

TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

HYDREBAD



REPORT ON EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

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Overview

This report consists of the study conducted in a village (Allapur) on the basis of observations, conversations and discussions with village dwellers and collaborators, in accordance with the certain techniques which are discussed in a separate section of this report. Also, we are indebted to “Pallesrujna” for giving us the opportunity and thorough assistance to accomplish the purpose of our study in the village.

Introduction

According to the 2011 census, the villages are the places where approximate 68.84% of the total population of India resides. And this percentage comprises the total number of human beings as around 83.3 crores which ostensibly distributed among the 640,867 number of villages in India. If we do subtle mathematics here then we will be knowing that on an average every village has ≈ 1300 people, so as Allapur village is one among these numbers.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study to get an exposure to the village areas and ruralities along with observing the way of life and lifestyles of the village dwellers. Furthermore to study the various village institutions was also a vital part of the study and to understand and interpret the village infrastructure, the purpose of the study couldn't be satiated without ascertaining the livelihood of the village dwellers and their reliance upon it among the main objectives of the study.

Methodology:



(Interaction with the villagers)

We went into the village without any agenda.our main motto was to know the functioning of the village there structures and their functioning. we had a very informal conversation with village people and had a face-to-face interaction with them. We stuck to the sampling method sometimes.

Activities done during experiential learning:

Day 1: 25/11/19

- Reached village
- Had a glimpse of the village

- Interacted with few elderly people
- Interacted with shopkeepers

Day 2: 26/11/19

- Visited to cotton, paddy, groundnut and Mirchi fields
- Had a bullock cart ride
- Interacted with kondaiaha and his family (cotton grower)
- Interacted with a few women farmers
- Had a talk with village sarpanch
- Spoke with few school children

Day 3: 27/11/19

- Visited toddy collection sites
- Talk with toddy collectors
- Talk with Chote Miya and his family (Muslim family)
- Had a conversation with village elderly man papayya
- Got some insights about the functioning of government schools
- Had a talk with Head-master. and teachers of the school
- Spoke few words with the village youth organization president
- Got to know about the functioning of fair price shops
- Interaction with Deputy sarpanch and Ex sarpanch
- Interaction with few graduating girls of the village

Day 4: 28/11/19

- Interaction with Anganwadi and mid-day meal helpers
- Visited the outskirts of the village
- Interacted with few unemployed youth
- Discussion with Gopala Mitra worker
- Witnessed the proceedings of the dispute resolution mechanism in panchayat
- Visited Nagarkurnool nearby town

- Interaction with Group 6
- Talk with SHG members

Day 5: 29/11/19

- Back to TISS

Resource and livelihood mapping



(Village map: google)

The major resources of the Allapur village are agriculture and its allied activities. They mainly depend on nature for their resources.

The major crop being cotton, paddy, groundnut which are grown extensively and other crops are vegetables like brinjal, tomato and okra grown in offseason, when the water is scarce comparatively. Farmers are getting around 5000- 5500rs per quintal for cotton depending upon the water content in it. The nearest cotton mill is in Tadoor and Nagar Kurnool. Paddy and groundnut also fetch the same price around 5000-6000rs per quintal.

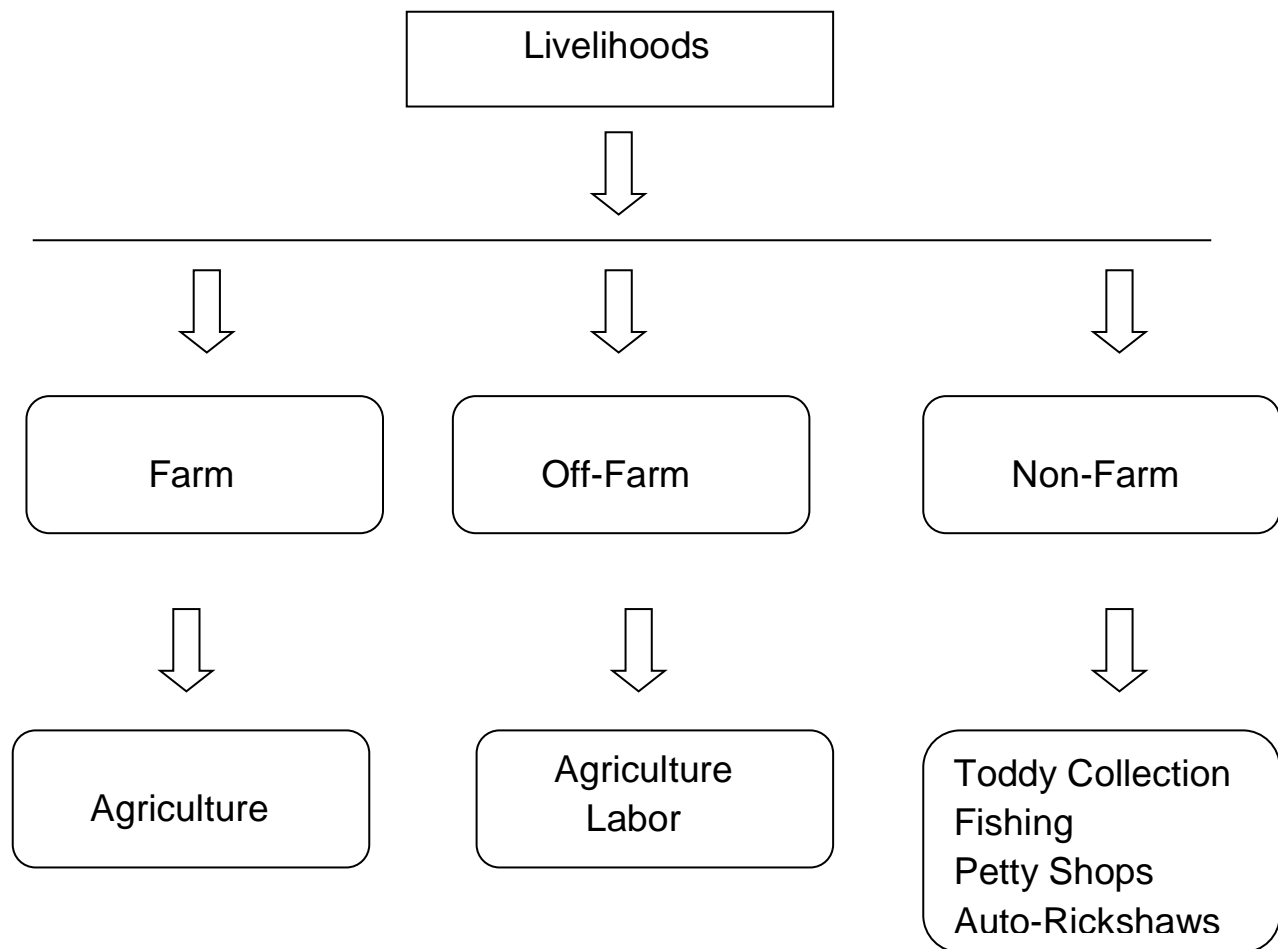
They also depend on the palm trees which are grown naturally around the village for the toddy collection. There are around 9 families in the village which collects the toddy. And the forest is being divided among these 9 families. Village is also having a natural pond, which is mainly used for recharging the groundwater, agricultural use and for fishing. We also found some fishing committees organized within the village.

They have different livestock to supplement their sources, like sheep and goat rearing they being the major income earning. And they also have oxen's mainly for agricultural use and found less density of cows and buffaloes hence presence of dairy was not there. The largest producers were exporting the milk to nearby center Medpur.

They have good electrical connection power cuts are rare they even have a free electricity connection for agricultural bore wells. Found even some CCTVs for security maintenance. They have well-connected roads, as per the deputy sarpanch there are 7 routes into the village and few are in bad condition. Within the village, they have good cement concrete (cc) roads. They export and import mainly from the nearby towns like Tadoor and Nagar Kurnool. Main exports are agriculture produce and milk and imports being food crops, clothes, milk, groceries, and health care.

Livelihoods of the village:

The major livelihoods of the village are agriculture and its allied activities like agriculture labor and livestock rearing. The other activities include natural resources-based livelihoods like toddy collection and fishing. Some people also have petty shops, who look after the basic day to day needs of the villagers. There are few people who are depending on the auto-rickshaws for their livelihoods.



(Different forms of livelihoods)

And we can witness most of the occupations (division of labor) was based on caste and caste affinities. People belonging to the OC community had a larger share on the resources and livelihoods.

Interventions:

To further enhance their livelihoods and increase the standard of living government has intervened in different ways. As per our observation we found few of them, they were

MGNREGA: Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee act, 2005: which aims to guarantee the 'right to work'? It provides employment to the laborers during the offseason. As Allapur is having only one commercial crop a year MGNREGA is providing timely relief.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan saman Nidhi (PM-Kissan): it provides assured income to small and marginal farmers. It provides 6000 rs in three installments per year.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana: it is to have good rural connectivity. Allapur is having good connectivity but the conditions of the roads are not so good.

Raythu Bandhu scheme: it's a state government scheme where the farmers get investment support for two crops (rabi and Kharif) a year. Government is providing 5000rs per acre. But Allapur is going only for one crop a year.

Mission Bhagiratha: this is a state government scheme to provide safe drinking water for every village and the city households. Allapur is getting water from river manjeera under this scheme.

Kcr kit and amma odi: this given by the present state government. The program provides financial, medical and travel assistance to women undergoing delivery of the child in a government hospital. Six pregnant ladies are benefited from this scheme in Allapur.

Dry day: it's an innovative initiative taken by the medical officers of that area. where along with the help of the ASHAs and villagers they clean the village mainly the water bodies (stagnant water) and the surroundings of their houses in order to control the vector-borne diseases

SHGs: There are 14 shg groups in the Allapur village but few are very dormant and few also got diminished because of the lack of cooperation and mismanagement of the funds.

Village Profile:

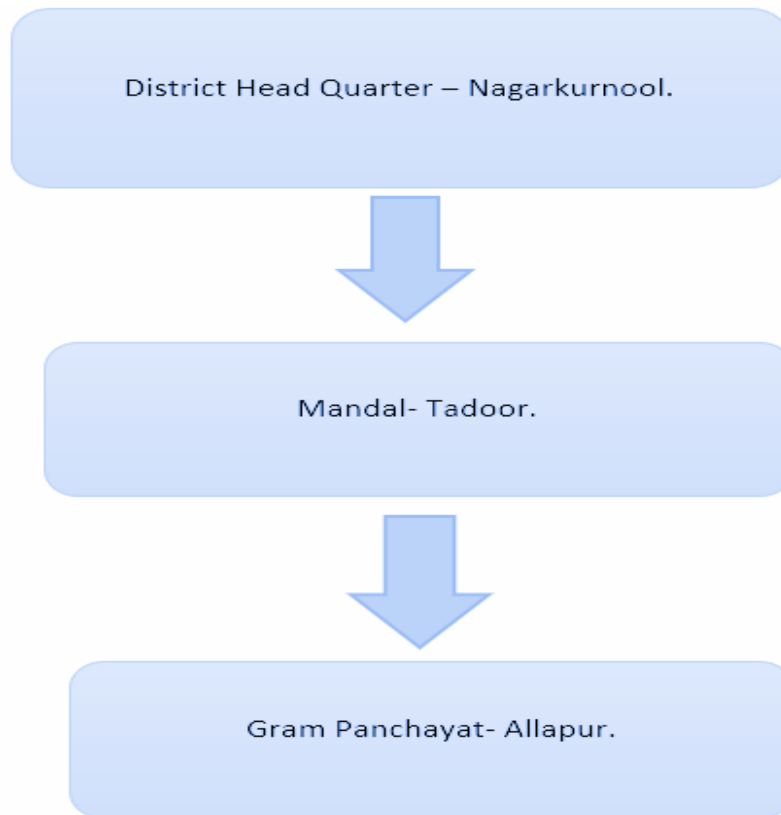
Allapur is a village in Tadoor Mandal, which comes under Nagarkurnool district, situated in the south of Hyderabad, Telangana. The village has approximately 2 km² residential area with 1200 Acres of agricultural land having 350 households and around 1400 dwellers. The Tadoor Mandal is 8 km away and the Nagarkurnool headquarters is 16 km away. The nearest bus stop Indrakal bus stop is 1.5 km away from the village. There is a history behind the name of Allapur, according to the old generation, the village used to be the residence of Muslim community first, where they used to greet people by calling the name of ‘Allah Bismilla’, and this is how people started calling the village as Allapur.

Number of Household(Approx)	350
Population(Approx)	1400
Male Population(Approx)	51%
Female Population(Approx)	49%

There are a total of four roads which leads to the path of Allapur. There is a lake in the entrance of the village followed by a cemetery. Then comes the primary school of the village. The village has one school, five temples, two anganwadis, two overhead water tanks, approximately eleven shops so on and so forth.

Among the 350 households, there are 340 Hindu families and 10 Muslim families. All the Muslim households belong to the Dudekula community, OBC E category. The studied village has no sharp distinction on the basis of community still the residential arrangements within the village have the community affiliation, e.g. Muslims are staying in a completely separate part of the village and SCs also have their separate area. There is great cooperation among all the communities.

The Panchayati Raj system is well organized. There is one Sarpanch and one Vice-Sarpanch, along with eight Gram Sabha members. Major political parties in the village are Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) and Indian National Congress (INC).



(hierarchy of the political institutions)

The usual working hours for the villagers are from 9 am to 5 pm. Women and girls of the houses wake up early in the morning and do different household chores, i.e. pouring water for daily usage, washing utensils, preparing breakfast, etc. Some women are also employed to different jobs within the villages, such as- there are Anganwadi workers, Asha workers, security guards, some do works at home for example stitching, tiffin services, etc. Men consume alcohol at night as a way of refreshment. The consumption of chicken, mutton is also a part of their food habits. The school students also participate in household chores even some of them go to the field and do engage in agriculture besides studies. Men's participation in household work was also observed. There are certain caste-based occupations found in the society, such as- Toddy collectors, there are a total of nine families engaged in toddy collection and all of them belong to the Goud community. Apart from that, there are a total of three manual scavengers belonging to

SC community. According to villagers, inter-caste marriage is not very obvious among them, but even if it happens that doesn't lead to honor killing or violence.

Festivals are the heart of Indian culture. The major festival in the village is Bathukamma where all the villagers get together and enjoy their leisure time. Another important celebration is Bonalu, where they worship the greatness of "Shakti-cult." Sankranti, Dussehra is also celebrated here. Muslims celebrate Peerla Panduga.



(interaction with few women in the village)

All the villages consist of their very own customs and in a diverse country like India, the customs vary from region to region. For example, in the studied village the widow women from the well off families wear silver jewelry like bangles, anklets. Some wear gold jewelry too. The taboos related to menstruation is also limited, women on their first day of the menstrual cycle are supposed not to enter into the kitchen, though if she is the only woman in the house she is bound to do the works by herself. Women of the households make rangolis outside their houses and make garlands with flowers for worshipping God on every Friday. They do fasting for the betterment of their family and kids. Early marriage is another common thing among women

which sometimes leads to several health issues. The villagers celebrate the fertility of a girl through puberty ceremony, they invite their family members and other villagers over lunch or dinner.

Education:

Education is the basic social infrastructure which helps in transforming the minds as well as laying a foundation of quality development. Education lies in concurrent list hence central policy dominates the rural education. In Allapur village there is one government upper primary school (class 1 to class 7). It comes under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). The structure of the education system consists

Upper primary school (UPS)

Middle primary school (MPS)

UPS includes 6th to 8th standard and MPS consists of 1st to 5th standard. Since there is no 8th standard in Allapur govt primary school, students have to travel to the nearby villages like Tadoor and Nagarkurnool. For acquiring higher education, adults migrate to better and far off cities places like Hyderabad, Chennai, and Pondicherry. The total strength of Allapur govt school is 83. The harvest season faces the issue of less attendance in comparison to the offseason because students have to help their parents at the fields. there are two Anganawadis functioning effectively at the pre-primary level with the total strength of 15.

There is a trend of declining localization of education. Well off people prefer sending their kids to:

- KGBV schools
- Social Welfare schools
- Model schools
- Private schools

Major attractions of these schools are

- English education
- Better transport facility (School bus)
- Better school infrastructure

Hence education has become a status symbol in society. All the above-mentioned institutions are located outside the village. KGBV schools also offer hostel facilities. Some of these schools select the students through entrance exam, while some do not have any such criteria. So there is a brain drain in the village. If there is localization in education that would include local customs, events and indigenous knowledge in the curriculum. Since the upper class is able to afford private education, it is only the backward class people who are dependent upon govt school for their children's education.

Irrespective of diminishing localization of education, teachers really strive for the excellence of their students. Some of the initiatives are really amazing. Vocabulary building is a program to improve their English language skills. During our recent visit, we observed how students were taught new words and by evening they were required to recollect those words and write it down within a time limit of 10 minutes. This program helps the students in expanding their vocabulary in English. Very surprisingly students have a competitive spirit to write maximum words in limited time. The second initiative is Thematic assembly, in which they celebrated November 26 as constitutional day. Students enacted a model Parliament and remembered contributions of B.R Ambedkar. Through this program, students get an opportunity to update their knowledge and be well aware of the current events. There is another platform called Balasabha which is a stage to enhance leadership skills and confidence among students. Students are asked to participate in various activities like the adoption of trees, compost pit construction, etc.

There is an external stimulus from Mandal Education Officer. He often visits schools for monitoring and critical appraisal of the school activities. One MEO upgraded 1-4 th standard as English medium. He has put forward some guidelines and set the targets in order to improve the quality of education.

There are some remarkable highlights in the school's mid-day meal program sponsored by govt. It is the pull factor for students coming to the school. The Sathya Sai baba trust provides free breakfast to students. Free uniforms and textbooks provided by the government to all students. Quite surprisingly school authority maintains a biometric attendance system for both teachers and students. The remarkable achievement of authority is that there has been no drop out in the school because of the collective effort of headmaster and teachers. Teachers often visit each and every household in the village and encourage parents to send their children to school and they really want to end child marriage and infant mortality rate. Girls have a record of performing

well in exams even though they have to manage household work and academics. Despite being a small school they are striving for Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar.



(Classroom and the lunch break)

Although the students are very happy with the school but there are a few concerns from the school authority. The school receives a bare minimum of only 15000 rupees which is not sufficient for meeting their day to day needs. Rural education is not heavily stressed upon. there is not a proper appointment of teachers on a time basis. Most of the teachers are on contract basis and the teacher-student ratio is not desirable. They don't have any library facility and no provision for smart classroom facilities to attract students and enhance the quality of education. In other words, the school infrastructure is not capable enough to lift the quality of education.

Despite the criticisms, students are very eager to study and they know minimum English for communication. But sincere efforts need to be made in order to raise the quality of education.

Health:

Health profile of a place says a lot about the living conditions and quality of life there. Allapur village has no one deprived of healthcare in the village though it has no much

infrastructure to support it needs. There is no Primary Health Care(PHC) in the village. The nearest one is in Tadoor Mandal. Ambulance services are prompt and the services of doctors is available during emergencies. The health of the villagers is taken care of by the ASHAs who function along with the Anganwadi. There were no complaints from the villagers regarding health care. There are two Anganwadi teachers and two ASHAs in the village. The Auxiliary Nursing Midwifery (ANM) serves the immediate health requirements of the village. The activities and functioning of the Anganwadi and ASHAs are supported and encouraged by the HeadMaster and teachers of the upper primary school in the village, Sarpanch and the Mandal Parishad Territorial Committee (MPTC). General meetings of ANMs and ASHAs are held regularly. Inspections by the ICDS supervisor is also regular and the ASHAs and Anganwadi teachers are given proper training. The remuneration they receive is Rs. 10000 per month which is also regular.

Anganwadis along with ASHAs monitor and carry out the functions in a fair manner in Allapur village. They play a significant role in shielding the village children against malnutrition. They further helped in bringing down the Infant Mortality Rate and child marriage which was very prevalent in the village. The Anganwadis provides eggs and nutrition powder (Balamrutham) to the children till the age of 18 years. The lack of timely supply of them was raised as a problem by the Anganwadi as they are the main attraction for the new mothers to be a part of Anganwadi. The Anganwadi checks the height and weight of children and thereby monitor their health quality. The ASHAs inform the new mothers about the vaccinations at the right time. The pregnant women are given processed milk. The new mothers get 150gm of rice and 16 gm of oil while the children get 15gm oil. Besides, the children between the age of 3-6 years get 75gm rice. ASHAs in Allapur keep a detailed and proper record on the pregnant women and their health parameters, deliveries, and infants. They also have registers on the menstrual cycle of women post-delivery and on the various diseases in the village and thereby maintains a complete health profile of the village. Moreover a register on the days which the village observes as dry day in which they clean the entire village especially the water stagnant places once in a month in order to get rid of mosquitoes. The major government schemes that are in operation in the village on health are:

- Kishore Balika
- KCR Kits

➤ Janani Suraksha Yojana and PM Matritva Vandhana Yojana

Kishore Balika is an awareness program for pregnant women on the diet they should follow and also about medicines. More importantly, it cautions women about infant mortality and therefore reduces its occurrence. KCR Kits scheme is a Telangana state government scheme in which the new mothers are given a kit consisting of baby oil, diapers, soap, mosquito nets, toys, dresses for baby, saree for the mother etc. the central government scheme of JSY and PM Matritva Vandhana Yojana for pregnant and lactating women also operates in the village. The amount of Rs.6000 as installments is transferred directly into their bank accounts during different stages of pregnancy. Every month free checkup in the nearest government hospital is also covered under the schemes. In the village adolescent girls are aware of menstrual hygiene and most of them use sanitary napkins which are available in the nearby shops. lifestyle diseases like diabetes, blood pressure etc is there in the village. One family with HIV and cases of Tuberculosis has also been reported but it does not continue to persist. Fever is common to those who work in the fields for long. Epidemics like chikungunya had been there before a few years. Villagers have access to safe drinking water through the common water filter. Sanitation is in its process of installation in the village. 120 new toilets have been built under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan with a government aid of Rs. 12000. But the village is lagging behind in speedy construction due to the financial burden it puts upon the people. The total cost of toilet construction is around Rs.30000 which is not able to meet the people. The government aid seems to be insufficient. The toilets constructed are one of those types of which the pits need to be cleaned periodically, usually manually. This is also a concern for village health. Drainage is yet to be properly materialized as there are open drains. But the village is not polluted with heaps of waste as it is seen in the well-developed cities. Health is not only about physical well-being but also mental health. Allapur can be seen as a peaceful village which can definitely contribute to the mental well-being of the people living there.

Panchayat Raj institutions are well organized and structured. The system of election is a universal adult franchise. Gram panchayats are at the lowest level.

The head of gram panchayat is sarpanch and there is a vice sarpanch who is the nominal head. According to people's convenience, the village sarpanch advises the panchayat secretary to conduct gram sabha meetings. According to sarpanch, the villagers in the meeting raise their concerns, needs and developmental activities to be taken further. There is a dispute resolution mechanism where the village sarpanch and few elderly people of the village sit and try to resolve. Hence there exists an informal way of negotiations. If these disputes are not resolved then the police is involved as a last resort. Vibrant opposition exists in the village in the form of Youth Association Committee. They critically analyze and oppose the activities of sarpanch.



(Dispute resolution mechanism)

Anganwadi

The role of Anganwadi in Allapur village is very crucial. There are two Anganwadis in the village working from 9AM to 4 PM. Anganwadi helps young mothers in taking care of their kids while they are working in the fields.

Case study

Sharada, one of the Anganwadi teachers got married at the age of 18 years. She is the one who brought immense awareness regarding hygiene among women and most of the adolescent girls. She along with the headmaster and the sarpanch have been successful in combating child marriages by emphasizing on the need for education. In spite of facing a lot of backlash from the villagers, she did not give up. This is how they were successful in abolishing child marriage. She has also been bringing about awareness among adolescent girls regarding the disposal of sanitary napkins. she along with the ASHA workers regularly conducts Kishore Balika and educates them regarding health issues and services such as infant mortality, timely vaccination and immunization.

Her relentless efforts have resulted in reducing infant mortality rate, dropout rates and child marriages



(Anganwadi kids with teacher)

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is the chief occupation of Allapur village. The majority of people own land in the village and the ones who do not work as agricultural labor. The share of landholding varies from 2 to 15 acres. They practice agriculture not only commercial-scale but also for subsistence purposes. Cotton, paddy and groundnuts are the major commercial crops. The cotton these farmers are growing is a genetically modified pest-resistant variety of cotton, also known as the BT cotton. They are also cultivating chilies, pigeon pea, maize brinjals, and okra. Since cotton

crop does not require too much of water, its irrigation depends entirely on rainfall, while paddy fields have bore well connections. They also have drip irrigation for chilies as well as sprinklers for irrigating groundnuts. Both traditional as well as modern tools of production are being used by the farmers (wooden ploughs, planters, sprinklers, tractors etc). Although there are only 30 tractors in the entire village, the small scale farmers tend to go for rental tractor services since they can't afford to buy it. The farmers are using both organic and chemical fertilizers for their crops which cost them about Rs.16, 000 for 2 acres of land. None of the farmers in the village have been practicing organic farming, but a few of them did seem hopeful about that in the coming years.

The farmers work the fields from 9 am to 5 pm, seven days a week during the harvesting season. This is why harvesting season has higher labor charges in comparison to off-season (i.e. 350 rupees per person while it is 200 rupees during the offseason). Manual plucking of cotton is stressful which is why the villagers do complain of severe backaches. The farmers have been getting financial assistance from government schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, Rythu Bandhu, and Rythu Bima Yojana.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana is a central scheme which provides a farmer's family with an income support of Rs. 6000/- in three equal installments of Rs 2000/- each every four months. The fund is directly transferred to the beneficiary's account. Rythu Bandhu scheme is a state welfare program that grants Rs 5000 per acre per season (for both Rabi and Kharif) to support the farmers. There is no cap on the limit of acres but the majority of them are small or marginal farmers (i.e. 5 acres) while Rythu Bima Scheme, a life insurance scheme for farmers of age 18-59, is providing them with a cover of 5 lakh rupees. The farmers are not very aware of the schemes they are being assisted by. All they know is some amount is credited into their accounts after a certain period of time.

The market is situated at a distance of 16 kilometers from the village in Nagarkurnool district. There is a cotton mill in the same district. Cotton is sold at a price of 5000-5500 rupees per quintal. The price differs in respect to water content. If the water content in cotton is up to 8%, then the mill is willing to buy it at Rs.5500 but if the water content is above 8%, then the mill would prefer not to buy that cotton. Small scale farmers are dependent on Patel/middlemen for selling their produce to the market while the large scale farmers have the advantage of being capable enough to sell directly in the market. According to the small-scale farmers, they are

unable to make a large profit because the cost of inputs takes up most of their income. Farmers do have active bank accounts but it is usually the large scale farmers who are opting for loans from banks while small scale farmers stick to borrowing from money lenders because they find the process easier in comparison to the former. They also have a regular visit from the NGOs and Krishi Vigyan Kendra which organizes programs for farmers to educate them about the latest farm technologies and innovative farming methods at the local level. Although we did not come across any of the farmers practicing grass root level innovations in the village

Case study

Kondaiha is a farmer who owns 2 acres of agricultural land. He has cultivated cotton in an acre of land and paddy in the rest. He has a son, who is studying in the village's primary government school. Usually, it is him and his wife who works in the fields but their son also helps when they need a pair of extra hands. Both of them work from 9 am to 6 pm in the fields. Since he only owns two acres of land, he and his wife also opt for working as agricultural labor in other people's fields for securing some financial stability. They have planted Ragi, tomato, pigeon pea at the boundary of their cotton field for subsistence purposes. When asked about how much it costs him to cultivate two acres of land, he said it was close to 50,000 which do not result in a very substantial amount of profit. During the offseason, he, like many other farmers opt for MGNREGA's hundred days of labor work in order to earn a little extra money. The produce this year according to him has been better than the last one because the rains have been pleasant.

There is a popular perception that villages are self-sufficient units when it comes to the dairy sector. But such was not the case in Allapur. There is no dairy in the village. Very few families own their own cows and buffaloes. People prefer buying milk and curd from the nearby shops than to rear cattle for it. Although oxen and hens are found in every household, which is only for personal consumption. The government has initiated the Gopal Mitra Scheme in order to promote cow rearing. Goats and sheep are also owned by a bunch of families in the village.

Challenges:

Apart from all those have been discussed, there are a bunch of problems that the villagers face in their daily life. For example-

- Lack of Connectivity- connectivity is an inseparable part of today's world. The village has no concrete roads, which leads to irregular bus services and students have to walk a long way to access bus services. The matter of commute becomes a problem for the villagers, which should be taken care of by the government.
- Negligibility towards school: Though the teachers and students are enthusiastic about education the lack of infrastructure somewhere binds the students to excel more. There are no proper toilet facilities, limited accessibility to electricity, no oven for mid-day meal cooking. The total fund that the school gets from the government is only 15000 rupees annually which is very less to run a school.



(Mid-day meal helper)

- Lack of funds for Gram panchayat: the funds released by the state finance commission are not sufficient and are not timely.
- Lack of cooperatives: there is no well-organized cooperatives.
- Sanitation and drainage problem: The drainage system is unorganized and no proper disposal of garbage. Women are not aware of proper disposal of sanitary napkins.

- Negligence towards health: There is no PHC in the village. The presence of HIV is found. Delay in supply of nutritious food and egg etc. Whereas health should be one of the primary focus of government.
- Decrease in self-sufficiency: Villages are known as individual self-sufficient entity, but the studied village lacks in self-sufficiency, no dairy production unit is there, the lands are used for cultivating only one crop once in a year. The village has no organic farming, and use of chemical fertilizer is prevalent. There is no business of poultry farming.
- Alcoholism: The easy availability of alcohol in the petty shops makes alcohol consumption a daily routine which lead to social disorder and health issues.
- Lack of awareness about government schemes: The tv show Annyadata is the only source of information about the government schemes and prices of crops. The state government schemes are still to some extent accessible to them whereas they are hardly aware of the central government schemes.
- Early Marriage: The early marriage among women is a common scenario in Allapur and it leads to various health issues. Most of the women get married between the age of fifteen to twenty.
- Intervention of middle-men: The accessibility to the market is very limited to the villagers so the villagers have to depend on the middlemen who do not give the exact price to the villagers. The villagers are also dependent on these people for money lending which has no formal way of maintaining the accounts.

Takeaways:

- Every village as its own demands - have a micro lens while dealing with the villages
- Self-sufficiency of the villages has been decreasing: the commercialization of agriculture leads to monoculture (growing only a few crops) in agriculture.
- Present a formal system like populist schemes and politics are making the farmers slaves: the formal system should emancipate them from all the clutches.
- There is a greater enthusiasm among the villagers to learn and accept the change.

Conclusion:

The experiential learning or exposure visit was an enlightening journey for us. It was an eye-opener. We came to know about the ground realities, how the systems are working, how the structure of the village is organized, patterns of the livelihoods and so on...Gandhiji's words "**India lives in its villages**" was justified during our visit to the village. Some of our assumptions about the village were shattered.

-----THANK YOU-----