

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

FIELD TRIP REPORT

TOPIC: ASSESSING FOOD SECURITY AND ACCESSIBILITY TO WATER

A CASE STUDY OF CHALSA TEA GARDEN VILLAGE, JALPAIGURI

Field survey for the Department of Geography took place from January 19-22, 2024 for part fulfillment of the under-graduate curriculum for Semester V and Semester IV under The University of Burdwan. The papers include *CC 11: Research Methodology and Field Work in Geography* for Semester V and *SEC 2 Field Work* for Semester III. A team of 30 student students under the guidance of four faculty members undertook a study on “*Food Security, Health and Hygiene*” in Mangalbari *Bustee* Mangalbari mouza, Chalsa of Matiali C.D. Block of Jalpaiguri District West Bengal, India.

The study based on field work began with a reconnaissance followed by a pilot study in the Mangalbari *Bustee* on the afternoon 4 pm of January 19, 2024 (Friday) after reaching the destination around 12 noon by 12377 UP Padatik Express. The students went around the area to find out the neighbourhood characteristics and suitable households which they may visit and survey.

The second day January 20, 2024 (Saturday) was entirely dedicated to field work. Student were divided into groups with two members in each to visit households in the neighbourhood and find out the condition of the dietary practice, health condition, sanitation and hygiene practices to find out the household-wise and gender-wise disparities of these variables under study. The survey was conducted using interview method through questionnaire. The questionnaire based survey was conducted between 9 am to 1 pm. During afternoon from 3 pm to 5.30 pm a road-side rural morphology was carried out at stretch of 1 km from a nodal point in Mangalbari *bustee* to three branching out roads. This was conducted using GPS, participatory observation and field sketches.

Any fieldwork is incomplete without sighting the local tourist sites. As the students successfully completed their designated responsibilities, they visited surrounding tourist sites. The local sightseeing was conducted on the third day of field work i.e. on January 21, 2024 (Sunday). They

took a walk along the local river Murti and were explained the geomorphic, cultural and hazard perspectives of the river. They visited the barrage across river Jaldhaka at Bindu village which is also the natural boundary between India and Bhutan. They witnessed the cultural amalgamation of India and Bhutan within a neighbourhood space through sale and exhibition of various artifacts. They also trekked the course of a hilly river Santaleykhola amidst a forest. In the evening a cultural programme was conducted by the students to make the entire field work memorable.

The fourth day the field work was reserved for organization and tabulation of data in the morning and in the afternoon post lunch the team left for departure by 13148 DWN Uttarbanga Express.

The field work was successfully accomplished through whole hearted participation of the students. They maintained a disciplined academic regime by completing their survey punctually, journaling their daily experiences regularly and actively participating in the group discussion which were conducted every evening to share the experiences and ideas. Students returned much enriched in field based learning by interacting well with the locals witnessing nature-society interface in reality out from the text books which helped them to develop empirical knowledge, skill and experience.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Plate 1: Embarking on the Field Excursion



Plate 2: On the way to Chalsa



Plate 3: *Questionnaire based interview*



Plate 4: Students engaged in studying roadside morphology



Plate 5: *Students collecting data*



morphology of the surrounding