

Live in Labs (LiLA) – An individual report

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INTRODUCTION

LiLA was one the great experience that I had personally in my life. It gave me opportunities to think socially along with solutions for more specific problems that were to be identified. Having known that the course demands a live learning and understanding of needs by staying in the village, I grouped myself in one of the sub groups in my team where I felt I can contribute the most. I took education as one of the main issue to be identified along with communication issues and creating awareness as my prime works in the village. With regard to these selected issues I cited problems and thought of relevant solutions addressing the same. Overall it was a great trip to have gained more effective and practical knowledge about a village on the whole.

PROBLEMS IDENTIFICATION

1. EDUCATION

- Having read the reports generated previously on this village, I stood to take up issues that were related to this field.
- The main issue that stood out was the number of drop outs at the intermediate level.
- Many influential behaviors that affected their stream of thoughts.

2. COMMUNICATION

- There was another issue that was again stated in the previous report and that is effective communication.
- Students were ready to take up challenges but they were really poor at doing that in English.
- Their flow of ideas is reflecting in their involvement but it couldn't be transformed effectively.

3. AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

- Having known that the rate of alcohol addiction is increasing gradually, this was attended with the help of awareness campaign.
- Alcohol has almost blended over some few peoples habit and making it separable from them was the task.
- This was well addressed through alcohol awareness campaign and interactive sessions with students and the villagers.

4. IMPORTANCE OF INTERNET

- Having observed the level of involvement of each student on each topic during the interaction, I found that the lack of awareness on the use of internet was very much to be solved.
- The very fact that, internet can satisfy all their confusions and create a huge change in the way they think, it was missing totally from the village.
- There are hardly two computers with poor internet connection for the entire village were only 3-5 people use it at a very basic level.

COURSE LEARNING

LiLA provided an opportunity to see the problems faced by those people in the village in different dimensions. This finally gave way to think of very many new suggestions and solutions that can practically address those issues. This has been discussed below.

PROBLEMS AS PERCIEVED

1. EDUCATION

- Almost all the students in the village are attending school.
- But, this doesn't continue when they reach the intermediate level.
- The number of drop outs at the intermediate level seems to be increasing slightly.
- This was again due to many of their habitual factors that includes early marriage in case of a girl student and need of earnings that results the boy student to step out of education and go in search of work which is less than their potential.
- They way each individual deciding their stream of education if being continued after the intermediate school doesn't vary much.
- Most of the students are not aware of the various streams available in the society for them to take up.
- They are influenced by the courses which were taken by their neighborhood or their relations in particular.
- They hardly tell out their passion without any idea on what it means and what else is available.
- In one instance, when enquired about their passion, students came up with only three stream namely a profession as a Teacher, Doctor and Solider.
- This was not because they like it very much. It was because they are aware only of those stream and that too without any great information related to it.
- Most of them were not even aware of the availability of courses like engineering which can be a great interest to them.
- We made them realize this with an interaction on their role models and explaining them the streams their role models took to reach such great heights.
- This method was very useful for us to get into their interest and making it clear for them to think and act.

2. COMMUNICATION

- The involvement among the students was very much impressive, at the same time, the amount of confidence in every student gets diminished when they try to speak it out in English.
- As all the schools running inside the village have Hindi as the medium of instruction, even the staffs are not very well versed in communicating in English.
- We tried to have very small sessions with the students for improving their communication and basics in English through translating games.
- But again we were able to make it out with very few students as the basics itself is not in clarity with many over there.
- We felt, an interactive module with the students every two days if implemented in English they can easily grasp it.
- The only advantage is that every student is ready to take up the challenge provided there is quality delivered at the other end.
- Because everyone there are really hard workers they do learn if what is thought to them is delivered perfectly or they tend to go for their own alternatives.

3. AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

- Alcohol is one of the major disaster to those hard working individuals.
- They are very great initiators in the work perspective, but, they get disturbed with alcohol being imparted into their habits.
- We tried to sort this out with the upcoming generations with the alcohol awareness campaign right from grade 3.
- This was very effective when we saw the results of the post and pre survey that we took.
- The unawareness of the harmful effects of alcohol is the major reason for this issue.
- We also named alcohol awareness ambassadors who will be identifying individuals who are getting trapped to alcohol and make them aware of what is to happen in future for them in particular.
- We found this to be very effective because we ourselves were surprised to see volunteers for being an ambassadors were once addicted to this habit and now they have left it completely.

4. IMPORTANCE OF INTERNET

- One fundamental need of the current generation being the interaction with the virtual world and when this was not even clear to these people we felt it should be implemented.
- Addressing this as an issue can make way to solutions for various problems cited inside this village.
- If a student is introduced to this facility, then they can very well transform the entire village by spreading it to every nook and corner of the village and can be very well updated of all facilities available to them.
- This can be addressed by installing a computer based lab with internet facility and creating campaigns for its awareness.

MY PERCEPTIONS – BEFORE VISIT

1. ON VILLAGERS

- I assumed that the villagers will be very friendly and will be open to ideas.
- Will help us in all our needs and queries.
- Will be ready to accept the change.
- They will transparent when any data is required from their side.

2. VILLAGERS LIFE

- They are in need of many new implementations.
- They live an unaware life without knowing what the government is providing to them.
- Have no future plans to do and are happy with the present living.
- Live in a life of boundary where they take light decisions.
- Not worried about any issues surrounding them.

3. LIVING CONDITIONS

- Living inside a small house.
- Having electricity problems.
- Having basic needs equipped.
- A very cold weather.
- Doesn't work during the evenings and night hours.
- Doesn't have a good transport facility.
- Doesn't have shops nearby and they rely completely upon their harvest.
- Have a very tuff living during abnormal conditions.

MY PERCEPTIONS – AFTER VISIT

1. ON VILLAGERS

- They are really friendly.
- They are always ready to take any new idea for implementation.
- They are very helpful and hard working.
- They are aware of what is happening around them.
- But they are not ready to speak about some of their legal information.

2. VILLAGERS LIFE

- They are settled with all their needs.
- They are aware of all the government policies.
- They know how to get the benefits allotted by the government to them.
- They are ready to take up challenges and are flexible to new ideas.
- They are also ready to educate their kids.

3. LIVING CONDITIONS

- They are very well equipped with all their needs.
- They don't have a great problem in electricity but few.
- They don't have very good transport facility to reach their village but transport within the village is good.
- They have enough shops meeting their everyday requirement.
- They don't rely only upon their harvest but they have alternatives as solutions.
- They are not exposed to computers and other activities happening around the village.
- They have a moderate weather.
- They work hard till the evening and shut down at around 7pm due to the interference of wild animals.
- They don't have proper street lights and the area becomes unsafe during the dark.

CONCLUSION

LiLA, overall was a very great experience providing diverse information about the people living in a village and to me it has given a new dimension to my way of thinking thus helping me to think of optimum solutions.