



2016

# LILA INDIVIDUAL REPORT

## INDPUR, HIMACHAL PRADESH

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## **LiLA Students Individual Reflection**

The LiLA program was one of the important and unforgettable one in my life. The course changed my entire mindset, my perceptions, etc. The LiLA program gave me a lot of fun, learning, experiences, etc. It was not as difficult as we expected, from the information which we got before the visit was that we will be facing a lot of difficulties but it was not the way which I expected. The climate will be so hot was the information which we got but it was heavily raining at the day we reached there and we were not able to start the work on a massive scale on that day but still we were able to conduct some meetings with the village head and other major people in the village which gave us the overall idea of the village.

The food, climate, language, accommodation, people's attitude was some of the major threats which we expected before the program. But it was actually good and much better than we expected, the food and accommodation was awesome, we were surprised about the good hospitality which we didn't expected. The language was also not a big issue since most of us know Hindi. People were much more supportive and cooperative throughout the program than we expected.

### **Some of my Perception were: -**

#### **Before the visit**

- Villagers held land and cultivated and sold crops on their own
- They made an income from sale of agricultural products
- Villagers didn't hold bank accounts
- Students didn't pursue higher studies
- Curry leaves were cultivated and sold
- Construction of toilets kicked off and there would be good number of toilets for the villagers

#### **After the visit**

- Most of the villagers didn't own lands, were agricultural labourers
- They went for daily wages
- Almost 94 of villagers held bank accounts

- Students interested in higher studies pursued the same at institutions in Indora
- Curry Leaves grow in the wild, the same is not used for cooking not is it sold
- Around four toilets were constructed. These are used by individuals on whose property this has been constructed.

## Major findings

During the duration of the stay at the village the following observations were made.

- Most villagers cultivate vegetables in their yards for own use.
- Few sell vegetables amongst the villagers
- Water sources in form of streams, canals and some perennial sources that are stored in ponds and tanks are available. These are dispersed and getting water to the farms is a difficulty.
- Ram Dayal, one of the farmers told that their crops were damaged due to bad climate the past year.
- Most of the land is owned by zamindars. They close off their farms and restrict entry for villagers.
- Few villagers own small stretches of land. Majority are agricultural labourers who work for zamindars
- Government does not have any free land.
- Land owned by villagers were either sold off or taken over by zamindars.
- Main produce of the villagers are
  - Mangoes
  - Oranges
  - Litchi
  - Loquat
  - Brinjal
  - Pumpkin
  - Bitter gourds
  - Ridge gourds
  - Cucumber
  - Guava
  - Pearl millet
  - Wheat
  - Rice
  - Maize

- Few farmers sell their produce directly to market which are mainly Pathankot, Jassur and Jammu.
- They have to pay additional tax for sale in Jammu
- Farmers face acute water scarcity in their farms
- 4-5 trucks of vegetables and fruits go to market on a daily basis
- 2000 tonnes of mangoes and oranges each are grown by villagers annually.
- Approximately 50 tonnes of loquat and litchi each are produced annually
- They have a turnover of about 1 Crore annually
- Small scale farmers are totally dependent on rainwater
- They had relied on the pipeline that was planned earlier but due to the influence of the large scale farmers the pipe line was taken near their farm lands. So these small scale farmers are totally dependent on the rain water which is not a reliable resource.
  - The bore well facilities were also denied to these farmers.
  - Forming the cooperative society might not work as they had trust issues with one another. And also they felt they might not be getting the entire profit money.
  - The small scale farmers did not get benefits from the policies and schemes implemented by the government.
- Curry leaves are available in abundance, they grow in the wild and are neither farmed nor sold in market.

After the program we got a good learning experience, we were able to understand many of their major problems which are as follows:

#### 1. Waste Management

Out of the total available land major portion is owned by zamindars, who have fenced off their land and restricted entry to villagers. There is also no free government land. Government arranged tractors may come to collect wastes. But this service arrives sporadically and village sarpanch is required to contact authorities to avail this facility whenever required. Due to this people are forced to dump wastes in the public places and which creates a lot of problems.

#### 2. Sanitation facilities

The sanitation facilities are yet to be available for the villagers. Many defecate in the open. Few toilets were constructed after women received training from Ammachi Labs. But these toilets are not for public and is used privately by individuals on whose land the same was constructed. Thus the people were not benefiting from the facilities provided.

### 3. Water Scarcity

The farmers face severe water scarcity. Although there are canals and bore wells, these are focused only on large scale farmers who already have water resources. The small scale farmers hence have to be fully dependent on rain fall. Most of the small scale producers will be facing



crop failures if there is improper rainfall.

### 4. Damage of agricultural produce and farms by animals

One of the major crops that farmers manage to produce are frequently damaged by stray cows, boars and monkeys. They have not been able to find a solution to address these issues.





##### 5. Dependence on Merchants and middle men

Farmers sell their produce to merchants who purchase them at very low price compared to the market rates. Few farmers sell their produce directly to market in Jassur, Pathankot and Jassur. The middle men are thus gaining huge profit and the poor farmers are actually losing.

##### 6. Lack of facilities in schools

Children do not have proper facilities in the schools. There are no benches and tables, lighting, ventilation, good library, etc. There is not much importance given to education in the village. The students won't be attending the class even if it is raining in the previous day. This made me feel so sad because they were not actually realizing the importance of education

**Resources:**

- HIMFED (Himachal Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing And Consumer's Federation Ltd)

The State Govt. has allowed cost subsidy on complex fertilizers NPK 12:32:16, NPK 10:26:26 and NPK 15:15:15 @ Rs.1000/-per MT. Apart from this, cost subsidy @ 25% is also being provided on 100% water soluble complex fertilizers to the farmers (limited to Rs. 2500 per farmer). In order to ensure adequate supply of fertilizers, the Govt. has entrusted this responsibility to HIMFED/Cooperative Societies.

- Soil Health Cards

Soil testing has great importance for raising agriculture production. The Agricultural Department provides free soil testing facilities to the farmers. Department has 11 Soil Testing Laboratories besides four mobile soil testing labs to provide free soil testing facilities to the farmers. Besides this Soil Health Cards are being provided to the farmers. Soil testing service has also being included under H.P. Govt. Public Service Act, 2011 in

which the soil health cards are being made available to the farmers through online service within prescribed time limit.[3]

- **Co-operative Society**

In an agricultural cooperative society, farmers pool their resources in certain areas of activity. A broad classification of agricultural cooperatives includes agricultural service cooperatives and agricultural production cooperatives. Agricultural service cooperatives provide various services to their individually farming members. In agricultural production cooperatives, production resources (land, machinery) are pooled and members farm jointly.

There are two primary types of agricultural service cooperatives, *supply cooperative* and *marketing cooperative*. Supply cooperatives supply their members with inputs for agricultural production, including seeds, fertilizers, fuel, and machinery services. Marketing cooperatives are established by farmers to undertake transportation, packaging, distribution, and marketing of farm products (both crop and livestock).[2]

- **Micro Irrigation**

Micro irrigation, is an irrigation method that saves water and fertilizer by allowing water to drip slowly to the roots of plants, either onto the soil surface or directly onto the root zone, through a network of valves, pipes, tubing, and emitters. It is done through narrow tubes that deliver water directly to the base of the plant. Himachal Government has decided to launch a new project, Rajiv Gandhi Micro-Irrigation Scheme with an outlay of Rs154 crore over a period of four years. under the proposed Rajiv Gandhi Micro-Irrigation Project, 8,500 hectare area would be brought under drip or sprinkler irrigation system which would benefit more than 14,000 farmers in the state. State Government has also implementing Dr YS Parmar Kisan Swarojgar Yojana in the state, under which 85 percent subsidy was being provided to the farmers to set up poly-houses.[1] In addition, 2.50% assistance for construction of farm tank, 3.50% assistance for construction of shallows wells, 4.50% assistance for lifting water with electric motor of 3 HP and 7.5 HP and above i.e. low and medium lifts and 50% assistance for pumping machinery is provided by the government.

- **Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee, Kangra**

This is controlled in the State through H.P. Agricultural and Horticultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2005. Under this Act, H.P. State Agricultural Marketing Board has been setup. At present, 10 market committees are functioning. 52 markets have been made functional. Market information is being disseminated through different media i.e AIR, Doordarshan, print media and through



Net to farmers. The work of development of marketing infrastructure is done out of the funds of Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee. Information on daily market rates is also disseminated through AIR/ DD. Market rates of 39 commodities are also disseminated through [agmarknet.nic.in](http://agmarknet.nic.in).  
<http://hpsamb.nic.in/apmc/kangra/home>

### **Solutions:**

- **Water Scarcity**

In addition to the schemes and subsidies like Micro Irrigation and Bore Well Scheme provided by the government, farmers might have a difficult time operating bore wells due to the lack of electricity in remote fields. Solar powered pump sets to get water from bore wells can be a solution to this. Similar model has been done in Tamil Nadu but with subsidy provided by government.

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/5hp-solar-pumpsets-to-be-given-to-farmers-on-80-subsidy/article5708572.ece>

- **Man Animal Conflict:**

Monkeys, stray cows and pigs cause much damage to crops. Villagers have been unsuccessful in trying to find a solution for this. Our suggestion is to use fences to keep out stray cows and pigs. To address the problems of monkey, we can suggest to plant turmeric and ladies finger near the fences. This method has been found to be effective in villages in Uttaranchal. It has been observed that turmeric and ladies finger causes irritation to the monkeys and hence they avoid it. Villages in Kerala cover trees with nets to protect it. Feasibility of the same should be checked.

- **Fertilizer prices are high because of middle men:**

Identify offices of Himfed. Check whether the fertilizers that have subsidy are useful for the farmers. Update prices of the fertilizers on Panchayat Notice Board on a daily basis. This ensures that middle men do not provide fertilizers at exaggerated prices.

- **Co operative society:**

By establishing a Cooperative society farmers can support each other. A Marketing cooperative can help farmers to undertake transportation, packaging, distribution, and marketing of farm products. This can be taken to Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee, Kangra or to markets in Jassur, Pathankot and Jammu. Registering as a dealer in APMC Kangra can also help eliminate the trouble of middle men.

## **Personal Reflections and experiences**

The lifestyle of those people was much different from that of the urban. The people were satisfied with most of the resources they have. They produce most of the items they need. i.e., they are self-sufficient. The lack of education had already lead to many problems. The people were not having savings culture. They won't save for the next period. There are a lot of things to learn from them like the self-sufficient nature of living.

They can also be benefited from us, that is they can be supported in different areas. Some of them according to me are as follows: -

- Improving the education system and its quality
- Developing the agricultural facilities
- Marketing the products
- Improving the lifestyle

The experiences impacted me a lot as a human being I came to realize the importance of education, healthier lifestyle, etc. The bad sanitation facilities and the water shortage facilities etc. made me really sad I realized how lucky I am, I got a good lifestyle, good education, good facilities and still I am not satisfied. I came to realize that those people are adjusting to such bad facilities and still they are happy. At this point of time I came to realize the value of love, care, patience, etc.

I think people who went for the LILA can share their experience through the social medias, blogs, etc. this will help in creating more awareness to the people all over the world and more people and more organizations will come forward to help those people. Sharing the photos and videos through medias can also create a good response, I think sometimes pictures can say more than words.

Thus the program like LILA will create a global awareness about the problems faced by such people. The program must be extended in a much wider scale according to me the problem identification, generating solutions, implementing and evaluating it on a much wider scale by using the resources of us will help in the success of the project in a much more massive way.

There occurred many unforgettable experiences in my life one of them is when I saw the condition of the school. The school is having nothing for the students, no facilities like good class room even they don't have. People over there give less importance to education. They say that any way they all ultimately become farmers and other laborers , then what is the point of going to school? I was stuck when I heard such a question because I didn't have any answer for that question. Actually they were right they will become farmers and workers in construction

sectors whether they studied or not thus they show less interest in getting educated. The facilities at the school was so poor. It made me think about my lifestyle, I got good food, shelter, education, other facilities etc. those people lack all these. There is only half and less than half of the students present in each class. Students doesn't come to class for the entire week if it is a holiday. Most of the classes lack benches, desks, proper lighting, ventilation etc. .

I felt so sad about their conditions. The quality of their education was also so poor. Students were not able to get some value out of the education. I feel that we can give some attention to the education system too. We planned of collecting some books from people who are willing to contribute and we altogether can submit it to the school, so that they can create a small library and the students can earn the benefit out of it. I also suggest that we can collect stationery items, books etc. for the school going students. If feasible free tuition facilities can also be provided for the students.

