

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: 9/9/2006

Name of the Project: CHINTAN

Name of the Organisation Running the Project (if different): Chintan environmental
Research & Action Group

Was your site visit announced? Yes, it was planned ☒

No, it was a surprise visit ☐

	Project Contact	YourName (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 45% Education 45% Health 5%
Other 5% (please specify) _____

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

Board of Directors (5 members, including Founder)

4 main Divisions → Education (6-8 employees)
→ Organize Community (8-10 employees)

(2 employees) ← Advocacy Group → Waste Training/
Waste Resource Center (2-4 employees)

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
Hazard Centre Sanchal Foundation	Work on slum issues (hygiene, poverty)
Sanjha Manch	community development/organization
Sycom Projects Toxics Link	Public policy advocates Environmental Focus

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? min. 75-100

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

Rag pickers, toilet cleaners, & other < \$100 per month
income households

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?

At least once a week.

Why is this relevant?

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.)

Literally – by allowing their children to go and study,
and by not forcing them to work

6. Are there any Government Schools in the area?

Yes ☒

No ☐

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

Within 2-3kms.

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

In most cases, the govt. school is not an option

– A 8yr old who hasn't been to school before cannot go straight to 2nd grade. Most students need the catch-up.

– Complicated admissions process – hard to break from the cycle of work

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

What is the regular class strength?

Comments:

of students in class : ≈ 20

regular strength – 20-25.

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

Yes.... very much so.

Chintan seems to play the role of "The Saviour" in the life of these ~~start~~ children & their families.

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?

_____ catch-up classes for upto 12yr old children

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

NONE

If none do, does the project plan this for the future? Yes.

– that's the underlying goal of this institution.

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

The teachers employ creative techniques to keep the students involved.

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

ideally - some of the older ones - who come to learn "basic literacy"
try to assume managerial positions to oversee labor.

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

How many of the staff are women? 2

- 1 young boy lived close to the community

- mothers sometimes help discipline the kids (up to 10 volunteers)

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

1 person left because her husband fell sick

8. How many new teachers have joined in the past year? 2 (Ram Singh, Pawan)

9. Does the organization train the teachers?

Yes ☒

No ☐

If yes, how do they provide the training?

- Regular workshops & office meetings to discuss new challenges & promote intra-chintan learning
- Intensive training at initiation

10. How much is the staff paid?

Is it on par with the salary paid to the staff in the Government schools?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Rs. 5,000 - 7,000/- per month for teachers

Rs 20,000 for an educational advisor/overall co-ordinator, trainer

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:

I think they've incl. most of it...

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.

clearly, in the budget they're following the strategy of asking a lot, so that what comes in is actually close to helpful.

- Apparently that's how NGO funding seems to work in India

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

Generally speaking, one could find hundreds of these "low income areas" in and around Delhi, & even in other parts of the country. Chintan plans to open-up more & more locations, and frankly, there is a serious deficit for funding these projects.

PART E: Comments

(Feel free to attach documents if necessary)

Personally, I was skeptic before I met the founder & ~~the~~ other staff members, but came back convinced that they are genuine people & are indeed helping the community develop. Education is a core aspect of their overall objective/mission.