

Lila Individual Report

Devgain Village, Jharkhand

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Introduction

Live in lab program organized by Amrita University gave a whole new insight about village life. It reminded me of the responsibility of giving back what was once taken from the society. I visited Devgain village in Jharkhand. It is a beautiful place located 14km from the capital city of Jharkhand.

The village people gave a warm welcome and they were very friendly. They supported us in carrying out surveys, submitting documents and responding to our queries.

a) Problem Identification

The following were the problems identified in the village

Irrigation

The villagers owned cultivation land which were used mainly for paddy crop. Apart from paddy they cultivated tomato, chilly, brinjal, cabbage and cucumber. But the major revenue for the villagers where from paddy cultivation. This is seasonal as they had no proper irrigational facilities. They relied on rainfall and they would cultivate for a maximum of three to four months in a year.

Electricity

The village was witnessing frequent power cuts that in a week they might have power for two days.

Mind-set of the youth

The youth was the village were ITI graduates and they were appearing for competitive exams for government jobs. Most of the youths were attending coaching classes for government exams. They were not seen involved in agricultural activities nor were they interested in working in private companies.

Alcoholism

This is a bad face of the village as even elder women were seen consuming alcohol in the village. Alcohol consumption had almost become a routine for these people. However the youths were found devoid of alcohol consumption and most of the youth were against such activities.

Sanitation

There are around 12 toilets built in the village out of which five were fully functional. The others were under construction. However villagers were reluctant to use toilets and change their habits.

b) Course learning

Direct exposure to real life problems

Due to the Lila program we had a chance to encounter the real life problems of village people. We could understand their needs and wants and in what ways we could pitch in and contribute.

In Devgain village we could decipher the problems of alcoholism and lack of awareness about various educational and job opportunities among the villagers.

Desire to make personal contribution

For problems that are within our reach we were motivated to work towards its mitigation and take away a sense of satisfaction.

I was inspired to work on middle men intervention and come up with a plan that would add value to their products and produce.

Application of business education to devise a planned intervention

Lila was an ideal platform to try and work out different ideas and business plans. Also to learn about different hurdles that might come in the way of implementation.

c) Individual reflection on perception of villagers

Before the visit

Before visiting the village I had a totally different idea about the lifestyle of villagers. Since I have visited only South Indian villagers the very image popped up in the first place. The lack of electric power was known through previous reports on the village. Hence I knew that the villagers might start their work early in the morning and wrap up their work by six in the evening. The food that they would take would be typical north Indian rice

and roti with dhal. I expected the village roads to be unclean with improper management of water stagnation. I thought that the people would be very less educated and children would be working in fields rather than attending school.

After the visit

On arriving at the village I was surprised to see very clean roads with no visibility of plastic waste and water stagnation. The people were very friendly and gave us a warm welcome. The youths in the village were educated till ITI and most of them waiting for government jobs. The children were attending tuition classes and bajans after their school hours. When going through their notebooks we were surprised to see such neat handwriting and the way they responded to questions of the tablet training program were overwhelming. The villagers took food three times a day and the favourite pass time of the youth was playing football.