

# LILA REPORT AND INDIVIDUAL PERCEPTION

## Personal Experience:

Byse village in Shimogga was the village we visited as part of the LILA program. The moment the van took a turn from the National Highway in Uduppi, I realized we were a different world which I have never experienced. It all seemed very strange for me in the beginning but with every passing minute my anticipation began to turn to excitement. The calmness that the village brought to my mind and the clarity that was brought to my thoughts was a feeling that I had never felt before.

Life went on in its own peaceful pace in Byse. There was no rush anywhere. A typical day in Byse meant you could see farmers in their fields, housewives carrying out their household chores and hear the sounds of teachers and students near schools. One thing common in all the faces that we saw there was a smile. It was nothing like what I had in my mind when I thought about villages. With whatever little or big they had, they were contented and this was one of the biggest lessons what I took out of our visit – Everyone is blessed in their own way. The simplicity, customs they follow had made them live happy in life rather than people in the cities running behind power and status.

The vastness of greenery and the homes in between brought an image exactly opposite to what I had seen all my life where it was man-made structures one after the other with mother nature trying to squeeze in. The scenery which Byse presented before us brought a warmth in my heart as I realized that there is still hope for nature. Man and cattle worked together on their fields and interactions with them told us that, for them, they were one big family. Having been exposed to city life all throughout life, this was an eye-opening experience for me.

The attention and care that each one of us got in Byse is something we will carry with us for the rest of our lives. In the end, there was a feeling of wanting to stay there for many more days as we had grown attached to Byse. When the right time comes, we will visit Byse once again and relive our good memories and create even more.

## Summary:

- Byse is a small village which is about 12 kms from Shimoga in Karnataka. Byse is a forestland converted into a revenue land. Agriculture is the major source of income for the people in Byse. The major crops cultivated are predominantly paddy and areca nut. The agricultural process doesn't ensure the efficient utilization and the fields are kept unutilized for 3-6 months. Further it is also learned that the villagers are almost unaware of the government schemes and benefits and also those offered by **Khadi and Village Industries Commission**. There we identified a few government schools but there were no adequate infrastructure like benches and electricity was available only for 5-6 hrs. When we visited a school there were only two teachers available for teaching the whole school. Mid day meal is available in most of the government schools and that is the only benefit provided by the government. Most of the villagers have the skill and the training but they lack resources. The village needs support from a powerful organization like Ammachi Labs and also benefits and help from the government in order to increase the economic wellbeing of the people in Byse.

### Problem identified:

- Unawareness of producing value added products from agricultural output, like making hand crafts from areca nut palm leaf, jack fruit pickle, jam.
- They are not following mechanized and scientific agricultural practices and they keep their farm land unutilized during off season which decrease the efficiency.
- The proper communication from agriculture dept: and various government initiatives and schemes for rural agricultural promotions are underutilized due to poor awareness.
- The village doesn't have a co operative society. Hence they will not have a medium through which they can sell their products.
- The schools lack permanent faculty. When we visited a school there were only two teachers available for teaching the whole school.
- The spare time of village ladies is not utilized properly, in fact this can be utilized by forming a women's self help group which can provide additional income by engaging in producing value added products like apiculture, jackfruit pickle, chips etc...

- No stable marketing chain has yet been established for fresh jackfruit and jackfruit products in India

### Course learning:

- This course helps in identifying the enormous potential that remains hidden in villages like the possibility of rural entrepreneurship.
- The course helps in understanding the life in village and helps in identifying the key changes that will impact their life and make them self sufficient.
- It gave us an opportunity to understand the natural living habits' of villagers and the simple way of earning their income through agriculture.
- Marketing of dry Jackfruit is an untapped area which could greatly increase the economic wellbeing of the people in Byse.

### PERCEPTION ABOUT THE VILLAGE

From the earlier reports from Ammachi labs, it was stated that there was a problem of alcoholism, education, the living condition of the people in the village etc. From the reports we collected, we found out that for every house there was a toilet constructed by Ammachi labs ,but we could only find a few houses which was having it and those who have it hardly uses it .Most of the houses have toilets or bathrooms that have been constructed by the villagers themselves. After the visit we found out that 90 percent of the houses have electricity connection and nearly 50 percent of the people have their own transportation facility in the form of bikes and car. Even though the villagers have the capacity to work and bring out business from the resources they have in their village , the lack of training or financial support disables them to open up a new source from which they can earn money .So they stick back to the normal practice of agriculture that they have been practicing for ages.