

LIVE IN LABS (LiLA)

**TO THE VALLEYS OF DUNDA RANGES –
UTTARKASHI**

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Introduction:

As part of the Live-in-labs fieldwork of the Village study, we conducted general survey on education, health of village Dunda in Uttarkhand. We as a team of 14 students with one professor had the opportunity to closely observe the various forms of interactions and interventions taking place within the village and understand the impact of such interventions on the lives of the people of the village. Our journey was a great experience where we travelled for around 64 hours from Coimbatore to Dundain Uttarkhand.

Objectives:

The main objective of the LILA village study is:

- To get insight into the cultural realities of the rural life.
- To give higher studies opportunities
- To understand the status of women empowerment in the village.
- To understand women's contribution and the role-played by them in developing rural entrepreneurship.
- To create alcohol awareness among the students and people in that village.
- To monitor health issues and make the people aware of the active government schemes.

Identified Problem:

- There are skilled women in the village but they don't have any idea of how to market it to the outer world.
- More number of drop outs after the High school.
- Due to many monkeys in the village, crops are getting wasted in larger quantity.
- Hemoglobin content should be 11grams but mostly women here have it below 7 grams.
- There are bathrooms in all the houses but for which there is no proper drainage system.
- People are not aware of the active government schemes.
- Men consume more alcohol due to which there is no steady income generation.

Perception Before visit:

We selected Dunda village as our LILA destination. I thought people in Uttarkhand are not good in agriculture because of the weather. But our perception was wrong, Rice is the main crop that the villagers grow. So the rice production is more than any other crop in that village. The villagers use the rice and wheat for their own purpose. And few sell their crops in the market if there is excess of production. I thought there wouldn't be there proper roads as it is a hilly area, but the roads were perfect with also solar streetlights at some area. We thought of educating or making the children aware of the higher education and also about the social networking sites.

Perception after visit:

The villagers are poor, ignorant and superstitious. The condition of village schools is not satisfactory. Moreover, the villagers don't understand the importance of education. They do not know the laws of health. There is no water shortage unless the motor, which is used to pump water from the tank, fails. Rice and wheat are the two crops grown in that village. I didn't even see any men in that village on the first day. Mostly men in Dunda village consume alcohol due to which they don't do any work instead they keep themselves busy drinking. From household work to farming, mostly women are engaged in these works. Women in Dunda village are hard working than compared to men. Malnutrition and anemic disease are the two main diseases faced by the people.

Course Learning:

During our stay in the village, I found that giving right information could help people to make right decision. I observed that the people of the village have the potential and skill to come up from poverty and misery but the most important thing they lack is information and knowledge about what is happening around the country. Land are not full used by villager because lack of water resources. They are not having saving habit. And also have some threats like natural calamities and animals like monkey destroys their crops.

Conclusion:

We came to know various things, which perhaps were not possible without staying in the village among the rural population. My stay helped me to understand the lives of the villagers, their need and various dynamics related to it. The villagers do have its bright color, which is absent in urban areas, even in many developed cities of the country. The facts like different caste, female position in the house, and unity among the villagers are some of the positive aspects of the village. The actual needed thing in the village is the information and knowledge about their products, their value and their demand in the outside market, so that they could get appropriate return for their handwork.