

# *Asha for Education™*

## Site Visit Questionnaire

Asha Zurich • Weidmannstrasse 14• 8046 Zurich

www.asha-zurich.ch

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 Parts 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.

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

Thanks.

- Asha for Education

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**Date:**

**Name of the Project:**

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

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>
Name		
Address		
Phone(s)		
Fax		
E-mail		

**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 \_\_\_%      Health \_\_\_%  
 Other \_\_\_% (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

*They emphasize equally on Education and Health. Besides, they stress on the sports, environmental awareness and the dignity of labor.*

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

**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
<p><i>Government Rural Hospital, Bhawragarh Village.</i></p> <p><i>(2 km away from the organization)</i></p>	<p><i>Health</i></p>
<p><i>Government Primary School,</i></p> <p><i>(Jela Parishad Schools, Under Sarva siksha Abhiyan)</i></p> <p><i>(In every 1 Km distance)</i></p>	<p><i>Education</i></p>

**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? (Not very clear) approximately 120 families.**

2. *What do the parents do for a living? (Agricultural worker, daily wage laborer etc.)*  
*Agriculture. (Paddy and vegetables).*

3. *At the time of enrollment, does the school ask for the names of both parents?*

*Ans: YES (As per the rules of the Government).*

Yes

No, just the father's name

No, just the mother's name

4. *How often do the teachers meet the parents?*  
*Once in a month (approximately)*

*(The market day is held once in every week and mostly on Wednesday. On that day, there is a huge gathering and the volunteers organize the Parents-Teacher's meeting there. And eighty percent of the parents cooperate. )*

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.)*

*The parents hardly involve in the activities of the organizations though the volunteers are constantly trying.*

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

7. *If yes, how far are the Government Schools from the community?* 1 km away.

8. *Why did the parents choose this school over the Government School?*  
*The prior reasons are Education, Food and Health.*

Comments:

*Although other Government schools are there, the service is not up to the mark (Both in terms of education and food). I visited one Government school there and came to know that the teachers do not come to the school regularly. The students hardly find any interest in the classes. As per the Government's rule, the students are supposed to avail nutritious food (one time a day), but the quality of the food is not good at all.*

*In contrast, here in LBP school, the scenario is totally different (I shall discuss these in details).*

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

*What is the regular class strength? 45 – 50 students*

*Comments: I visited 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 10th and 12th standards in LBP school at Hemalkasa, and K.G, 1st and 2nd standards at LBP school at Neil Gonda. And each class I checked the attendance records and found that almost all the students are present (except one or two). The regular capacity of the students is about 45 to 50, but they accommodate more than that.*

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

*Really they do.. the Education system is very much interactive. When I visited the classes, I found that the students are given various tasks and the children were really enjoying. (details I shall put forward later).*

**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.)  **State Board,**  
**''Maharashtra Rajya Secondary and Higher Secondary Board, Nagpur Division Board, Nagpur ''.**

*till what class? 12*

B. Non-Formal Education (NFE)  Does not rise.

C. Vocational

D. Other . Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

2. If A (Formal), up to what grade (LKG, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> etc.) does the school conduct classes?  
*Up to Class 12*

3. If B (Non-Formal Education) how many of the children also attend formal schools in the area?

Does not rise

*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)?

Does not rise

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

*Vocational training is the part of the School education in LBP. But they do not provide any certificate. The training includes agricultural methods, Bamboo crafting, Tailoring (for girls) and a little mechanical engineering etc.*

6. *How many students are currently enrolled? 602 students      How many new students were enrolled in the past 12 months? 90 – 100 students (approximately)*

*Comments: In last 12 months, 50 new students are enrolled in 1st standard and approximately 45-50 students are enrolled in standards 2nd – 11th .*

*There is a per-primary section which shelters near to 30 children. They are not enrolled yet. These students are taught in Maria (a tribal language).*

7. *How many students left in the past 12 month, and why?*

*Approximately 10 – 12 students (as a whole from the school).*

*In the 1st standard, the students mostly drop because of the home-sickness. Some times because of some family problems, the students also left school. For example, sudden death of father or old age, naturally bring forth a lot of responsibilities on the elder son and the students leave school and involve themselves in agricultural activities.*

8. *How many school days were missed in the past 6 months by all students?*

*(Question is not very clear)*

*Attendance: 98 % (approximately)*

*Comments:*

*The LBP school is a residential school. The students miss the school very less and whenever they do it is because of illness (like cough and fever and stomach ache etc.)*

9. *How many days was the school open in the past 6 months?*

*(The information is provided for 12 months)*

*As per the Government regulation, in 12 months there should be 207 working days. But as per the record, the school is open for 230 days approximately (in 12 months).*

*Comments:*

*The LBP school being residential, the teachers overlook many governmental holidays and take classes..*

10. How many staff or volunteers are recruited from the community? Approximately, 40 % of the staffs and volunteers are recruited from the community in the whole LBP. Out of which 10-12 % are recruited in the school.

In LBP school, there are 29 non-teaching staffs out of which 10-12 fellows are from the community. Out of all the teaching staffs, 30 % teachers belong to the community (Including government and non-governmental staffs. ) .

How many of the staff are women? Out of the community based staffs and volunteers working under LBP as a whole, the 50% are women. Out of 22 teachers, there are four government approved female teachers . Besides, there are also 3 non-governmental female teachers working in the LBP school.

11. How many teachers are there in total? 22 teachers How many new teachers have joined in the past 12 months? 1 male teacher + 1 female teacher ( government approved), 1 female teacher (from LBP).

12. How many teachers have left the school in the past 12 months, and why?  
No teachers have left.

13. How many days did the teachers miss work in the past 3 months?  
The teachers in general do not miss the classes. If required, the take leave formally ( on and average for 1-2 working days ) .

14. Does the organization train the teachers? Yes Yes  No   
If yes, how do they provide the training? Often, LBP organizes some training workshops ( 1 – 2 days long ) or orientations on Saturday and Sunday. In the workshops concern mostly the communication skills (English) and new teaching techniques. The teachers are also sent to some orientation programs outside LBP .

15. Does each child have their own books? How many books does a child have on average?  
Yes, all the students have their own books. From 1st -8th standards, the text books are provided by the government (Under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan). Approximately, each students have 9 -10 books with them.

Comments: The other supplementary materials like note books, work books, practical books, pens etc. are provided by LBP itself . As per the students what LBP provides is sufficient for them.

16. Does each child have their own school uniform? Are there enough school uniforms for all children?  
Yes, they are provided with two sets of uniforms per year and what LBP provides is enough. Besides, other cloths (used but washed in a proper way) are also provided to the students for day to day use.

17. How much is the staff paid? The government appointed teacher get salary of Rs.30,000 (approximately) . For the volunteers, the LBP provide the salary and it varies from Rs. 4000-8000 at the most. The permanent teachers get approximately 10,000 at the most.

Is it on par with the salary paid to the staff in the Government schools? Yes  No   
No, not at all. In comparison to Government staffs in the LBP school, the LBP volunteers get very less

amount.

**Comment:** *But LBP provides the volunteers free meals (three times a day), free medical facilities, quarters and hostels for stay.*

*(Please have a look at the accounting books of the organization and answer the following questions)*

**18. Have the teacher salaries in the last 6 months been paid on time?** Yes  No

**PART D: Financial resources of the organization**

*(Feedback from the person conducting the site visit – you may again request the accounting books/ overview of Operating Expenses (OPEX))*

**1. Is there a deviation between the OPEX and our approved budget?** No  Yes  No

**Are all items covered in the budget?** Yes  No  Maybe

*If yes, what is the deviation (list per item)?*

**Comments:** *I have reviewed the record of expenses . It is maintained for all the students (no separate record of 100 students is available) . According to my observation, the expenditure per student exceeds Rs. 930 and it is more than Rs.2000.*

**2. Do you think the proposed amounts in the budget are reasonable?** No  Yes  No   
Maybe

*As per my opinion, the proposed amount is not reasonable.*

3. *Is there anything you think should be added or removed from the budget? Yes*

Yes  No

*If you recommend any changes to the budget, please explain your reasons for this.*

*Let me explain the reasons step by step.*

1. *As per the discussion with Mr. Aniket Amte, I came to know that the official rate of the expenses per tribal student is Rs. 2,700 (For Governmental organization) . In that respect, Rs. 930 seems lesser.*
2. *As stated earlier, as per the record it is clear that Rs 930 is not sufficient. I have visited their store room, kitchen and have attended them during the dinner time, reviewed the quality of the food items and what I found is satisfactory. Meal is provided four times a day :(Break fast (6 am), meal (10 am), Fruit or milk (2 pm) and Dinner (7 pm) ). The LBP provides all kinds of stationary items including pens, pencils, note books etc and even cloths also. Besides in the hostels, th LBP has arranged solar water heaters (The number is more than 20). There is Computer class room for the students having 40 computers which run on solar power. In order to manage the power cuts, there is a provision of inverters in all the hostels. Besides, most importantly, LBP hospital takes care of the health issues of the students free of cost. In order to maintain all these ,no contribution comes from government's side. So, in this regard ASHA can think of an increment in the proposed budget*
3. *The students on the average bears less interest to choose science stream after passing The teachers are trying their best to grow interest among the students. It would have been better if ASHA could fund some academic teams who could interact with the students to motivate them to take science stream.*
4. *The volunteers who are teaching the students are very active and works hard. But the salary they draw is much lesser than that provided by the government. So ASHA can think in this regard.*
5. *For the computer classes, the teachers are requiring some educational softwares which are expensive. If ASHA can assist in this regard, it would be really nice.*
6. *The students posses inherent urge to do better in games and they are quite interested in athletics. Availing minimum facilities and coaching some of the students have even competed at National level. If sophisticated equipments and tools were provided, the students could have done better. Possibly, ASHA can think in this line.*

*In fact whatever changes to the budget I have proposed, is based on the the discussion with Mr. Amte and other volunteers. During conversation I asked them whether this changes to the existing scheme will be helpful or not and all of them agreed in this regard.*

## **PART E: Comments**

*(Feel free to attach documents if necessary)*

*(Introduction)*

*As a volunteer of ASHA Zurich, this is my first visit to Lok Biradari Project (LBP)*

### ***Education:***

*The label of Education and the efforts the teacher pay in educating the young minds in LBP school is really praise worthy. This group by their selfless efforts have tried to build up an ideal educational platform where the fetching of knowledge is not at all based on parrot learning, but the young minds earn the former through proper involvement. Being educated from a Governmental institution from our country I never experienced this environment which I witnessed on coming to this remote village. One experience I want to share. It was Mithil, who has graduated in computer engineering and now working as a volunteer here in LBP. It was the evening time, Mithil was taking the computer class. And in the class there were almost 50 students. Standing on the door step I was watching the class...He was teaching the uses of computer to the children. Some days earlier he has shown them a fantasy movie titled ``Bahubali'' .. So, on that very day, in the projector, Mithil was explaining the students about how the virtual world and magical environment were generated in the movie through computer animation by a short video, he downloaded from Youtube. Later, I came to know that he was explaining the students the uses of computer..The students were really enjoying the class. Then in another session he gave the students some task that they have to display on projector. And to my astonishment, I found each and every students equally enthusiastic and eager to perform the task...Then I asked Mithil, whether the buddies are comfortable with operating the computers or not. On my request, Mithil told the children to sit down before computer and to perform some task they like. There were 40 computers available in the room and the students joyfully avail the seats before computers. I found them operating on Ubuntu. Some of the children wrote something in ``Libre office writer'' and some of them started playing some mathematics game. In the meantime the bell rang (at 5 pm) and Mithil told them to leave. But it was a great and unusual experience I witnessed on coming to this remote village(`` Hemalkasa''), that even though the bell rang but the students are least interested to leave the classes and wanted more tasks to perform. Finally, Mithil has to provide 20 minutes more ...I was really spell bound..*

*Just before visiting the class of Mithil, I visited the other classes. I started with Standard 10. I found the students in the chemistry laboratory. The teacher there was demonstrating some experiment and the students were interacting with him. Then I visited Standard 12, and at that time they had the history class. I interacted with them in Hindi. But the students were more comfortable with Marathi. Most of the students I found little shy, but many of the students were very smart. I was very happy to see that the students know proper mannerism. In all the classes and on the walls of the school, I found some educational activities displayed by the students; For example, while going upstairs, one can see the ascending numbers on the wall, or can see the number line in the balcony. I visited one class where the teacher was conducting a special class for the students to educate them properly in English communication. The students I found there were from 7th, 8th and 9th standards. The projector was being used to educate the students and in the class I found several interactive mediums to teach parts of speech, appropriate prepositions etc. I selected two and three students randomly and gave them some task to perform. Two of them did properly but the other could not. I then asked all the students to complete the task. Almost whole of the class responded..and they solve the problem. I later came to know that all the interactive mediums available in the class were actually constructed by the students themselves. In the fourth standard I asked the students to sing a song if they know. All the students together sang some local song (in Marrathi) in unison. And the children were so spontaneous that after completion of the first song they willingly wanted to do another. But I had some other appointments, and hence I took permission from them and left. When I entered the second standard, I found the teacher and the students are involved*

*in preparing small bamboo sticks. The teacher introduced himself as Mr. Tushar Kabgati and who was newly appointed and told that he was taking mathematics class. Being curious to know what actually they are planning to do with the bamboo sticks I was informed by Tushar that he is planning to illustrate the place values and the whole preparation is for the sake of that purpose. While visiting the standard one, I found similar scenario. The children were preparing garlands with small earthen balls and by this method they were being taught multiplication. I could not not help but involve with them. I took four garlands each carrying 10 balls and asked them many balls are there; and in no time the whole class replied in unison, "Chalisa" in Marathi (which means forty). Then I asked them, "How many garlands shall I require to get 100 balls?" This time not all of them but most of the children replied together, "Daha" (ten). What I realized that here the teaching and learning is something that is enjoyed by both teachers and students. In the night time, after dinner, I went to computer room to talk with Mithil and I found him surrounded six high school students. I came to know from him that after the class hours, the volunteers pay special attention to the students in preparing the home work.*

*While discussing with the Headmaster, I came to know that this time out of all the students who appeared in High school and Higher secondary final examinations, all of them have qualified with flying colors . According to him this is the first time in the history of the LBP school. And Interestingly, this time from their school a tribal boy named Sachin Chaithu Toppa has secured 2nd position in High school final from Maharastra State Board.*