

Asha for Education™

Site Visit Questionnaire

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's B & C necessitate that the information be gathered through conversations with the children and their parents, and not simply the group's teachers and staff. Also please include your overall impressions and opinions in the comments section

Please feel free to attach any documents/photos you feel are pertinent to the project.

Thanks.

- Asha for Education

Date: 17th

Name of the Project: Gandhigram Santhi High School for the Deaf

Name of the Organization Running the Project (if different): Gandhigram Trust

Was your site visit announced? Yes, it was planned No, it was a surprise visit

	Project Contact	Your Name (Asha volunteer conducting the visit)
Name	Saravanan	Dr. P. Kalyani
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1. List the name/s of the village/villages visited

Sivasailam (near Papanasam, Triunelveli)

2. List the names of schools visited

Gandhigram Santhi High School for the Deaf.

3. Did you get an opportunity to meet & speak to some of the children enrolled in the school? If yes, please list the names of some of the children/age/class.

Yes, we met and interacted with children enrolled in the school, with the aid of the staff working there. Some of the children are:

S Suresh, 16 years, 5th standard.

Deborah, 7 years, 3rd standard.

J Sheila, 8 years, 3rd standard.

4. Please detail any important feedback/observation you made when talking to them about their school, education, progress, difficulties etc.

They asked for computer trainer to the students

5. If unable to meet the children, please provide a reason why this wasn't possible.
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6. **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 -70 % Health -10 %

Other -20 % (please specify) Speech therapy, computer training, tailoring, drawing practice

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

http://www.ashanet.org/projects-new/documents/977/2014_shanthischool_staff_members.pdf

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
Government	The Government of Tamilnadu provides Salary for six teachers, among whom three are specially trained to take care of these children. The government also provides a maintenance grant for children up to 16 years. Under this grant, the government provides six hundred per candidate per month.
Volunteers	Some volunteers such as the Aravind Eye Foundation, conduct medical camps throughout the year. Around at least six different medical camps, ranging from ENT to eye to General health are conducted yearly.

Comment from project steward: As mentioned elsewhere in this document, there are no other organizations / schools in the entire district of Tirunelveli for hearing and speech challenged children. Listed above are the roles played by government and volunteers within Shanthi school.

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?

A hundred.

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

Most of the fathers work as daily wage laborers or farmers. Many mothers make Beedi.

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?

Three times a year

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.)

A mother who works in the school kitchen as a volunteer, getting paid very little.

6. Are there any Government Schools in the area?

Yes No

7. If yes, how far are the Government Schools from the community?

One government school (for normal students) is 4 km from this school

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

The parents chose this school over government school, as the government doesn't run a school for the auditory impaired in the whole district of Tirunelveli.

9. When you visited, how many children were present in the class? What is the regular class strength?

Comments: As our visit happened to coincide on the last day of school, we didn't get to observe any classes, though we did get to meet the staff, the children, and the parents, who had come to pick the children up for their holidays (As this school is a boarding school)

The class strength of each standard is listed below.

Gandhigram Santhi High School for the Deaf, Sivasailam											
Strength on 17.04.2014											
Standard	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	Total
Boys	2	3	3	4	8	8	9	12	8	8	65
Girls	2	0	3	3	3	2	3	5	5	3	29
Total	4	3	6	7	11	10	12	17	13	11	94

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

Yes, they most certainly do. So much so, for many of them that, they'd rather stay at school than go home.

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.)
- B. Non-Formal Education (NFE) do the students also attend formal school?
- C. Vocational (Tailoring, plumbing, electrical fittings)
- D. Other Please specify

**2. If A (Formal), up to what grade(LKG, 5
Till 10th grade.**

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?

They get jobs like tailors and earning nearly Rs.6000-7000/month. They take care of the electrical and plumbing works at school.

**6. How many staff or volunteers are recruited from the community?
How many of the staff are women?**

A mother of a child studying in the school works as a cook in the school. Other than this lady, there are not many others working from the community nearby, i.e. Sivasailam.

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

One male Warden resigned 6 months back, in search for greater pay.

9. How many new teachers have joined in the past year?

2 wardens have joined the past year. No teachers.

9. Does the organization train the teachers? Yes__ No√__
If yes, how do they provide the training?

10. How much is the staff paid?

Six teachers, including the head master receive government salary. Three from Asha for education, their particulars are attached herewith. The rest are paid from the Trust, and receive in the thousands, and have been asking for greater pay.

Moreover, they really require a few more teachers, namely, a computer teacher, an art, and a physical education training teacher, and hope that Asha for education would help them with this.

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.

They need computer maintenance person and trainer, drawing practice, care taker like wardens

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

No

Comment from project steward: This has been discussed with the project partner. The school & the Dallas Chapter have together come up with a proposal to implement some of the recommended changes mentioned in this site visit report. This proposal is being nominated for WAH this year.

PART E: Comments

*Please describe your overall impressions and views of the school
(Feel free to attach documents if necessary)*

More than the conventional education, as such, the vocational training is of real importance to these kids. Tailoring, and plumbing, are two vocational training offered by the school. These have shown to support these kids when they grow up, as some of the success stories entail. So, some support in some other training such as an art instructor, and computer training will be of great help to these kids. Moreover, many of these kids are really talented in art. Some photos of their drawings are attached, and an art instructor, will be helpful in developing these talents.

PART F: Success stories

Two students are currently doing civil engineering BE in Kalasingam Engineering College.

The vocational training helped students a lot. A few students are employed as tailors in the near by areas. We don't really have all the details, but are assured that they are self sustained.