

# 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: Nov. 19, 18**

**Name of the Project: Shishur Sevay**

**Name of the Organisation Running the Project (if different):**

Was your site visit announced? Yes, it was planned

No, it was a surprise visit

	<b>Project Contact</b>	<b>You Name (Asha volunteer conducting the visit)</b>
Name	Dr. Michelle Harrison, Dr. Purba Rudra	Dr. Sambit Saha
Address	Childlife Preserve Shishur Sevay 17/2/7 Sahapur Main Road Kolkata 700038 West Bengal India	504 Holly Hill Road Vestal, NY 13850 USA
Phone(s)	011-91-033-24981120, 011-91-8902793004	607-821-8890
Fax		
E-mail	shishur.sevay@gmail.com	sambit.k.saha@hotmail.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 \_\_\_%      Education 70% Health 30%  
Other \_\_\_% (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Shishur Sevay is a FCRA registered society under West Bengal Societies Act XXVI of 1961. It is licensed as a home for children by the West Bengal Directorate of Social Welfare.

Shishur Sevay has a Governing Board with the following administration levels

- (1) Executive Director
- (2) Associate Director, Academic Director
- (3) Operations Manager, Accounts Officer, Teaching Staff
- (4) Childcare workers, Interns/Volunteers, Security Guards.

**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
Sahapur Sabitri Balika Vidyalaya	School for girl children from Class V-XII. It is a West Bengal Department of Education managed educational institution for regular children. It is not a school for children with special needs.
1	

**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?** Semi urban community in South Kolkata. Kolkata is a metropolis with a population of 4.5 million.

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

N/A The children in Shishur Sevay are orphans and abandoned children that were referred to the organization by West Bengal's state board of social welfare. .

**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?**

N/A. The children are orphans or abandoned children..

**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.)**

N/A

**6. Are there any Government Schools in the area?**

Yes

No

**7. If yes, how far are the Government Schools from the community?** About 1 kilometers, however no government schools in the community is equipped to educate children with differing abilities, disabilities and special needs and provide a safe and protective learning environment for such children.

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

N/A. The children are orphans or abandoned children that were referred to Shishur Sevay by the West Bengal Directorate of social welfare.

**9. When you visited, how many children were present in the class? 15**

**What is the regular class strength? 15**

**Comments:** Out of the 15 residents there was one mother-daughter pair. The daughter who is 6 years old attends regular school in the community and is also coached at Shishur Sevay. Other children have differing abilities and disabilities (in some cases, severe), they have group classes as well as individual tutoring based on their special needs situation and interests.

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

Shishur Sevay is not a non residential school. It is a model family style inclusive non institutional home for orphaned and abandoned girls, some of whom have severe disabilities. I spent an entire day with the children and teachers during my site visit. The children live with the founder, Dr. Harrison and some other staff in a residential setting as a family in a safe, protective and enjoyable learning environment. The children seemed to enjoy the group and individualized learning experience that is provided at Shishur Sevay.

**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 Project based learning, Open school.

2. **If A (Formal), up to what grade(LKG, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> etc.) does the school conduct classes?**  
2 students (including a 6 year old) also attend formal school in the community while living and being tutored in Shishur Sevay. The remaining are individually tutored based on their special needs and inclinations
3. **If B (Non-Formal Education) how many of the children also attend formal schools in the area?**  
2  
 If none do, does the project plan this for the future? N/A
4. **If Non-Formal Education, does the organization create its own study material (books, games)?**  
 Yes, through individualized tutoring for children based on their disabilities and special needs. Teachers use technology, Tobii Eye Tracker, computers and e-learning programs to help students learn in an inclusive home schooling environment in group and one-to-one settings. Khan Academy and K-5 Learning educational material is used. Some classes are even conducted through Skype even with teachers abroad. Learning through field trips is emphasised.
5. **If C (Vocational), what do the children do after they finish training?**  
 N/A  
 Two girls were preparing for the NIOS Class X exams, Two girls are in training to be Assistants to Special Educators, Two girls are taking tailoring classes, one girl is a very good artist, her paintings have been displayed in a public art exhibition in Kolkata
6. **How many staff or volunteers are recruited from the community?** All, except one.  
**How many of the staff are women?** 16 out of 20 (Full time), 11 out of 19 (Part time & Consultants)
7. **How many teachers have left the school in the past one year, and why?**  
 None
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?** Rs 6500/- is the lower limit. Salary is less than in government schools but more than other private NGOs..  
**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)*

Shishur Sevay is one of a kind organization in India; it provides living, health care and individualized tutoring to some of the most vulnerable girl children in India. This model of family style, inclusive, non institutionalized caring environment for children with disabilities is essential for their very survival and this project should be supported by Asha in every way possible.