

Concept Note
ON
ECONOMY AND LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES UNDER
ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES – A STUDY IN MOUNTANIOUS
SETTLEMENT OF LACHUNG, NORTH DISTRICT, SIKIM

SESSION: 2015-16

Introduction

The subject Geography studies the man nature interaction over the earth surface. Thus, field visit is necessary for better understanding of the subject. It is very helpful for clear understanding of its theoretical part which we get in book. Its aids to interlink the facts with practical field and teaches its significance. Its builds interest of the students to get more about the places and world around us.

Objectives

- It is of great pedagogical importance as it lets students experience the geography of a particular region which theoretical texts can't do.
- Field surveys enhance our understanding about patterns and spatial distributions, their associations and relationships at the local level.
- Field surveys facilitate the collection of local level information that is not available through secondary sources.
- It is very important as it helps to gather required information so as the problems under investigation is studied in depth as per the predefined objectives.
- Field studies enable the investigator to comprehend the situation and processes in totality and at the place of their occurrence.
- All the geographical skills are used in practical during field work. You get to learn and apply the skills of sampling, data collection, data processing, making questionnaires, map making, statistical techniques to derive results, observational skills and skills of interviewing etc.
- It helps you understand the theoretical concepts better.
- It gives you a chance to enjoy a wide variety of environments and landscapes.
- Develops an understanding and sensitivity about the culture and people of field area. This may change your biased views about that community.

- And most importantly, it is enjoyable and gives you a great memorable experience.

Study Area

Sikim: The selected study area is a part of Sikim state. It is a state in the north-eastern India. It borders the Tibet autonomous region of China in the north and northeast, Bhutan in the East, Nepal in the West and West Bengal in the South. It is a part of the eastern Himalaya, Sikim is notable for its biodiversity, including alpine and subtropical forest, as well as being a host to Kangchenjunga, the highest peak in India and third highest in world.

Gangtok: It is the capital city of Sikim and also the largest city of the state. The city is located at 27.3325⁰ N and 86.6140⁰ E. It is situated in the lower Himalayas at an elevation of 1650 m (5420 ft.). The town is lies on the one side of hill. The city is flanked on east and west by two streams namely Roro Chu and Ranikhola respectively.

Yumthang Valley: It is nature sanctuary with river, hot springs, yaks and grazing pasture. It is surrounded by Himalaya mountains.

Itinerary

We started our journey from Malda Town railway station. After 4 hours of journey, we reached New Jalpaiguri railway junction. From there we headed towards Gangtok, the capital city of Indian state Sikim. We reached our destination after 5 hours of car journey. Next day we conducted household survey through structured interview schedule. Then, next day in the morning time we started towards Lachung, it took almost 12 hours to reach there. The road was very narrow and full of risk but surrounding nature was very beautiful. The relative relief of the topography was very high. Two nearest mountainous ranges were bisected by flowing water. The next very day we visited Yumthang valley, the valley of flower.

Participants Statistics: 45

No of Boys: 29

No of Girls: 12

No of Field Supervisor and Mentors: 4

Outcome

- Students got practical knowledge
- Experienced Himalayan topography on naked eyes
- Learned how to conduct household survey
- Developed the capacity to work with team members
- Developed the capacity to lead the team