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LiLa Liv in Labs

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INTRODUCTION

Dewgain village is an epitome of a typical North Indian village which is located 14km from Ranchi district of Jharkhand. The total population of the village is around 1500. Dialects spoken by the villagers are Hindi, Nagpuri, Mundari, Bengali and sadhori. There are almost 220 houses within the boundary of the village. On an average there are 5-6 members in each family. The primary occupation of the people is agriculture. There is a school which provides education up to 5th standard. However some children are sent to schools in Ranchi for higher education. The population of female is comparatively higher than the male with the gender ratio of 11:9. The village is very greenish with grass sprouted everywhere and clean. The sanitation facilities are built by A-serve and Lion's club.

PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED

The major problems identified in the various areas are:

1. AGRICULTURE

- The primary occupation of the people is agriculture. They only grow one crop a year depending on the rainfall.
- They cultivated paddy for 3 months i.e. July to September. The cultivation land was left idle for 9 months.
- The farmers rely largely on rainfall due to electricity and irrigational problems.
- Due to middle men intervention, agricultural produces were sold at a lower rate.

2. HEALTH

- **Improper Hygiene Practices:**
 - The people used mainly mud to clean their hands after eating and barely used soap to wash their hands. Most of the people didn't use brush for cleaning teeth and followed traditional practices.
 - Most of the villagers consume water without boiling.
 - The drinking water was obtained from sources like wells, rivers and hand pump.

- **Lack of Nutritious Food:**

They mainly consume rice and they don't include sufficient fruits, pulses etc. in their diet. Though they have three meals a day, they don't have a balanced diet.

- **Consumption of alcohol:**

Both men and women in the village consume alcohol. They consider it as a stress reliever. The selling of the country liquor is promoted by the women of the village. Due to the easy availability of the alcohol, can increase the probability for the younger generation to consume in future.

- **Substance Abuse:**

The consumption of drugs like beedi, ganja is also prominent in this village.

- **Inadequate Sanitation Facilities:**

Around 12 toilets were constructed in the village out of which only 5 are in use. Since they are located very far, the women have to travel nearly half an hour.

3. EDUCATION

There is a school which provides education up to 5th standard. However some children are sent to schools in Ranchi for higher education. Lack of adequate transportation facilities is a major issue.

4. EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN

Other than agriculture the women of the village are interested in learning tailoring, handicrafts, ornament making etc. But they don't have the facilities in the village and lack of skilled people to teach them

Course Learning:

The most wonderful learning experience from the village life was to survive without electricity. It helped to gain an overview of how people lived in an age without technology. It also gives an insight into how people use their minimum resources to lead a simple life. The very fact that the future growth potential of India lies in villages and how effectively the different resources mainly in agriculture can be utilized efficiently and effectively for future growth prospects.

The surveys conducted in various sectors like agriculture, health, education enabled to gather real time data and gain information about the villagers with direct interaction with them. Even though the technological advancements are happening day by day, there are many sections of the society and remote villages where the people have no clue about what is happening in the world. The greatest wealth i.e. education is not reached to these places. They are not able to acquire even primary education. The primary health facilities like government hospitals and emergency facilities are not available. Developing the villages can prove to be a major step towards the development of the country.

Individual reflection on the villagers:

Perception before the visit:

As I hail from village I had certain image about the village conditions. I was aware and had experienced about the electricity power failures which is prevalent in most of the villages in India. I was prepared to wake early and sleep early which is quite a change from the city where I mostly grew up. From the different information's gathered and the amritapuri visit, I expected devgain to be a very underdeveloped village. The place was expected to be dirty. The education facilities would be till 8th. The sanitation and electricity was considered to be a major issue. The problems of income generation and agricultural issues were another area to be focused upon. I thought the villagers would be much reluctant to interact and share information.

PERCEPTION

Before Visit:

From the information gathered from Amritapuri visit and from other sources, I was expecting a place where there is no basic facilities like basic health facilities, toilets, electricity and water. I thought dewgain is an underdeveloped village and lack cleanliness. The problems of income generation and agricultural issues was another area to be focused upon. I expected the villagers would be much reluctant to interact and share information.

After Visit:

People were friendly than expected. The place was beautiful with good climate. The villagers wanted development to come and required supportive hands. The available sanitation facilities were not properly used of and lack of awareness was a major issue. There is a high potential of income generation from sources like saal leaves, bamboo and with agricultural improvements. With the help of skilled people to train them and other necessary improvements, there is a good chance of development in the village.