



Live In Labs Project

Byse Village

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Introduction

Byse is a small village in Hosanagara Taluk in Shimoga District of Karnataka State, India. The name of the city is derived from the term “Shivmoga.” According to the Shimoga City Municipal Corporation, the city has a total area of about 50 km(19 sq mi). The climate is tropical wet and summer average temperature 20–35 °C. The majority of the rainfall occurs between June and early October. Shimoga comes under Byse Panchayath. It belongs to Bangalore Division. It is located 63 km towards west from District headquarters Shivamogga, 342 KM from State capital Bangalore. Kannada is the language spoken by the villagers. Nearby railway station of Byse is Shimoga. People in Byse follows certain customs and beliefs. Chidambareshwara Devaru and Nethrabylu Choudi Devasthanana Hindu shrines are located in Byse.

The habitations that fall under the Byse Gram Panchayath include:

- Baise
- Konanahalli
- Kardigere
- Kuppaduru
- Kannamane
- Hokoppalau
- Chikalli
- Dhummadhagadde
- Doddagundi

A majority of the persons living in Byse have involved themselves in agriculture and associated industries. The Byse is hope to people of different castes and creeds which rightly demonstrates the principles of 'Unity in Diversity'. Byse village life is fully relied on agriculture and innate all over the land. The lifestyle maintained by the people of Byse villages as well as their working styles are as fascinating as the balance offered by the metropolitan city lifestyles.

India is the country of villages; people of this nation majorly reside in the interior part of it that mainly comprises of villages or rural human settlements, it is estimated that about 68.84% of the Indian population stays in villages. It has been well said by M.K. Gandhi that “The soul of India lives in its villages”, most of these villages have their own temples, churches and mosques. Most of the villages in India are packed with greenery cattle around due to its dependence on agriculture for their living.

Education

As a part of education we went to two government primary schools and one private school.

Government primary school - Byse (1-7th standard)

In this school there is a total of 48 students, in which there are 30 girls and 18 boys. As per the information we got from the school authorities every child in this village is attaining the necessary education and there are students who go for higher studies. In this school there is a total of six subjects being taught and the number of teachers available are 2 permanent teachers and 2 guest teachers. Every student in this school is provided with mid-day meals and milk also. School is providing free textbooks and uniforms and scholarships also.

The school conducts several cultural and sports events which encourage the students to take part in different activities. They are conducting mid-term and annual examination to assess the students improvement in their studies.



PROBLEMS -

- 1) Lack of teachers
- 2) No proper toilet facility
- 3) No cleaners
- 4) No specialised teachers for each subjects.
- 5) Lack of facility for computer education

Government primary school - (1-5th standard)

In this school there is a total of 26 students and the ratio of boys and girls are 15:11. There is a total of 6 subjects being taught. Textbooks and uniforms for the students are being provided by the government at a free of cost. There is a total of 2 teachers in which one teacher is appo

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inted by the government and one teacher is there on contract basis. This school also conducts cultural events and mid-term and annual examinations .In this school students are given responsibility by assigning them into positions like prime minister, health minister, cultural minister, social minister etc.



PROBLEMS -

- 1) Lack of teachers
- 2) Lack of computer education
- 3) No specialised teachers of each subjects
- 4) Lack of bench and desk for the children to sit and study.
- 5) No fan or tube light

Private school - Byse

This was a very small school which consisted only of 10 students between the age 3-6. There was a total of 4 2 teachers and they get a salary of Rs.6000 per month.



In every schools we had an interactive section with the students about the tablet education and showed them how it actually works and helps the students to learn in a better way. So, a proposal that we make after this interactive section is that to provide atleast 2 tablets to each school so they the teachers can teach the students effectively and the students can learn in an interactive way.

Suggestions and solutions:

As there is a shortage of teachers ,great support has to be provided for teachers as they are the building blocks of nation by imparting knowledge and immense enthusiasm to students. As there is only one teacher who is teaching all subjects for all standards it is highly tedious job. So we would suggest a tablet per school per teacher so that all the students gets benefited. When we taught about the subjects through Tablet students were very much excited to know the concepts more clearly and are very much intensed in their duties.

Alcoholism

Byse as such is blessed with abundant natural resources and fertile soil which can cater the needs of the people at Byse. But many people there cannot work well to earn a good living. The main reason behind involves indulging in alcoholism. Around 65% of men there are addicted to alcohol which includes minors from the age of 15. This is mainly due to the availability of cheap liquor available in tetra packs



where 100 mL of Whisky cost 25₹.

We got a rough estimate of the people indulging in alcoholism from our village co-ordinator, school teachers. To get a more accurate figure, we enquired with the women in the houses we surveyed. Although many of them were reluctant to share such information with us, we persuaded them and most of them gave us the truth. Also, we checked the premises of the houses we surveyed for alcohol bottles and covers. From these findings, we were able to conclude that around 65% of the males indulged in alcoholism.

We found out that one of the main reasons for alcoholism in the village was the availability of alcohol at cheap rates and also at small quantities which made them affordable, mainly to the daily-wage workers. The cheap rates were the main reason that even some school children indulged in alcoholism. Lack of awareness about the ill-effects of alcoholism is one of the main problems which needed to be addressed.

A major portion of the incomes of the families are unknowingly being spent on alcohol which is one of the main problems in Byse.

In order to tackle these issues related to alcoholism within the limited time constraint, we decided to start from the households itself. In all the houses where we found that alcoholism was affecting them, we tried to give awareness to the women of the family regarding the health issues which alcoholism can cause. Most of the women became aware of what alcoholism can do to the men of their families and the entire family itself and agreed to try to bring them out of alcoholism. We gave them examples of instances where alcoholism took away the happiness from many lives.

Next, we tried and talked to the men who indulged in alcoholism. As most of our work was during the day time, we had difficulty in finding these men as they had gone to their jobs. But we managed to meet and talk with many of them at different times. We gave them an idea of what alcoholism can do to them and their families' lives. Also, we prepared and showed them rough economic models of how their spending on alcohol is affecting their family's disposable income. The models we showed of what their disposable income would be like if they did not spend in alcoholism seemed to motivate them and instil thoughts of giving up alcoholism.

As far as the children were concerned, the education team gave government school students and teenage boys they met awareness campaigns against alcoholism. They used pictures and videos to help their awareness programs.

Healthcare and sanitation

Problems faced

In healthcare, the village does have a primary health centre and a dispensary which is 5 km away but the problem the villagers face is the lack of qualified doctors in the centre and proper medicines in the dispensary. During the visit to each household in the village there were old men and women who need required regular medical attention. Some had difficulty to walk, others needed crutches and some were bed ridden etc.

Recommendations

The authorities from Ammachi labs in Amritapuri could contact the Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Kochi to conduct medical camps and bring in medicines and medical equipments to aid people who are suffering from chronic health problems.

In sanitation, the villagers are not using the toilets build by Amrita as per our observation during the village visit. The other problem we found was students studying in the village government school do not wash their hands before having the lunch.

The students doing post-graduate course in social work from all campus of Amrita must come together to bring awareness about the usage of the toilet. They must emphasize on washing hands before having food through various promotions which include demos, videos etc

Entrepreneurship

Findings

Byse region has very good prospect of mushroom cultivation as well as processing. Oyster Mushroom has good scope in domestic and export market. It is more suitable in rural areas and can create self-employment. Oyster Mushroom can be grown in wide range of temperature. Since people in the village don't have a regular source of income, this mushroom cultivation may be one of their solutions to the problem.

Cows are important beings in a rural locality. That too in village like Byse there is an abundance availability of cows and buffalos in that village there is a huge opportunity for us to make it an milk hub based on this village using the flush of natural resources available.

As the village we went is largely dependent on agriculture as their primary source of income and the village does not have a proper waste management method to dispose their wastes.

We took an overall survey in the village and we came to know that most of the people own areca nut farm. We can use areca nut leaves to manufacture areca nut plates. Areca nut plates are the most preferred plates in recent times. It is easy to manufacture and this helps us in recycling the areca nut leaves instead of those decomposing and causing nuisance to the villagers. We can prepare different forms of plates and sell them in market to earn a decent amount of profit through the areca nut plates and cups.

Problems

At present the state government is willing to teach the villagers how to make the mushroom for two days of free cost. People in the villagers are not aware of what schemes the government is announcing. It will be better if we connect the villagers with state government for the mushroom production. So the villagers will be benefited.

Right now there is nothing specific based on milk and other dairy products. So basically we thought of creating something keeping this as a basis as there is nothing so called hub based on this village. If such a hub is created we really hope that not only Byse but also nearby villages can also be satisfied.

We found that there is a large amount of household and agricultural wastes generated and is dumped without any use. They just dump it in an empty area with both biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes mixed together. This largely affects the fertility of the land and will affect agricultural lands in the coming years.

This manufacturing of areca nut plates needs a clean and sufficient place to set up the plant and the machines which will be a hurdle. In addition to that, an initial investment of around 1.30lacs is required. One more major problem which people in the village have to overcome is the knowledge of manufacturing process. This requires skill labor and the villagers need to attend a two week training program in order to specialize this areca nut plate making process.

Resources

Oyster Mushroom cultivation doesn't require any type of soil and climate. Basic thing which required is dark room (10 x 5) ft. without any light rays. Raw materials need to be purchased and the required are as follows, Wheat/ Paddy straw, Water Sprayer, Pesticides, Gloves; Spawn (Corn), Salt, Citric acid, Polythene bags, Shelf. This Oyster Mushroom cultivation process requires six steps; they are Compost preparation, Compost readiness, spawning the mushrooms, Casing, Pinning and Cropping. Villagers should be trained properly. Raw materials should be bought at good quality which is essential for making quality mushrooms. Analyze the market, based upon the demand the mushroom is to be produced

As there are lot of natural waste lands and cows to feed on these plants and vegetation there is no need for special care to grow anything for this to happen. Also cow dungs can be used as the natural cleaner for households as it has an ability to kill germs and maintain clean and healthy environment. As a result of this no special resources are required.

There is ample amount of water available and the soil is found to be very nutritious which can be used to grow many varieties of crops. We found many earthworms there which are enriching the soil more and more to add fertility to the soil.

The main resource for the areca nut plate manufacturing is areca nut leaves. The areca nut farm is abundant in this village where most of the village people own a sufficient amount of areca nut farm. One major advantage is that the villagers are quite interested in making home-made products. There is sufficient amount of water supply in order to wash the leaves before processing it into plates.

Solutions

Oyster Mushroom requires less investment and gives huge profit. It will certainly suit the villagers in Byse to produce Oyster Mushroom. Marketing is the only area that we need to concentrate and to create a market for the villagers. Fresh products in the current situation have a heavy demand in the market. So our suggestion is to market the mushroom as fresh products.

The milk obtained can be used by households and as well as sold to nearby villages. They can also be used for individual purposes. Also as already mentioned the cow dung can be used as a natural germ killer. So what the suggestion is that initially let us breed the cows in the natural environment and the major point is that almost no investments are required as cows are already present in each and every household and also there is a huge advantage as land is abundant.

As we have assessed the problems and the available resources, we propose that there is a very good possibility to develop a vermicomposting plant which uses earthworms and microorganisms to produce natural fertilizers by using the wastes generated by households and agricultural wastes. This has a huge market as the people out there can actually pack these naturally enriched fertilizers and sell it in the market. All that is required is a considerable amount of capital and willingness of people to work.

As we have assessed the problems and the available resource, we propose that there is a feasible possibility to develop an areca nut plate manufacturing area which uses the areca nut leaves as the primary resource in turn helps in avoiding the decomposition of the leaves which causes diseases and infection. This has a huge market scope as people are preferring these kinds of plates in marriage, reception and other social events as these plates come in different shapes and sizes which makes them very attractive and it is cost effective and environmental friendly. All this requires a handful amount of investment and co-operation of village people to learn this process and make it into a successful business venture.