

Tikekarwadi Camp Responses

What did you find most interesting in the camp?

Day 1

- Children , school and his grand welcome
- The most interesting thing I found in the camp was that no one was criticizing the sarpanch and the most possible reason is because he had a lot of work to improve the living of the villagers. Apart from that they are well aware that basic human necessities are good food good clothes and good shelter and i like the most is that they are not only focusing on this apart from this they are focusing on the health sector education which is even digital and they are making girls physically more strong and they are preparing all the students for the competitive exams. There was a beautiful guava garden.
- meeting school children
- Interacting with people working on societal aspects both from the village and in our group was interesting. Being from an engineering department we don't have much interaction with social science and humanities people. It's good to know their perspective.
- The scenery of mountains with water streaming down from top..awesome.. Getting to know the culture of the place Tikekarwadi..the people who were responsible in running the show..sarpanch..engineer uncle..the educated women folks..the togetherness we experienced with fellow students..the name tags..nice food..and lot more..

What did you find most interesting in the camp?

Day 2

- It's interesting to both river and misal pav

- The most interesting thing is that when harshali di is talking about the location of the photograph then suddenly there comes a voice and when we look it was ASHA tai who is an old lady but she has knowledge regarding the GPS and other online UPIs. I was completely shocked after seeing that because I myself got to know about UPI when I came into the IIT. But I was very happy after meeting her. she also gives us her whatsapp no. to share the pics. One thing I didn't get is that the sarpanch is saying that we have around 4 out of 7 female members. but there was only 1 in discussion. I may be wrong probably.
- Talking to women representative (SHG ' group)
- Interacting with villagers at their home, talking about their life and concerns. Being a city dweller, getting to know the life of the rural population was interesting.
- Based on the previous night discussions, we formulated some kind of structure in understanding the place, its people, and its leaders..the second day started with verifying those thoughts, correcting them if necessary, and communicating our beliefs to the people to gather their responses..all were for the purpose of knowledge seeking and contributing back to the community..enjoyed them all..and the early morning river bath, evening spending time near the waterfall area..were also part of other good experiences.

What is the best thing that you liked from the whole camp and about GRA?

- People, Nature
- Got to know many people and was happy after meeting with them. The best thing is entry into the village since no one has any idea that they are going to be welcomed like that. It was a big surprise for all of us. Another thing is the nature of the village and the place where we stay and everything is very well managed. All thanks to our Great OC's Vedika and Harshali di.
- Site visiting and talking to people
- Seeing the original Maharashtra which resides in villages made me realize how similarly different we are, having so many different cultures in one country.
- Great exposure and streams of stories to bring back and narrate it with fellow students here at iit..

How do you think we could have improved the camp?

- I am very pleased with the management of Harshali di
- Many things were all ok with the suggestion that GRA could keep track of the villages they visit by making micro-blogs into the homepage of the website.
- We could contribute to the school we visit. We could collect among ourselves and donate 50-100 books carefully chosen for children of that age. Books will connect them to the greatest minds and give them perspective and would instill a habit of reading. 50-100 books are enough for 50-100 students. We can request them to allow the kids to carry these books to their home. Whatever lacks in teaching they could learn by reading.
- Water problems and sanitation related issues can be kept in mind during future visits.

Write a brief report about the information grasped from the camp.

- Overall good for my life please continue this type of camp 😊
- The village is not getting support from the government this is what they say but still they managed to develop the biogas plant, the Ro water supply facilities and many other important things. One thing I didn't get is how they select the candidates on the basis of the sound of claps or on the basis of just claps. Is the no. of claps matter? I am still looking for the answer. The children are very talented. They were in 3rd class and studying in 4th class and had also enrolled for the MSCIT, a type of computer course. The children are very confident. But regarding the biogas plant it seems they had exaggerated while telling us since the biogas plant is only available in 80 houses as of now and only 2 days the energy comes from there still the villagers had to buy cylinders. It was a very nice experience and I got very insightful information from the camp.
- I Learned many things like how to talk to people without interfering in personal life , group learning, problems of people, hearing women's voices & vision towards the future.
- Village had a working biogas plant which supplied gas to 35 homes. They had solar PV for school, panchayat and few houses. Solar water heaters were there in many houses and public buildings. It was interesting to know how the smallest entity in the country i.e. the village can come up with such a plan to decentralize the energy. This model could be implemented all over India and with careful planning it won't be too costly. Only dedicated and concerned people are needed. Got to know what the best village looks like and what a

government primary school with good facilities is lacking and where improvements can be done. Women even though holding positions of power are lacking that leadership ability to lead and address the community because they only see men leading and have little hesitation. This can be overcome if they are encouraged.

- Tikekarwadi village is a small village and has around 1500 people to support. It has a Sarpanch(or may be a deputy) who oversees the development of the land. With the support of an educated old engineer, the village is trying to develop new projects like solar energy, water purification, etc for getting funds from the government for benefitting its people. Most of the people who got educated to a higher degree preferred to move outside and settle there for better living conditions. The place is known for its farming, with most of the villagers from one popular community. There was no election conducted to select its leaders and they think the present leadership can only address their problems better. Many projects are yet to get completed and many projects (like a riverfront park) were abandoned after not getting any support from the government. The river body and the waterfall in it, if taken proper measures, can lead to large tourism development for the area and it may generate more income for the locals. It might also open up a new market to sell their own craft or art works or their agricultural products from their place itself. The leaders need proper guidance and directions, and the villagers need good facilities like a good number of quality education facilities, primary health centers, police stations, etc.