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State : Uttrakhand

District: Uttarkashi

Village: Dunda

Introduction

The journey to Dunda was a new and unique experience which made me to learn and experience the villages of India. The life in villages is different from that in cities and I got to experience the life in a village. The real strength of a country resides in the villages and they are the strength lies within these villages. My central focus was on financial empowerment and income generation.

Problem Identification

1. Alcoholism among men.

- There is widespread alcoholism among men.
- They are not working to earn a living instead they are involved in alcoholism.
- Alcoholism is also creating problems for the women in the villages.

2. Education- High level of Dropouts

- There is a high level of dropout in the villages as children are not completing their education.
- There are various reasons behind which I thought could be important to be mentioned:
 - a) Disinterested in pursuing education.
 - b) Financial constraints in the family.

c) Refraining from getting children educated.

3. Lack of Proper Roads

- There is a huge problem of connectivity due to lack of proper roads in the Dunda village, during my conversation with some of the villagers they mentioned that they had to face huge difficulty in reaching the hospital in case of a medical emergency.
- Lack of proper roads are also a major reason for many accidents which happen there.

4. Low Agricultural Productivity

- This is another important problem that has been prevalent there, since there is low agricultural productivity due to which the villagers are not able to sell their produce in the market in order to generate more income.
- They are only focussing on traditional methods of farming and not focussing on new methods of farming.

5. Lack of medical facilities

- There is no proper hospital in Dunda village so people have to travel to Uttarkashi district hospital for treatment.
- Even in Uttarkashi district hospital there are not adequate no. of doctors to cater to the no. of patients in the hospitals.

6. Lack of access to technology

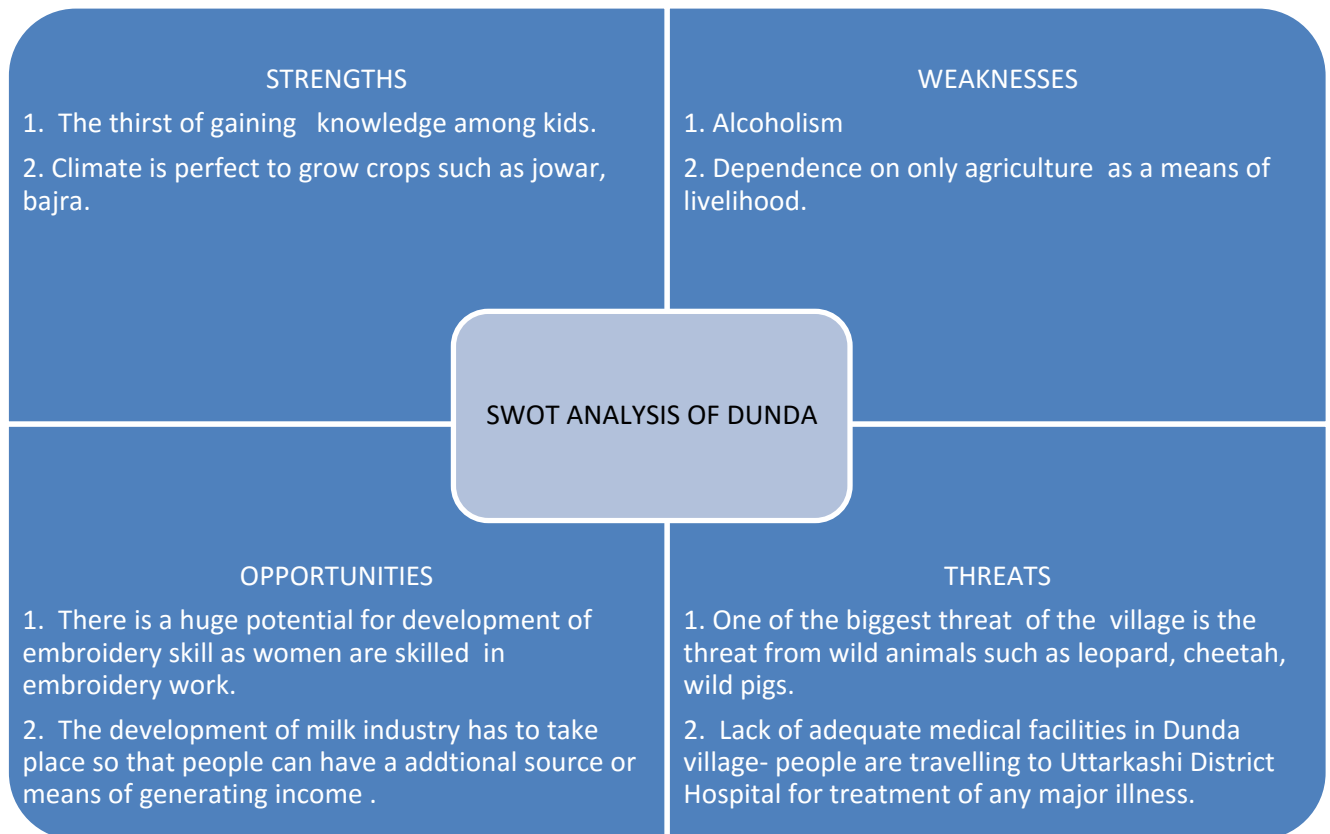
- What I observed after talking to the children and the youth there was that they had knowledge about technology but that was sufficient for them, I could see a thirst in them to explore new technology but very few had knowledge about technology.
- Not many houses have computers due to which the youth is not getting access to technology.

7. Lack of saving habit

- One of my focus areas under financial empowerment and income awareness was to analyse their saving habit, but I observed that they did not have the habit of savings.

8. Lack of awareness regarding various schemes of government for Financial Empowerment.
 - A perfect example of this would be the opening of 2000 bank accounts under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana but only 25% of these are being used and others are lying idle.

SWOT Analysis Of Dunda Village



Course Learning:

The major learning after LILA is that there are different people from different backgrounds and also people are living together in this diverse nation with diverse cultures.

Perception about the villagers before the visit:

1. One of the major perceptions about the villagers was that they would be very conservative and would not involve in the process of interaction.
2. They would not have even basic amenities such as proper houses, toilets.

3. The weather would be very cold and it would be very hard to cope up with it.
4. They would not be able communicate properly with us due to language barriers.

Perception about village before the visit:

1. Accessibility to the village would be a major issue.
2. Lack of facilities such as electricity, water supply.
3. No pucca houses and only huts would be there.
4. The villages would not be safe in terms of safety from wild animals.

Perception on their life

1. They are leading a very difficult life.
2. They are very simple people.

Perception after visit:

Villagers

1. They are not at all conservative and are very friendly
2. They have access to basic facilities such food, water, shelter.
3. There was a language barrier since many people in our team didn't know Hindi.
4. The weather was suitable to everyone.

Village

1. The village accessibility was accessible but one had to drive for around 4 hrs. from Dehradun to reach Dunda.
2. The villages had basic facilities such as electricity, water supply etc.
3. There were pucca houses for everyone.
4. The villages are not so safe from wild animals.

Perception on their life

1. They are leading a very simple life.
2. They are very simple people.

Conclusion

In the end I would only like to say that the journey to Dunda village really showed me the other side of India, the villages which are an integral part of our country. It showed a totally different way of how life is led by people and how people can strive hard in their life even after facing so many difficulties.