

Asha for Education™

Site Visit Questionnaire

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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: Dec. 3, 14

Name of the Project: Kishalaya Shishu Siksha Niketan (KSSN) - a co-educational primary school

Name of the Organisation Running the Project (if different): Sabuj Sangha

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	Ansuman Das, Director	Dr. Jayanti Bandyopadhyay
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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 37% Education 28% Health 20%
Other 15% (please specify) General

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

Board of Directors as Governing Body

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
None in the area	

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? 1000

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

Agricultural worker and daily wage labourer

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?

Quarterly in general and more often if needed

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.)

Mostly token contribution -- Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 per month (\$1.50 range) and some extreme poor parents do not

6. Are there any Government Schools in the area? Yes No

7. If yes, how far are the Government Schools from the community? None in the immediate vicinity - at least 2 km. away

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

As explained in my summary below, some of the children are picked from the streets and given residence and education preparing for mainstream schools and the main purpose is prevention of child labor. Government schools are very far away -- none in the 2 km. radius.

9. When you visited, how many children were present in the class? 140 from First to Eighth grade
What is the regular class strength? All are usually present -- 95% attend

Comments:

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

Yes, they seem very happy and quite friendly and bonded to one another. They also participate in activities such as music, sports, dance, arts and crafts.

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?** Grade Eight
 B. Non-Formal Education (NFE) **do the students also attend formal school?**
 C. Vocational
 D. Other . Please specify computerized teaching of arts and crafts

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

8th grade. Yes, conducted in accordance State Board education which is affiliated with the Education department of the government of West Bengal.

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?* 14

How many of the staff are women? 9

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?* two

9. *Does the organization train the teachers?* Yes No

If yes, how do they provide the training? A formal teacher's training school in the evening -- I have witnessed that.

10. *How much is the staff paid?* Rs. 8000nper month is the highest salary

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.

n/a

PART E: Comments

(Feel free to attach documents if necessary)

From Jayanti Bandyopadhyay's visit:

I have visited the said school KSSN twice between 2013 and 2014. KSSN serves children from remote rural areas of the Sundarbans and simultaneously acts as a Primary Teacher Training Institute. KSSN is affiliated with the West Bengal State Board of Primary Education and the National Council for Teacher Education. I personally witnessed classes going on and especially the teaching of presentation skills and arts and crafts through the computer. I also observed the teachers' training classes. The school includes 20+ children from the adjacent residential school for street children for prevention of child labour.

The pictures I am attaching with this form are from a school for deprived children in a remote village in the Sundarban Area of West Bengal in India. Sabuj Sangha, an NGO, rescued these children literally from the streets. I, along with Dr. Arun Deb (my co-researcher, co-author and a great philanthropist) recently visited and observed the school's activities for several days. Sabuj Sangha is doing an admirable job by providing residence, balanced and nutritious meals, clothing, and health services. Last, but not least, they are teaching basic reading, writing, and math skills so that these boys can be admitted in schools in the mainstream after a few years. They are encouraged to complete at least high school. All of them have aspirations to be responsible members of society. Here is one such real life story.

Ayub was orphaned at an early age. He lived on the streets and was forced to stealing and pickpocketing for a criminal gang (yes, just like in Slumdog Millionaire). Sabuj Sangha rescued him. Now he leads a quality life at the school and is studying in eighth grade and has aspirations for higher studies.

Watch this video on You Tube <http://youtu.be/fIhnLkszh-8>

We had a detailed discussion with the boys and found them very promising. Some of these boys want to become teachers, some carpenters, some doctors, and some electrical engineers. But currently Sabuj Sangha does not have access to sufficient funding to complete this project. They urgently need some help. Only \$200 per year can keep one boy off the streets and in school with the promise of leading a quality life. If funds are not obtained, Sabuj Sangha has to release the boys only to uncertain destiny including stealing, and other criminal activities (the Hollywood film Slumdog Millionaire comes to mind).

Based on my independent evaluation over the past two years, I have made an annual commitment of \$1000 for five boys per year. My decision to donate is a testament to my trust in Sabuj Sangha's educational activities.

The approved \$5000 from Asha for Education for KSSN will be part of the total budget for the running of the school to continue these worthwhile activities.