



Field Survey - A Journey of Exploration and Discovery

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You can teach a student a lesson a day but if you teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process for life. This abstract is a manifestation of my innate desire as an educator to build students' cognitive level of thinking and refine their processes to gain knowledge from the environment, process it and put it to optimum use.

This field survey has been planned and conducted for students of 12th grade (+16yrs). At this level students are introduced to various aspects of Human geography and how human intervention has harnessed environmental resources for its growth and development. They are also encouraged to observe how humans have adapted to the environment and in this process also modified it to satisfy their needs and demands. Students are also sensitized to understand how geography has evolved as a scientific subject of enquiry. Hence it calls for a deeper understanding and analysis of issues from the local to the global level.

Through the pedagogical approach of field survey, they have been oriented to the process of conducting Research - as a well-defined procedure. It involves three phases: 1. Planning and preliminary preparation before the survey, 2. During the field survey, 3. After the survey compilation, computation and presentation.

This activity has been planned over a period of 3 months and as of now the topic and area of case study have been selected. The general concern was studying low rainfall and agriculturally less productive regions; hence a case study of a drought-prone village - Hiware Bazaar in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra was undertaken.

The site Hiware Bazaar has been selected as it is based on the principles of sustainable development and water shed development programme to combat severe drought. The statement of the problem has been defined along with the outlined objectives, scope of study and the time frame needed to gather the information.

The field visit spanned over 5 days for data collection and has been conducted. The choice of using a questionnaire as a tool for acquisition of data has been implemented for this research followed by conducting interviews with several families in the village.

The process of tabulating information using a spreadsheet is in progress. The appropriate graphical methods for data representation will be chosen. The major part of their report will then be devoted to the interpretation, analysis of information gathered, computation along with supportive facts like statistical diagrams, graphs, maps, pictures, photographs, newspaper clippings and drawing inferences and references. The rough draft will be presented for scrutiny followed by submission of the final written report.

It was an experiential learning journey for the students and a much recommended methodology at this level.