



Event Name: Rural Chhattisgarh Homestay and Village Exposure for students from IRMA, Gujarat

Venue: Rajanandgaon District , Chhattisgarh

Date: 9 October to 26 November 2019

State - Pair: Gujarat – Chhattisgarh

Brief about event: Five IRMA students from IRMA Gujarat underwent a homestay exposure in a village of Rajanandgaon district of Chhattisgarh as part of the Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Management (PGDRM).

Report of the event: A group of 5 female PGDRM students from IRMA, Gujarat underwent their Village Fieldwork Segment (VFS) in two villages of Chhattisgarh, namely Keshla in Rajnandgaon District and Chichka in Rajanandgaon District. Both the student groups were associated with the organization named Maa Bamleshwari Janhitkari Samiti and worked on projects titled, *“Understanding the market and supply chain of Flax seeds and Yam to provide better prices to farmers in Chhattisgarh”* and *“Understanding the cultivation of 5 crops, Drumstick, Tulsi, Maize, Kodu and Kutli”*, respectively.

The students conducted extensive village surveys to study and analyse development parameters and based on these surveys, they prepared a Village Development Report which captured the comprehensive picture of the village development in Rajnandgaon District. The Village Fieldwork Segment (VFS) after the first classroom term of PGDRM is an extended period of exposure to the rural economy, society and polity. The eight-week term develops in the participants a deeper understanding and sensitivity to the concerns of rural communities as well as helps them in identifying inherent constraints and opportunities. Student groups are attached to local host organisations and are placed in villages across India. The students execute small action-oriented tasks entrusted to them related to the host organization’s area of work, known as the Rural Action Component (RAC). They also participate in collaborative research work with faculty members from IRMA by way of detailed surveys and thematic research. IRMA faculty closely interacts with students during this segment to guide and work with them in mapping their classroom learning to the ground realities and in developing their detailed Village Development Reports (VDR). Students' learning is then evaluated on the basis of their presentations and discussions in the seminars and the VDRs submitted at the end of village fieldwork. The participants also receive constructive feedback from the host organizations and their faculty guides.

Link of the images:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DHqaD8xnT-41KEkhkYs-sX_6x9lcTa3?usp=sharing