



Village Stay Report –Potka–

February 9 ~ February 14, 2011

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<< About this report

From 9 February to 14 February, I stayed in a village called Paharpur in order to understand the activities of SHARE, to acknowledge conditions which the villagers are confronting and to ponder what I can do for them. It was a great experience for me and I could fulfill most of my objectives for the stay. On the other hand, I was extremely shocked and astonished how vulnerable and innocent the villagers are as well as innumerable and intricate factors plaguing them. Through this report, I would like to share my experience and feelings that I got from my stay, voices of villagers, issues requiring prompt action and possible proposals for new projects.

<< Purposes of my village stay

- #1) Grasp overall activities of SHARE
- #2) Understand life of villagers of Potka
- #3) Research and interview villagers



- #1) Propose possible project
- #2) Create short introductory video
- #3) Share experience in presentation

<< Village stay at a Glance

During 6 days, I met and talked a lot of villagers and lived like villagers. Yet, it was difficult for me to actually “keep on doing something” since there was transportation inconvenience communication problem. Below are the lists of things I’ve done during my stay:

DAY1: Village tour

DAY4: Talked to SHARE staff

DAY2: Went to Kashiabera & school

DAY5: SHG meeting, interviewed women

DAY3: Interviewed Kashiabera head

DAY6: Went to Mangru and ????

Went to school

SHG meeting / Interviewed women



<< Things I realized about the village and villagers

Living in the village, I encountered uncountable cultural shocks. I would like to share my impression on the village as a complete third party observer who knows little about India and has different perspective.

- ◆ Twig as toothbrush
- ◆ Pond as bath and washings
- ◆ No toilet nor shower
- ◆ Ash as dish wash soap
- ◆ Only 2~3 clothes /person
- ◆ Poor radio wave for phone
- ◆ Water tastes like iron
- ◆ Sleep outside (extremely cold)
- ◆ Self-sufficient in food
- ◆ Eat pork, beef, chicken, mutton
- ◆ Daily necessities in straw roof
- ◆ Earn/lose money in cockfight
- ◆ Walk in barefoot
- ◆ Elders have few teeth
- ◆ Eat rice that are in water
- ◆ Then drinks up all the water
- ◆ 1 or 2 vegetables per meal
- ◆ No masala (spices)
- ◆ Seasoned by salt, chili and garlic
- ◆ Drinks rice beer
- ◆ Grounds are dry and cracked
- ◆ Welcomes guests so much
- ◆ 3 hours to the market by bicycle
- ◆ Diligent
- ◆ Oil from mastered seeds
- ◆ Loves dancing and singing
- ◆ Girls get marry around 18-20
- ◆ No agricultural gain this year
- ◆ Solar power electricity
- ◆ Sometimes no teacher at school



Photo: Village style lunch



Photo: Where I slept



Photo: Ash for wash soap

<< Voices of the villagers

I interviewed several villagers about their livelihood, problem, what they want and want to do.



Head of the village / Teacher (Kashiabera)

“ This year we have no water, no job and no money. Since there was no rain last year, we don't have enough water to cultivate our field and grow plants and crops. Agriculture gain was our major income. So, we are cutting woods from forest and sell them to maintain our livelihoods though we know we are damaging our forest. But we have no choice. ”



Member of SHG (Kashiabera)

“ In SHG, we are saving 5 rupees every week in order to start small business. We have so many dreams. If we have enough money, we want to sell “flower” in the market which we can sell with good price. Then we want to buy goat, chicken, cow and sheep. If we have some more money, we want to start a small restaurant in the market. ”



Member of SHG / Wife of village head (Paharapur)

“ If we can get toothbrushes, we want to use them instead of twigs which we are currently using because we all know that we have serious problem with our teeth. We have innumerable problem regarding sanitation. But we can't do anything by ourselves. Therefore, most of the villagers have only 2-3 clothes and can purchase 1-2 clothes annually. ”

<< Key Issues

Through my stay and interview, I analyzed the primary issues which requires prompt action and they are:

Water x Sanitation x Job

<< Possible project proposal

I would like to promote possible project on “Sanitation”. There are projects going on relating water so that villagers have job. On the other hand, there are no sustainable sanitation projects proceeding and the villagers confront innumerable sanitation problem. In the near future, the villagers might be able to purchase their daily commodity such as toothbrush. Until then, we should provide sanitation goods and properly educate about hygiene.

■ Toothbrush Project

[What?]

- Provide free toothbrush
- Teach how to brush teeth properly

[Sponsor?]

- Toothbrush: Toothbrush Company
- Teaching: Dentistry students / related NGO

[Related information]

Indian NGO called DRISHTEE FOUNDATION is succeeding in providing dental health care.

■ Menstrual Hygiene Project

[What?]

- Provide free sanitary napkins
- Teach how to use sanitary napkins properly

[Sponsor?]

- Toothbrush: Toothbrush Company
- Teaching: Dentistry students / related NGO

[Related information]

The government of India is planning to launch similar project, but only in limited areas.