

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: Mar. 1, 14

Name of the Project: PNEUMA

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

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

No, it was a surprise visit ☐

	Project Contact	You Name (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 ____% Education ____% Health 25%
Other 75% (please specify) Education

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

Director, Warden, Social Worker, Cook, Helper
Visiting Doctor and Teacher

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? None. There are only children present in the facility.

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

Agricultural Worker, Daily Wage Labourer, Construction Labourer etc. Some of the childrens are orphaned and are taken care by their relatives.

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?

15 days - parents can come to meet.

6 months - cultural program and parents meet.

During the initial onboarding of the children during the academic year and sometimes during the summer vacation time.

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.)

Sometime the parents bring cooked food or help prepare food for all childrens in the schools.

6. Are there any Government Schools in the area?

Yes ☒

No ☐

7. If yes, how far are the Government Schools from the community? 5 to 10 kilometers

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

Not Applicable.

9. When you visited, how many children were present in the class? 25

What is the regular class strength? 35

Comments: It is a hostel not a class or a school.

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

Absolutely. The atmosphere within the facility is really inviting and pleasant. The director noted that the children are so comfortable with the environment that they do even want to visit their homes during the summer vacation. Also while interacting with the childrens I could sense a strong sense of community feeling.

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+2

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?

The children in the facility attend three different schools in the area. The break up of the children is as follows:

Primary School - 1st to 5th Grade - 8 children

Middle School - 6th to 10th Grade - 20 children

Higher Secondary -11 and 12th Grade - 7 children

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? 5 staff

How many of the staff are women? 02

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? Not sure. I never checked on this item.

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: Some of the local volunteers pitch in with their bit to contribute their time for conducting sessions. More allocations could be approved for library specifically for newspaper or magazine subscription. Also educational book series or compact discs should be arranged for the childrens to benefit. Also some allocation should be done for procuring solar powered lanterns/lights and dictionaries. I recommend getting each student a dictionary (Tamil2Tamil and Tamil2English) since I have seen the returns it provides on my own project - Project Pearl for Asha Chennai chapter.

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.***

Sports instruments, Library with newspaper subscriptions, educational CDs should be provided so that the children can learn the general knowledge items. During my interaction, I found the childrens asking really interesting questions that are tough to explain. For instance, how the earth was formed, how can we stop ozone layer depletion etc. I feel providing them a means to learn such concepts through educational materials will go a long way in kindling their interest towards science and engineering studies.

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)*

I visited the Pneuma facility on 28th March and spent about 4-5 hours interacting with the childrens and the Pneuma staff. I was really happy with the dedication and clarity that the Pneuma director - Paulin brought to the facility. She clearly is the pillar of strength for the children and in running the facility. She explained her educational background and the history of the trust. She went on to elaborate about the children and the circumstances that led them to come to the facility. I enquired about the schools that the children go to and the breakup of the children with respect to the grade attended. Paulin provided all the details and went on to note the overall strength and how they arrived at the optimal number of children who could be supported by the facility. I also got to know that there were no female children - a decision that was taken after a lot of reflection. She noted how the children' typical day would go on and what they do once they come back from school. When I enquired about the distance to the school, she informed that a autorickshaw was hired monthly to pickup and bring the children back to the facility.

Further to my discussion, I went to meet all the children in the large room adjacent to Paulin's office. The children had settled down after coming from school. The children were visibly very happy to see me and posed a ton of questions on science and politics. I did my best to let them know what I thought about different things. The children then went on to enact a drame and a dance show. I enjoyed the evening and continued my interactions with Paulin and Karnan, the faciliator at the Pneuma trust. We went to have dinner with the children. I was again pleased to see the order in which the childen organized the dinner and went about the entire period. I too had dinner with the children and the quality of food served was very filling and nutritious.

Apart from Paulin and Karnan, I meet the cook and her husband who works as the security guard with the facility. Paulin informed me that a non-vegetarian meal was provided at least once during the weekday and on Sunday apart from special occasions (like birthdays, marriage anniversary) wherein someone pitches in to provide special food for the children.

During my interaction with Paulin in her office, I noticed one computer and enquired if the children use it often. She noted that there are volunteers (from local colleges) apart from Karnan who would come in

during the evening to provide basic computer knowledge to the childrens. I also pleasantly surprised to learn that some of the children were taught higher level programming languages such as C and Java as part of their school curriculum.

Paulin also noted that she had planned to move to another facility at SiruMalai where a bigger infrastructure was being built for the children. It included a large playground for the children and a bigger library too. I could not visit this facility since it was nearly 35+ KM from the facility in Madurai city. However I requested for some photos from the facility to add to this site visit. I left the facility at around 8 pm as the children settled after dinner to watch the T20 cricket match.