village, Tarikere taluk, Chikmagalur District, Karnataka, India

Supporting Agency : Asha for Education

Date of Hybrid Site Visit : 14th March 2026

Virtual Visit by : Asha for Education Seattle Team (Virtual Participation) and In-person Visitors

In- Person Visitors : Mr. Amarnath from Shivamogga and Mr. Sunil from Bengaluru

Remote Participants : Asha for Education, Seattle Team

OBJECTIVES OF THE HYBRID SITE VISIT

- To facilitate an annual in-person and virtual review of the Duglapura and K Chattanahalli Bridge School Programme.
- To interact with children and staff and understand the educational and residential support provided through the bridge school center.
- To visit and observe the functioning of the children's center and sustainable land development activities.
- To understand the process of the One Time Project Activities
- To make a need assessment of the Bridge School Children Center
- To provide an opportunity for Asha Seattle members to virtually participate in the annual site visit process.

BACKGROUND ABOUT CHILDREN'S CENTER

Asha for Education began supporting the Vikasana Bridge School Children's Center in 2003, when the project was launched in the Bhadravathi Block of Shivamogga District. In 2010, with continued support from Asha for Education, a second center was established in Duglapura. The centers were created to provide free education, shelter, and care for underprivileged children, including orphans, school dropouts, child laborers, children of migrant and single-parent families, and those in need of care and protection. To ensure the long-term sustainability of the program, Asha for Education Seattle helped fund the purchase of 2.5 acres of agricultural land, while Vikasana mobilized resources to acquire an additional 1 acre. The income generated from this farmland is intended to support the ongoing operations and welfare activities of the children's center.

In its early years, the children's center served both boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 16. Over the years, approximately 300–350 children who studied at the center have gone on to complete

higher education and secure meaningful employment as nurses, agriculturists, DTP operators, drivers, and employees in private companies/institutions. Several former students are also continuing their education. Since 2017, changes in government child welfare policies have required boys and girls to be accommodated in separate residential facilities. As a result, girls identified for admission to the Vikasana Bridge School Children's Center in Duglapura have been referred to the Vikasana Bridge School Children's Center for Girls in K. Chattanahalli, located about 20 kilometers away. Each year, approximately 8–10 girls are transferred under this arrangement. The State Government has informed us that girls can be accommodated on the Duglapura campus if separate infrastructure and residential facilities are available. To meet this requirement, construction of a dedicated facility is currently underway. Due to the dust, noise, and other disruptions caused by the ongoing construction, all children have temporarily been relocated to the K. Chattanahalli center this year.

TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR HYBRID SITE VISIT

Time	Agenda	Time Allotted	Person Responsible
10:00 AM	Welcome and Self-introduction by Vikasana team and Children	30 minutes	Mr. Varghees Cleatas Chairman
10:30 AM	Interaction with Children by the In-Person Visitors and Remote Participants	30 minutes	Mr. Amarnath and Mr. Sunil
11:00 AM	Children Center Infrastructure Visit at K Chattanahalli	30 minutes	Mr. Varghees Cleatas Chairman and Bridge School Teachers
11:30 AM	Computer Knowledge Demo by Children	30 minutes	Mr. Jose K P Computer & English Teacher
12:00 AM	Cultural Program and Talent exhibit by bridge school children center	15 minutes	Bridge School Teachers & Vikasana Staff
12:30 PM	Vote of Thanks	2 minutes	Ms. Vibha Varghees Vikasana Staff
12:45 PM	Lunch with Children		
1:30 PM	Proceed to Asha Site Visit	30 minutes	
2:00 PM to 4:00PM	1. Asha Infrastructure / Building Visit 2. Asha Agriculture Land Visit 3. Jaivika Krushi Farm Visit 4. Girls Hostel Construction Visit	2 Hours	Mr. Varghees Cleatas Chairman

WELCOME, SELF-INTRODUCTION AND INTERACTION WITH CHILDREN

The virtual meeting commenced at 10:00 a.m. following the arrival of Mr. Amarnath and Mr. Sunil. The children warmly welcomed the visitors. Mr. A. M. Varghese Cleatas, Project Director, introduced himself, the staff members, and the children residing at the center. Members of the Asha for Education team participated remotely via Zoom, allowing them to engage in the meeting despite the geographical distance. The Vikasana team expressed its sincere appreciation to Asha Seattle for its ongoing partnership and unwavering support in advancing the education, care, and well-being of vulnerable children.

Mr. Cleatas provided an overview of the various development initiatives implemented by VIKASANA over the past 37 years. He then spoke in detail about the Bridge School Children's Center program, which has been serving vulnerable children for the last 25 years. He highlighted the significant role played by Asha for Education in supporting the children's center and explained how the partnership has also helped establish organic farming as a sustainable model to generate income for the center's long-term operations. He further shared insights into the educational, recreational, and developmental activities regularly conducted for the children.



All the children and staff introduced themselves, and the children also shared their aspirations and goals in life. Each child spoke about their individual dreams and shared them with the visitors. Mr. Sunil and Mr. Amarnath addressed the children, encouraging and motivating them to stay focused and work steadily toward becoming successful individuals. They also spoke about the continued support provided by Asha toward

their education, emphasizing that the children should remain grateful and express their appreciation through their achievements and success in life.

Ms. Bindu from the Children's Center then shared details about the children's daily routine on weekdays and holidays. The children also spoke about their English and computer classes, which are conducted twice a week, and explained how these sessions have contributed to improving their knowledge and skills. The visitors interacted with the children to understand



the impact of these classes on their overall development. The children further shared their achievements in sports, cultural events, and other extracurricular activities.

Two children, Ms. Shruthi and Ms. Lakshi, who participated in the National Children's Parliament in New Delhi, shared their enriching experiences. They spoke about meeting children from different regions of India, exchanging ideas, and gaining a deeper understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They also described how they critically reviewed the SDGs from a child rights perspective and contributed recommendations to an international platform to ensure children's voices are included. Additionally, they shared their memorable first experience of traveling by air. It was also informed that Ms. Shruthi was elected as the Minister for "SDG 3 – Good Health and Wellbeing." The visitors appreciated Vikasana for providing such meaningful exposure and learning



opportunities to the children. They encouraged the children to make the most of these experiences for their personal growth and to develop into responsible and thoughtful citizens. The interaction concluded with cultural performances by the children, including dance and singing. The Bridge School Children showcased their talents through Kolata (stick dance), group dances by younger children, and musical performances. The Asha team applauded and encouraged the children, and the event created a strong sense of motivation and confidence among them.

COMPUTER KNOWLEDGE DEMO SESSION BY CHILDREN

The children demonstrated their computer skills before the visitors through a live presentation. The computers used for this activity were donated by Asha for Education to support the children's skill development and enhance their computer literacy. The visitors asked the children questions on basic computer concepts, to which the children responded confidently. They further encouraged the children to expand their learning by effectively using platforms such as Google and other information resources to broaden their knowledge base.



CHILDREN CENTER INFRASTRUCTURE VISIT AT K. CHATTANAHALLI

Mr. Varghees Cleatas, Chairman of Vikasana, guided the visitors through the Children's Center at K. Chattanahalli, providing an overview of the existing infrastructure and facilities. These included the office room, maintained records and documents, study room, dining hall, washing area, kitchen, store room, library, playground, cultural room, solar lighting system, solar water heater, smart TV, agricultural land, and other amenities available at the center. The visit concluded with a vote of thanks, followed by lunch with the children.



CHILDREN CENTER INFRASTRUCTURE VISIT AT DUGLAPURA

Mr. Cleatas guided the visitors through the Children's Center at Duglapura and showcased the available infrastructure and facilities. These included the children's bedrooms and dormitories, the old and newly constructed kitchens, the teachers' room, office-cum-record room, grocery store room, toilets and bathrooms, as well as safety measures such as the installation of fire extinguishers. He also provided an overview of the various amenities and support facilities available at the Children's Center.



Mr. Cleatas further highlighted the additional infrastructure and facilities available at the Children's Center, including the office building, solar installations, water heater, and playground. He acknowledged the valuable contributions of several partner organizations and donors in strengthening the center's infrastructure and services. Support from People Progress India (PPI), Seattle, enabled the construction of five rooms, four toilets, two bathrooms, installation of solar lights and a water heater, and the development of horticulture and forestry plantations. SELCO Solar, Shivamogga, provided streetlights and smart classroom facilities. SMILE Foundation, Bengaluru, supported the installation of solar lights and supplied play materials, while MINDA Foundation, Bengaluru, contributed solar lighting systems. Birur Education Foundation (BEFC), Bengaluru, extended partial financial support for the construction of the new kitchen.

GIRL CHILDREN BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Cleatas further showed the visitors the proposed site where Vikasana plans to construct a separate residential facility for girls enrolled in the Bridge School Children's Center. He explained that the organization is actively exploring various funding sources to support this initiative, which



also includes the development of a digital learning center on the second floor. He also guided the visitors through the ongoing construction activities for the Girls' Children's Center and E-Learning Center, highlighting the challenges posed by limited financial resources and the need for additional support to complete the project. Mr. Cleatas expressed his sincere gratitude to Asha for Education for its continued support and cooperation in advancing educational opportunities and improving the lives of underprivileged children.

VISIT TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE FARM DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES



Later, Mr. Cleatas shared insights into the land development initiatives undertaken by Vikasana, followed by a virtual tour of the sustainable agriculture farm. He explained that when the organization purchased the 3.5-acre property, the land had no agricultural income and lacked any significant vegetation. Since then, Vikasana has transformed the area by planting more than 1,500 horticultural and forestry species. Mr. Cleatas highlighted the key land development activities carried out to date, including integrated farming practices, pulse cultivation, kitchen

gardening, nursery development, and the cultivation of coconut, banana, and areca nut plants. He showcased the growth of various fruit-bearing and timber-oriented trees, emphasizing the farm's role in promoting sustainability and supporting the long-term needs of the children's center.

Through various land development interventions, Vikasana is generating a sustainable source of income, earning approximately ₹80,000 to ₹100,000 annually from the sale of vegetables, coconuts, bananas, areca nuts (betel nuts), turmeric, and tamarind. The land currently hosts more than 500 timber trees, which are approximately 10 years old. In addition to generating income, the vegetables and coconuts produced on the farm are used to meet the nutritional needs of the children at the

center. A portion of the income generated is utilized for the management and operation of the bridge schools, while the remaining funds are reinvested in land maintenance, infrastructure improvements, and new plantations to ensure long-term sustainability. Mr. Cleatas informed the Asha team that the entire farm has been developed and maintained based on the principles of organic cultivation, reflecting Vikasana's commitment to environmentally sustainable and self-reliant practices.

JAIVIKA KRUSHI FARM (AVOCADO YARD)

Ms. Vibha, a staff member of Vikasana, guided the visitors to the Jaivika Krushi Farm, where she provided an update on the avocado plantation project supported by the Asha Chapter and individual donors. She shared that all 200 avocado saplings purchased through donor support have been successfully planted. The project has achieved an impressive survival rate of approximately 95%, and the saplings are growing well under regular supervision and care. To ensure the healthy growth and protection of the plants, green mesh fencing has been installed around the saplings. Additionally, drip irrigation and sprinkler systems have been fully established to facilitate efficient and consistent watering. Organic manure and soil enrichment measures, including the application of red soil as recommended, have also been implemented to enhance cultivation outcomes. The visitors were pleased to observe the progress of the plantation and suggested planting additional trees along the boundaries of the plot to provide adequate shade and further support the healthy growth of the avocado plants.



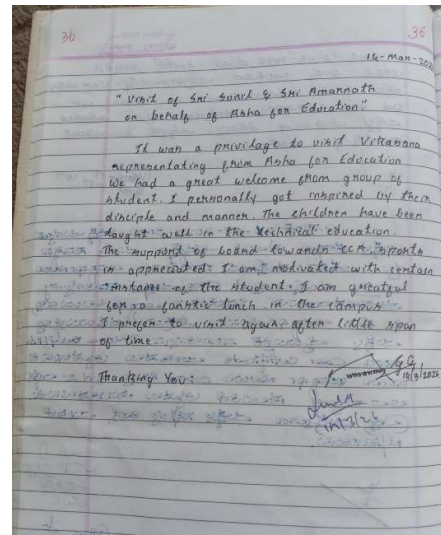
Ms. Vibha further informed the visitors that discussions have been initiated with the APOF agency to obtain organic certification for the farm, and the formal certification process commenced



in January 2026. As per the certification guidelines, the process is expected to take approximately three years. She shared that the initial site visit by the APOF agency has already been completed, and the necessary requirements and recommendations for obtaining organic certification have been communicated to the team. Regular weekly monitoring is being conducted to assess plant growth, pest management, and the overall health of the plantation. She also noted that, whenever technical assistance is required, Vikasana will coordinate with experts from the Department of Horticulture and the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Bavikere, to ensure effective farm management and adherence to organic cultivation practices.

Key Feedback Highlights from the Hybrid Site Visit:

During the hybrid site visit conducted on 14 March 2026, the in-person visitors, Mr. Sunil and Mr. Amarnath, representing Asha for Education, shared positive feedback regarding the functioning of the Vikasana Bridge School Children's Centers at Duglapura and K. Chattanahalli. The visitors expressed that it was a privilege to visit Vikasana on behalf of Asha for Education and appreciated the warm welcome extended by the children and staff. They were particularly impressed by the discipline, manners, and positive behaviour demonstrated by the children, which they found truly inspiring. They highlighted that the children are being provided with meaningful educational opportunities and valuable exposure, and commended Vikasana's efforts in supporting children from vulnerable backgrounds. The visitors also acknowledged the contributions and support extended by the board members, donors, and other stakeholders toward the educational initiatives of the centers.



Mr. Sunil and Mr. Amarnath shared that they were deeply motivated by the stories and experiences shared by the children, which reflected the positive impact of the program on their lives, learning, and overall development. They expressed their gratitude for the warm hospitality and lunch provided during the visit and conveyed their interest in returning to the centers in the future to witness the continued progress and growth of the children. Overall, the feedback reflected a strong appreciation for Vikasana's commitment to providing quality education, nurturing discipline, and promoting the holistic development and well-being of underprivileged children.

Suggestions to Children Center:

- Infrastructure Update
 - a) Update of Library Books
 - b) Purchase of New Refrigerator
 - c) Purchase of New Utensils for the Kitchen
 - d) Purchase of updated Activity Books/ Study Materials
 - e) Purchase of Sports Materials
- Student Education Support
 - a) Support for Higher Education
 - b) Identification of efficient child – look for sponsorship and scholarship
- Agriculture Land Development
 - a) Increase the Agricultural Productivity
 - b) Export Organic Products to incur Income to support Children Center

More pictures from the site visit available here - <https://photos.app.goo.gl/dUaGFipce8myuGUF9>.

The visit concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by the Vikasana team to the visitors. Vikasana expressed its sincere gratitude to Asha for Education (Seattle Chapter) for organizing the visit and for its continued support, cooperation, and commitment toward advancing the education and well-being of underprivileged children.