

# Site Visit Guidelines and Questionnaire

## Asha Stanford

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for taking the time to conduct this site visit. Your visit will provide us valuable, first-hand information about the project, enabling us to better understand its circumstances and its needs. The following questionnaire is designed as a basic guide to assist you in conducting your visit.

As you conduct your visit, we ask that you be *sensitive* and *courteous* to the people running the project. This is crucial to maintain the healthy relationship of "equals" which is at the very core of the Asha ideology.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or the project steward responsible for the project at Stanford. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and observations through this review, and thank you once again for your help. Together we **can** make a difference!

President,  
Asha Stanford.

# Preparing for your visit

You should be able to collect the following information about the project from the project steward (Asha volunteer responsible for the project at Stanford) prior to your visit:

1. Project proposal
2. Past correspondence with the project
3. Any specific information that the project steward is looking for, from the site visit.

You also need to have some understanding of Asha for Education and our mission. This will help you to tailor your site visit in a more fruitful manner for Asha. You can get detailed information about Asha for Education from our web site at <http://www.ashanet.org>. Our site visit volunteers often find it helpful to study this web site (and this document!) before-hand, and have a copy of the original or modified project proposal with them before starting their visit.

We encourage you to talk individually to a broad cross-section of people, including some students, teachers, as well as community members who are not directly associated with the NGO. Such informal interaction is often the best way to learn about the project.

We also strongly encourage you to fill out this document yourself, rather than showing it to the project coordinators in India and asking them to fill it out.

This document is only designed as a basic guide. Please include any additional information/insights that you consider relevant with your review.

We look forward to meeting with you in person and hearing about your experiences, if this is possible. The project steward at Stanford will discuss the possibility of scheduling a presentation at an Asha meeting with you after your visit.

Finally, we encourage you to take some photographs/videos during your site visit, as they will help us see and hear what is going on at the project. As the old saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words!

# Basic information

## *Site Visitor's Information*

Name:

Address:

Phone Number(s):

Fax:

Email:

## *Visit Information*

Date:

Name of Project:

Name of the NGO running the project (if different):

Was your site visit planned and known to the project, or was it a surprise visit?

Primary Project Contact:

Name:

Address:

Phone Number(s):

Fax:

Email:

## **1. About the surrounding community**

About how many families live in the area to which the project caters?

What do they do for a living?

What is their economic/religious/educational background?

***How do they view the efforts taken by the organization that runs the project?***

Has the community supported the project (financially, donating land, volunteering, etc.)?

## **2. About the project**

How far away is the project site from the main town/village? How do children commute (foot, bus, etc.)?

***Please describe the infrastructure and facilities currently available to the project (e.g., furniture, toilets, midday meals, library, sports, residential facilities).***

Are the buildings permanent or temporary constructions? What is their physical condition?

How big are the classrooms? How many children per each room?

## **3. About the teachers**

How many total full-time/part-time teachers/volunteers are involved in project?

What is the average age of these teachers/volunteers?

How many women involved in the project and what are their responsibilities?

How many volunteers/teachers are from the local community?

What is their level of education and professional background?

***What is the motivation for them to work for the project?***

How long they have been with organization/project?

Where do they live, and how much they travel to work here?

If paid, are they satisfied with their salaries?

How many teachers/volunteer have left the project in the previous year? How many new teachers/volunteers have joined in the previous year?

Does the organization train the teachers? If yes, how do they provide the training?

## **4. About the students**

What portion of children from the local community attend this school? What is the age group? Boy/girl ratio?

What is the socio-economic background of students? (Are they first generation learners, what is the educational and monetary background of family etc.)

What are their activities they perform outside of school hours?

***What is their motivation for attending the school?***

What is drop out rate among the students? What do they do after they leave the project?

Are the children charged fees for attending school?

What curriculum does the school follow? (State Board/ Central/ Alternative). What are the children taught?

What is the medium of instruction?

## **5. About the NGO**

What is the main ideology of the organization behind the project?

How old is the organization?

How and why was it founded?

What is their vision about the future of the project?

Who are founders? Do the founders work full time with the project or do they hold other jobs as well? Are the founders paid? Where do the founders live?

What were the initial challenges faced by the organization and by the founder in particular? How did he/she overcome them? Who helped them through the initial stages?

Has the organization ever approached the government for funding? If so, what was the outcome? If not, why not?

***What are the typical problems that they face?***

Is the organization/founder involved with any other social issues/causes other than running the school?

## **6. Financial Information and statistics**

What are the different sources of funding for this project? (different agencies/government)

What is the annual budget?

***Are detailed records of past funding and spending available? If possible, please request a copy (of annual financial statements, for example).***

What is the largest portion of expenses (salaries/infrastructure/etc.)?

What is the total enrollment? What is the teacher/student ratio? Drop-out rates?