

Sri Sai Seva Sadan (SSSS)

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Project Steward – Seattle Chapter 12/12/2025

Asha for Education

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

☐ I am a Project Steward of SSSS project

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?
- The children come to the school around 9 am and stay for the educational course through the day until 4pm/4.30pm. Some students are residential students. During this time the students perform the schoolwork.
- The vocational grade students work on vocational courses
- They also get healthy lunch prepared by the in-house cook.
- The speech therapist comes to school weekly to work on the students with speech issues. The drawing teacher comes weekly for a really talented student artist. There is a weekly yoga teacher who comes and teaches yoga.

- General well-being of the children - do they look happy there in school?
- The children are generally happy and willing to learn. They are reasonably healthy and active,
- The students are eager to learn and showing progress in their developmental progress.

- Quality and nutritional value of food being served in the hostels.
- ● Yes, they are simple but nutritious foods.

- Is the learning and progress of the students on par with expected level ● Yes, the students are definitely progressing and getting better.

- For special needs, customized plans for each student?
- Yes, speech therapist works according to the needs of the student.

- Girls - boys ratio, hostel facilities, wardens, safety?
- Girls to Boys ratio is generally 50:50.

- What do the children who graduate from the project do?
- The children complete vocational course so they can earn self-sustainable jobs.
- Staff and Teachers - do they think it is a great place to work?
- The teacher and staff are generally happy with the work atmosphere.
- Is the student list accurate on the field vs. what has been shared?
- Yes. I could not count the students in each classroom when I visited as there was a community event happening around the same time.
- Is the teacher and support staff list accurate on the field vs. what has been shared?
- Yes.
- Is attendance being taken for both students and teachers/ support staff?
- • Yes.
- Dropout rate of students?
- Not known.
- How do they recruit the teachers and support staff?
- From the local community, media flyers etc.
- Is there a nearby school or project working on a similar focus area?
- None. There are no free schools working with students with developmental challenges.
- Do they deny access to education for a student from an underprivileged background?
- The school welcomes underprivileged children and most kids are from those families.

B. Financials

- Is the project partner maintaining a good record of all transactions?
- Yes.
- Is the project partner doing cashless transactions?
- No. All the salary and other transactions are through bank transfer.
- Are the salary payments being made on time?
- Yes.
- Are the salaries in line with the budget line-items?
- Yes.

- Does the project partner have accounting software or is it vouchers and handwritten?
- Mostly manual.
- Any new hiring needs?
- Based on the student to teacher ratio.
- Attrition rate of support staff and teachers?
- Challenges with commutes and teachers getting relocated.
- Sources of funding?
- The main source of funding is Asha. Local CSR fundraising provides some support for the school, and some individual donors provide cash and material support.
- Is the project partner charging fees for beneficiaries?
- No.
- Are the fee nominal and in-line with the region?
- NA
- Do they have dropouts because of a student not being able to afford the tuition?
- NA

Report:

I visited the center on Dec 8th , 2025. I visited both the branches – the old branch first and the new branch later that afternoon. There was also a event happening that day where college students(St. Francis students) were enacting drama and other programs as part of the caring for the community project.

The partner took me to all the children's classrooms. I got introduced to all the staff (who were new) and the students were engaging well with the teachers asking them questions.

I also visited the residential block, the kitchen and other areas of the school. It was well kept hygienically.

I could not have a look at the giftbag making equipment first hand in person as it was not delivered by the time I visited the school but it was delivered a couple of days after. Since then I virtually saw it being used in photos and video calls.

Later the project partner took me to the new branch that was opened in July'2025 and saw 8 small children getting education.

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.

Any comments or concerns from the site visit that is a matter of serious concern for Asha?
The main concern with the project is that the main source of funding is from Asha. They have hard time securing funding from other organizations. They want to secure corporate funding through the Giftbags developed through vocational students and other local donors as materials.

Would you recommend support for the project? Yes.

Site Visit Photos:



















