

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: Feb. 13, 19

Name of the Project: Kedi Residential School for Tribal Girls

Name of the Organisation Running the Project (if different): Kaivalya Trust

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	Aparna Kadikar	Tushar Shah and Jyoti Shah
Address	Kedi Residential School for Tribal Girls Nagaria, Dharampur, Dist. Valsad, Gujarat, India	9 Coneflower Ln, Princeton Jct, NJ, 08550
Phone(s)	(02632) 240550, 99794 96352	+1 201 484 0095
Fax		
E-mail	aparna.kadikar@gmail.com	tusharshah@gmail.com

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 20% Education 60% Health ___%
Other 20% (please specify) Holistic development, Vocational training.

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

Trustees: Aparna Kadikar (Mentor, Architect, Educationist); Pankaj Kadikar (MBA); Dr. Sudarshan Iyengar (Retd Vice Chancellor of Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Advisor to & Teacher at IIT-B), Dr. Mahendra Chotalia, Educationist, Shraddhben Jani,

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
Vanpath Chatralay	Hostel for Girls 80 students, Class 11 and 12 only. Kedi coaches their students for English, Sanskrit and Maths
.	
Government High Schools SMSM	It is 2.5 Km away. Education up to Standard 10. 3000 students. 125 students/ class.

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? Students from 6 districts or nearly entire south Gujarat come to Kedi. Criteria is to admit most disadvantaged students who:

1. Come from remote areas.
2. Not accepted by other schools
3. Coming from poor family
4. Max 40 students per Standard, 2 classes per Std
5. Students come from long distances of 15 KM to 150 KM from Six districts. . Students from Narmada & Tapi districts are better as their mother tongue is Gujarati and generally are from second generation school goers. Students of Dharampur and Kaprada are from the border area with Maharsashtra and their mother tongue is a mix of Gujarati & Marathi. Their learning in the primary school is not as good due to the language barrier. They are also generally first generation school goers.

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

75% Small Farmers, Daily wage earners in construction and farms. Family income around Rs 3000/M (\$43/m), 6 people in the family.

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 twice a year. More for students who need more attention. many parents come from the hills for the weekly flea market to sell their stuff. They stop by & meet the teachers about once a month.

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.)

Parents live in remote areas . Fees are Rs 1500/ year for lodging, boarding, education, health and all other expenses of the student. Many parents find it difficult to pay and pay in installments. Those students who can not pay fees get scholarship as arranged by Kedi with individual donors..

6. Are there any Government Schools in the area? Yes ☒ No ☐**7. If yes, how far are the Government Schools from the community?** 2.5 KM and in the town of Dharampur.**8. Why did the parents choose this school over the Government School?**

1. Government schools give a stipend of Rs 75 / pm , a bicycle, no fees, uniform and books. Still parents prefer to send to Kedi because:

1.1 Better quality of education

1.2 Vocational training

1.3 Overall development

1.4 Better reputation

1.5 More than 90% of the students who graduated from Kedi have been able to study further. They also find good jobs.

9. When you visited, how many children were present in the class? 85

What is the regular class strength? Plan: Max 20 /class, Max 85-90 total, Actual 8 to 16. Classes 6,7,&8 were started in 2018. Hence, numbers of students vary in each class.

Comments: Students need intensive teaching as they come from Government schools where learning is poor due to various problems associated with remote Tribal areas.

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

Yes. They are an enthusiastic bunch. Jyoti & I meet all students in groups of 20-25. They talk about their friends and families, about their aspirations

We have been visiting them every year for the last 11 years. They feel at home to talk with us, especially with Jyoti. We tell them to feel free to tell us about good & bad of the school. Aparnaben generally goes away so that the students can talk freely.

Most of the girls are happy about the school and aware of many opportunities offered by the school. A few grumble about hard work, but then in their innocent, tribal way, also tell us that hard work is good.

Some girls come from very poor families and are required to work on construction site as casual worker during summer holidays. Kedi arranges special classes for such students and they happily return to Kedi for the summer, thereby avoiding backbreaking work.

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?** standard 6 to 12.
 B. Non-Formal Education (NFE) ☒ **do the students also attend formal school?**
 C. Vocational ☒
 D. Other ☒. Please specify Students follow Government syllabus. But their learning is much wider

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

Std 6 to 12. 10 to 12 commerce stream only. Started Science stream with use of labs in another school. Education department has approved the arrangement with another school that Kedi students appear in SSC Board exams as students of another Government school..

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

All students also study formal syllabus of Gujarat.

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)?

Yes. Kedi designs own curriculaum for all vocational & other training. They use NTSC books .

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

Vocational training helps them get jobs in the industries after they finish further studies. 90 % of ex-students are working with a good career. It is remarkable in India for so many women to find good jobs.

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

100% of staff. Volunteers make a huge difference in learning but are mostly from highly learned group. Please see the annexure for more info..

How many of the staff are women? 10 women out of 14,

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

Last year 2 Teachers left Kedi for jobs in Government schools with over 100% increase in salary.

8. How many new teachers have joined in the past year? 2**9. Does the organization train the teachers?**Yes ☒No ☐

If yes, how do they provide the training? Invite several outside resources from university and other institutes

10. How much is the staff paid? Rs 8000 to 13,000 PM, avg of Rs 8,400 PM. One teacher, Ankit Sharma, who teaches 11th and 12th Std the subjects like statistics, accounting is paid Rs 13,000 pm

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: Kedi believes in teaching simple life, frugality and high ideals. They manage the costs within a low limit.

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.

No

PART E: Comments

(Feel free to attach documents if necessary)

Resource persons & Volunteers at Kedi

Kedi has been reaching out to well-known people in academics, literature and arts to enrich the learning experiences of students. Kedi is known as an enlightened institution and some very good people respond and visit Kedi to share & teach.

Knowledgeable resource persons can enrich students' mind and enhance knowledge by provoking curiosity and learn to find solutions.

Mahendrabhai Parekh is an Architect and an Artist who teaches Math through Art as a volunteer. He taught at an architecture college in Baltimore before retirement and returning to India.

Dr. Yoginbhai Parikh, a retired surgeon in Illinois, volunteers for about 6 months a year at Kedi, teaching English & science to all students. His 6th and 7th standard students staged two short plays written and translated by them. He stays at our Guest house.

Suryakant Shah, a senior IT person at Pfizer in New York, has retired and has bought a home on ARCH-Kedi campus. He will help with Statistics and Business Management. His wife Bhavnaben will help with various Vocational and Academic subjects.

Dr. Sudarshanbhai Iyengar, retired Vice Chancellor of Gujarat Vidyapeeth, has built his home on Arch-Kedi campus. He is a Trustee and a mentor of Kedi. He is always interacting with students & staff, and guiding them. He may hold Gandhikatha at Kedi for our students and community

Dr. Mahendrabhai Chotalia, retired head of Education dept. at V.V. Univ, visits Kedi once a month for teachers' trainings and reading workshops.

Dr. Hiren Shah, a professor, who holds a Visharad degree in dance and music held 4 workshops. He was quite impressed and happy by students' response and the speed, easy way and interest they showed for classical dance. He has agreed to come once in three months for the same.

Bombay based NGO, Gillo, will hold 2 full day's workshop along with three performances on String Puppetry.

Mr. Sundaram Shubhratanam, an IIT-IIM graduate, had worked with Rishi Valley and was Principal of the well-known Atul Vidyalaya. He visits Kedi for Mathematics teacher's training. This year, 5 teachers will go to Chennai to visit him and other 4 schools in TN for training & sharing.

Two Volunteers, Ex-Rishi valley school teachers, with interesting ideas for teaching methodology, conducted workshop.