

# 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: Jun. 12, 12**

**Name of the Project: Build**

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

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>
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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 100%      Health \_\_\_%  
 Other \_\_\_% (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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

**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?**

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

Brick kiln workers (migrant labor community)

**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?**

Almost daily

**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.)**

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

**7. If yes, how far are the Government Schools from the community?** I visited 3 centers. In one of them, Pasumai trust has got the students admission into a Government school and tracks their progress there. They've also placed, and pay for, a junior teacher in the school.

In another center, they got the students enrolled but since the school was a kilometre away and the kids had to cross a highway to get to the school, the parents were hesitant to send them. The teachers and the project coordinator tried to convince the parents to drop and pick up the children but the kiln owners wouldn't let them leave work and the kiln owners, when requested, didn't agree to arranging a mode of transport for the children either.

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

Ease of access and the fact that it's tough for them to get admission in Govt. schools because they're migrant labor. They do enroll their children into Govt. schools when they go back to their villages for 5-6 months every year, when they're not working at the kiln.

**9. When you visited, how many children were present in the class?** 45, 25, 11

**What is the regular class strength?** 57, 32, 18

**Comments:** The other children had gone to their villages to get enrolled in the regular Govt. schools for the period they'll spend there. They will come back after admission is done and go back when the school reopens. I did check the attendance registers for a month (from a week before my visit and backward), and the attendance was always 98% and above (100% mostly).

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

Yes

### **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?** 8<sup>th</sup> standard  
 B. Non-Formal Education (NFE)  **do the students also attend formal school?**  
 C. Vocational   
 D. Other . Please specify Syllabus stipulated by Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan.

2. If A (Formal), up to what grade(LKG, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> etc.) does the school conduct classes?  
\_\_\_\_\_

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)?

Materials created and distributed by Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan

5. If C (Vocational), what do the children do after they finish training?

6. How many staff or volunteers are recruited from the community? 4

How many of the staff are women? 4

7. How many teachers have left the school in the past one year, and why?

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? The teachers have attended only one training program, about 10 years ago, that was conducted by Asha Chennai. There are no Continuous Improvement Programmes.

10. How much is the staff paid? Senior Teachers X 3 = Rs. 4000; Junior Teacher X 1 = Rs. 3500

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: The mid day meals funds are supported from other funds if Asha does not cover the whole amount. The cost of provisions have also risen.

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.**

I think we should revise the salary for the teachers and provide the conveyance allowance as well.

4. **Did you discuss the proposed changes with the project? If so, please describe their response.**

Yes, they agreed to the above suggestions.

#### **PART E: Comments**

*(Feel free to attach documents if necessary)*

The project is being run quite well and is beneficial to the community. The parents I met were grateful for the work being done. The children are very enthusiastic and do want to study.

I learnt that these families are paid by the kiln owners on a piece-rate and to get a more voluminous output some parents engage their children. And because much of the work happens at night children are used even when they have to come to school during the day. When the teachers find that some children are lethargic during the day, they intervene and ask the such parents to refrain from making their children work. We can probably find a way of educating the parents.

Another aspect where Asha can help the project is by helping them talk to the kiln owners to increase their involvement in terms of providing transport to the nearby Govt. schools and/or providing proper buildings. When the kids at one center were enrolled in a Govt. school nearby for a month, the room that was their education center earlier was turned into a godown and all the children's art assignments were destroyed. A month later, it was found that the children couldn't continue going to school because it was far and they had to cross a highway to go there, so the project restarted the education center near their homes, but the kiln owner didn't clear the godown so the classes are now held under a tree and in another makeshift shelter (there are 32 children: 17 Girls and 15 Boys).

One of the other centers where there are 57 children, is run out of just one room with an asbestos roof. It gets really hot and suffocating.

The project coordinator is well respected by the parents, teachers and other people in the community. He's also well informed about, and well connected to, other NGOs operating in the region and sector. He's also involved in activism and engages with the Govt. in tandem with other NGOs in an effort to provide better education and facilities for children.

In conclusion, I think the project needs funds, volunteers, new ideas to provide better education, and some

support for the activism. The coordinator's estimates are mostly accurate (although I haven't analysed them in depth), and my suggestion would be to release the funds that he's requested.