

Rural Development Trust (RDT)

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Project Steward – Seattle Chapter

07/22/2026

Asha for Education

Please cite your affiliation with Asha, and prior experiences with site visits (if applicable).

- I am a Project Steward of RDT project. I am also a Project Coordinator Seattle Chapter.

Please check the following that you were able to ascertain during the site visit.

A. Operations

- What does a typical day look like for the children in school and hostel? What about weekends?
 - The children come to the tuition center around 4pm every weekday and leave the center at around 7pm. During this time the students perform the school homework. They also get healthy event snacks. The tuition center teachers are well connected to the students and their parents and making sure the students are taken care of to reach their goal.
 - The challenging children are brought to the RDT center twice. The therapists make sure the children are given different therapy activities.
 - The students come to the RDT center for computer and swing lessons.
- General well-being of the children - do they look happy there in school?
 - The children are generally happy and willing to learn. They are reasonably health and active,
 - The computer center students are eager to learn and move up.
 - The swing class students are happy to move up and stand on their own to earn some income.
- Quality and nutritional value of food being served in the hostels.
 - Yes, they are simple but nutritious foods.
- Is the learning and progress of the students on par with expected level
 - Yes, the students are definitely progressing and getting better.
- For special needs, customized plans for each student?
 - Yes, special therapist are attending the students.
- Girls - boys ratio, hostel facilities, wardens, safety?

- Girls to Boys ratio is generally 50:50, but at the computer center, more girls and at the swing class only girls (ladies).
 - The children are generally safe when they come to tuition center.
- What do the children who graduate from the project do?
 - The children are made sure they complete high school and placed in the college. The high school pass rate is 100%.
- Staff and Teachers - do they think it is a great place to work?
 - The teacher and staff are generally happy and committed to making the children educated and getting better.
- Is the student list accurate on the field vs. what has been shared?
 - Yes. I could not see all centers but the number of students seen various centers are close to reported.
- Is the teacher and support staff list accurate on the field vs. what has been shared?
 - Yes.
- Is attendance being taken for both students and teachers/ support staff?
 - Yes.
- Dropout rate of students?
 - Not known.
- How do they recruit the teachers and support staff?
 - From the local community.
- Is there a nearby school or project working on a similar focus area?
 - None. But the children go to the local government schools.
- Do they deny access to education for a student from an underprivileged background?
 - Definitely not. Many underprivileged children are brought to the center.

B. Financials

- Is the project partner maintaining a good record of all transactions?
 - Yes.

- Is the project partner doing cashless transactions?
 - Partly. The partner gets necessary materials to the different centers. But the salary and other transactions are partly cash and partly through bank transfer.
- Are the salary payments being made on time?
 - Yes.
- Are the salaries in line with the budget line-items?
 - Yes.
- Does the project partner have accounting software or is it vouchers and handwritten?
 - Mostly manual.
- Any new programs being added?
 - Python program language class is added.
- Any new hiring needs?
 - No.
- Attrition rate of support staff and teachers?
 - I have not seen the staff leaving.
- Sources of funding?
 - The main source of funding is Asha. Local government provides some support for the Challenging students and for migrant schools. Individual donors provide cash and material support.
- Is the project partner charging fees for beneficiaries?
 - No.
- Are the fee nominal and in-line with the region?
 - NA
- Do they have dropouts because of a student not being able to afford the tuition?
 - NA

Report:

I visited the center on July 22nd, 2026, in the evening. I went there in the evening mainly to see the tuition center. The partner first took me to the migrant children's class, which was hosted in the government school with a RDT Staff. It is good move this year, RDT made sure the local government school is supporting these children.

The partner then took me to the RDT center where I saw the challenging children's classroom. The therapist was busy with the children, and she explained the issue with each children and how she addresses them individually. The classroom was filled with therapy materials that were bought through last year onetime fund sent by Asha.

Later visited the computer classroom and the swing classroom. The computer classroom had 2 classes, one for basic computer skills and another classroom for computer programming. The instructors were knowledgeable. The students are mostly from high school and some from college.

The swing classroom was filled with local ladies. They had 2 classrooms, one for the basic swing lessons and another classroom for advanced swing lessons. The students were very happy to do the classes. They do work at home with the swing machines either donated by RDT or their own. The main purpose of the classes is the student will have their own swing job to earn income after completing the classes.

Later I visited 5 to 6 six tuition centers around in various villages. The setup in each village was the same. They have one or two local teachers running the classes, mostly outdoors, in the space allotted by the locals. I saw children arriving at the tuition class and they were provided with notorious snacks. They showed their work and were able to present their work to the classroom.

Please include photos/ videos from the site visit. Kindly ensure that there are no privacy issues with the material, e.g. are not from the children's homes or have sensitive content.

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Any comments or concerns from the site visit that is a matter of serious concern for Asha?

The main concern with the project is that the main source of funding is from Asha. They have hard time securing funding from other organizations. They do get funding from local government, mainly school facilities, and other local donors as materials.

Would you recommend support for the project?
Yes.

Site Visit Photos:

Migrant Children Classroom:



Physically Challenging Student Classroom:





Computer Learning Classroom:



Swing Classroom:



Evening Tuition Centers:





Disabled Seniors Support:

