

ASHRAYA Site Visit Report

Type	Information	Information/Data entered by Site Visitor
Site Visit Information	Name of organization visited	MP Association for the Blind,
	Address of organization visited	33 B/D Industrial Estate, Laxmibai Nagar, Fort Area, Indore 452 006. MP
	Date of visit	March 1, 2003
	Name(s) and designations of personnel met	Dr Shirdonkar, President Parag Mendke, Manager Chandrashekar Rathore, Teacher and Superintendent
Site Visitor Information	Name	Dattatreya M S
	Current occupation	Senior Documentation Manager
	Address	#42, 27th Cross, BSK II Stage, Bangalore – 560 070
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Organization Information	What is the main charter of the organization?	Promote education and rehabilitation of persons with vision impairment from MP.
	How old is the organization?	About 44 years old
	Does management work full time or hold other jobs?	Full time
	Who are the trustees? What are their backgrounds?	Not Available
	Is the organization working with other NGOs? Does it fund other NGOs?	No. It has a few sister organizations set up in different districts of Madhya Pradesh to help serve the visually challenged.
	What typical funding related problems do they face?	They can mobilize recurring funds but have difficulty in convincing local community groups for any non-recurring expenditure.
Information about Teachers/Volunteers	How many total Teachers/Volunteers work in the organization? →Full-time →Part-time	15 full time teachers (5 non-sighted and 10 sighted) 1 game teacher
	What is the average age of these teachers/ volunteers?	Between 15 and 50 years
	How many volunteers/teachers are from local community?	All of them live in the school's vicinity
	What are their educational qualifications and experience?	
	How long they have been with organization?	Between 1 and 15 years
	Does the organization train the teachers? If yes, how do they provide the training?	Yes. Teachers participate in workshops targeted for the visually challenged
	What is the teacher/student ratio in school?	1 teacher for a classroom with 8 and 16 students
	How many volunteers are paid and how many are unpaid?	All are paid
	Information about Students	How many students are enrolled in the school?
What is their age group?		6-18 years
What is the socio-economic background of students?		Poor and lower middle class
Which sector do these children belong to? →Lower/middle class →Rural underprivileged →Urban underprivileged		Lower Urban underprivileged
What is their motivation for attending the school?		High. Parents want their children to study irrespective of the challenges that they face.
Do they really enjoy attending this school?		Yes
What do they do after leaving the school?		Some children living in the vicinity of the school reach home and many children from areas beyond Indore stay at the school's dormitories
What is drop out rate among the students?		None
What are their reasons for dropping out?		Not Applicable
How far do the children have to travel to attend school?		Some children living in the vicinity of the school reach home and many children from areas beyond Indore stay at the school's dormitories
What admission criteria are used?		None
What tuition fees are the students charged?		Free Food and Education

	Does the school have residential facilities? What are the students charged for boarding & lodging?	Yes. Nothing
	Does organization provide basic health care to students?	Yes. Frequent health camps are conducted to keep the children
	What curriculum do they follow? (State/ Central/ Alternative)	State Syllabus meant for sighted children
	What is the medium of instruction?	Hindi
	Do they have toys and play space for the children?	Yes. A toy room with a variety of toys meant for visually challenged children is available.
	What are the extra curricular activities (music, yoga, etc) that you support?	Music equipment (Tabla, Harmonium, Flute, Drums, Casio Keyboard, Dholak) are available. Children are also taught basic yoga exercises.
	What are the school hours daily? How many days of the month/year is the school open?	Between 8 am and 4 pm for 10 months
	If school is has records of school-administrated tests, can you take a look at it and give your comments about how students are performing?	Teachers demonstrated the manner students use geometrical instruments, Braille slates and the Braille abacus for mathematics.
Information about Local People/ Parents/ Community	What do the students' parents do for a living?	Daily labor
	What is their social/economic background?	
	How do they view the efforts taken by the organization?	Positive
	Is there any interaction between teachers and the parents?	There has been no feedback mechanism thus far. However, MPWAB proposes to introduce a parent-teacher conclave that will help each one understand each other's needs and expectations.
	How much has the community supported the organization?	The local community around the center takes care of all recurring expenditure.
Information about Infrastructure/ Facilities	Please describe the infrastructure and facilities	The center has two buildings. The following infrastructure is available: 1 Principal Room 1 Low Vision Center 1 Science Laboratory 10 Class rooms 1 Staff room 1 Low Vision Center for education 1 Science Lab 1 Warden room 10 Hostel rooms for adults (accommodating 4 adults in each rooms) 10 Hostel rooms for young children 1 Common Hall 6 Toilet Blocks 1 Clean drinking water plant
	Are the buildings permanent or temporary constructions?	Permanent
	What is the current physical condition of the buildings?	Good
	How big are classrooms? How many students do they hold?	Spacious. Can comfortably accommodate close to 16 children
	Does the organization create its own study materials?	Presently, they depend on external resources.
	Do they have →School furniture →Water, Power, Drainage, Toilets →Sports Equipment →Library Facilities →Music & Other Equipment →Technologies	Yes. Each class is complete with benches, and desks. Children live their study material in the class. Yes Yes Yes. Mythological Books, Educational books and materials available) Yes. (mentioned above) Yes (One fully functional computer room with two computers and related peripheral devices)
	How well are these equipment being used?	Used appropriately.
Financial Information	What is the total amount of funding needed per year?	Rs 1, 24, 86, 134.00
	What are the different sources of funding for the organization? (Different agencies/Government)	MP Government – 35% Central Government – 20%
	In case of multiple agency funding, what are other agencies and how much do they fund (local / foreign agencies)? How much have they funded in the past?	
	How do they approach different agencies?	Through handouts and

	Do they get any monetary support from local community?	
	What are their major expenses? →Salaries →Infrastructure →Administrative costs →Food/cloths/books	Blind Welfare services – 60% Staff Services – 22% Administrative Expenditure – 11% Investments in corpus/earmarked funds – Nil Other expenditure – 7%
	Do you have any comments to make on the budget (its too high, appropriate etc)?	Appropriate for their scale of operations. They also operate a blind school for women in Dewas
Organization Evaluation Ratings on Scale of 1 to 5 (1=Lowest, 5=Highest)	Organization operational effectiveness	Cannot comment. Visited them on a holiday. So, could not get to see a fully functional office during the visit.
	Faith in organization	Employees hold Dr Shirdonkar (who was a physiotherapist and is visually challenged. Aged 60 years) in high respect. Many people who have come to work have stayed there. The experienced cadre have spent anywhere between 5 and 15 years. The Principal of the school (Mr Patedar) is also visually challenged.
	Current project effectiveness	Most of the projects that have undertaken are being effectively managed. They have a fully functional Hellen Keller Academy of Education set up under the aegis of Aide et Action (AeA).
	Efficiency of usage of funds	Cannot comment. Did not get to look at their book of accounts. However, we can request for one.
	Benefits to students	High. Many students that have passed out of the school have become self-sufficient.
	School infrastructure	Good
Other Information	What was your overall opinion about your site visit?	Can continue to work with MPWAB. However, it is necessary that funders have to stay in continuous touch with the custodians to monitor any progress.
	What was the most positive aspect you found?	I was amazed at the commitment and dogged approach towards emancipating visually challenged children.
	What was the most negative aspect you found?	However, they lack of soft skills (that is presentation, being media savvy). They are not properly organized. Subsequently, become prey to inducing communication gaps. Are not proactive.
	Did you talk to anyone else in the community/town about the organization? If you did, what were their opinions?	Most of the people in Indore know about the good work that MPWAB is doing.