

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: Jan. 12, 04

Name of the Project: Vivekananda Public School

Name of the Organisation Running the Project (if different): Vivekananda Educational Center

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 | Sri. M. N. Murthy, Founder Secretary | Hithesh Nama |
| Address | Plot No 38; Journalist Colony;Road No:-3; Banjara hills;HyderabadAndhra Pradesh;INDIA. | WINLAB, 73 Brett Rd, Piscataway, NJ 08854 USA |
| Phone(s) | | 732-236-6826 |
| Fax | | |
| E-mail | | hithesh@winlab.rutgers.edu |

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 ____% Education 100% Health ____%
Other ____% (please specify) _____

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

Mr. M.N. Murthy, the head of the school, is the full-time in-charge of the school.

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 |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |

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?

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

Daily Wage Labourers

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?

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.)

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

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

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

The parents are interested in sending their kids to English medium schools rather than the Telugu medium Govt. Schools since a lot of them are migrant labourers from other states. Also most parents are not happy with the quality of teaching in the Govt Schools.

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

What is the regular class strength?

Comments: I saw students studying in almost all the classrooms.

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

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?** 10
do the students also attend formal school?
- B. Non-Formal Education (NFE)
- C. Vocational
- D. Other Please specify _____

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

10th

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?

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

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

9. Does the organization train the teachers?

Yes

No

If yes, how do they provide the training?

10. How much is the staff paid?

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:

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.**PART E: Comments***(Feel free to attach documents if necessary)*

- 1) At the outset, I would like to put this site visit report in perspective. This is the first site visit that I am conducting after joining Asha and I was not aware of the "Site Visit Questionnaire", which covers a wide variety of issues concerning the organization, the kids, and the teachers. Since I did not interact with the kids or the teachers I am not in a position to answer questions related to them.
- 2) Asha Hyderabad chapter is trying to help this school by trying to get funds from other Asha chapters to support the school. Also some of their volunteers have spent considerable time in preparing a project proposal for the school. The proposal is available in the files section of Asha-hyd yahoogroup. It contains most of the information one would like to know about the school.
- 3) The head of the school Shri. M.N. Murthy is highly devoted to the cause of educating his students even under the most trying circumstances. Eventhough he is facing an acute shortage of funds and is unable to pay the rent for the school building or his teaching staff's salaries regularly, his resolve is firm and is hopeful that he will be able to get funds to keep the school going. I must say I am deeply moved by his commitment to the school and to the much bigger cause of empowering children through education, inspite of his own poor health.
- 4) One of the local Asha volunteers, Major (Retd.) Uday Shankar is volunteering at the school for a considerable amount of time every day of the week by teaching some subjects to high school students and also helping with administrative work. His presence in the school should make it easier/comforting for other Asha chapters considering Vivekananda School for funding, since Mr. Uday Shankar is an active volunteer with the Hyderabad Asha chapter.
- 5) I think the school is doing great service by providing education to the underprivileged children in the slums in the adjoining areas. I would definitely recommend funding this project. The project needs urgent funding and since it is being closely monitored by the Hyderabad chapter, I think other chapters can be confident that their money is being used for the right purposes. From my brief site visit, I can definitely vouch for that!