Project Name

Name of Site Visitor: Vibha Deo
Affiliation of Site Visitor: Asha Volunteer
Date(s) of Site Visit: 08/26/2026

Asha for Education

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

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 ?~~
- ~~General well-being of the children - do they look happy there in the school ?~~
- ~~Quality and nutritional value of food being served in the hostels.~~
- ~~Is the learning and progress of the students on par with expected level~~
- For special needs, customized plans for each student?
- ~~Girls - boys ratio, hostel facilities, wardens, safety?~~
- ~~What do the children who graduate from the project do?~~
- Staff and Teachers - do they think it is a great place to work?
- Is the student list accurate on the field vs. what has been shared ?
- ~~Is the teacher and support staff list accurate on the field vs. what has been shared?~~
- ~~Is attendance being taken for both students and teachers/ support staff?~~
- ~~Drop out rate of students?~~
- How do they recruit the teachers and support staff?
- Is there a nearby school or project working on a similar focus area ?
- ~~Do they deny access to education for a student from an underprivileged background?~~

B. Financials

- ~~Is the project partner maintaining a good record of all transactions?~~
- Is the project partner doing cashless transactions?
- ~~Are the salary payments being made on time?~~
- Are the salaries in line with the budget line-items?
- Does the project partner have accounting software or is it vouchers and handwritten ?
- Any new programs being added?
- Any new hiring needs?
- ~~Attrition rate of support staff and teachers?~~
- ~~Sources of funding ?~~
- ~~Is the project partner charging fees for beneficiaries?~~
- ~~Is the fee nominal and in-line with the region?~~
- ~~Do they have dropouts because of a student not being able to afford the tuition?~~

C. Surveys

- ~~Please check with a few students on the project~~
- ~~Teachers and Support Staff~~
- ~~Parents of students~~
- Other board members

D. Next Years

- ~~How has Asha support helped them?~~
- ~~Plan for the next 5 years?~~

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.

Report:
Visit Details:
Asha Volunteer Vibha Deo(former steward for this project, now based in Pune) visited AAKAR project on 08/26/2026. She met ISC staff including Jyoti Dhiwar - Program Head AAkar, Sameer Yerulkar - Program Manager, Sujata Kapure - Teacher, Sandeep Gayakwad - staff. She also visited classrooms at one of the 5 locations, interviewed kids staff and some students that had graduated from the ISC program and now volunteered there as adults.

The morale of the kids was high. They seemed cheerful and happy. They enthusiastically put up a program for our volunteer.

The teachers are dedicated and care about the kids. The teachers also go into the community, get to know the families, advocate for gender equality and girls education and against early marriage and survey health, education, economic data of the families so they can track their progress over time. Vibha was able to talk to some of them in addition to the program head.

The long term success of the program is seen in the outcomes of the kids that have graduated from the program. Vibha was able to interview 2 alumni. Some alumni return as adults to volunteer/be involved with the AAKAR program from which they derived so much benefit.

Any comments or concerns from the site visit that is a matter of serious concern for Asha?
No.

Challenges:
Their main challenges are onboarding new students whose parents do not have AADHAR, birth certificate or any necessary documentation. But the staff helps the students and parents with the bureaucracy so the kids can enroll in the ZP school while supporting their academic level at AAKAR.

Student attrition is a problem because some families do not come back to teh same Kiln the next year. But recently the staff were encouraged when a kiln owner mentioned to them that he is now supportive of their program(Kiln owners are usually not supportive of literacy for children or parents) because the parents are returning to his kiln more consistently so their children can participate in the AAKAR program.

Kids coming from other states do not speak Marathi which is the medium of education in the ZP school. The staff try their best with peer group and visual aids to get the kids up to speed so they can

Would you recommend support for the project? YES