

Internship Report

Internship report Submitted to



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by

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Introduction:

This internship report is a detailed report of my internship at Aga Khan Rural Support Program India (AKRSPI), which provided exposure to learning and experience of working at the ground level with a real-life organization. AKRSPI is an NGO that aims to eradicate poverty and other social problems that limit the quality of life of people especially in rural areas of India by implementing sustainable development projects. AKRSPI works in various locations including Dang district Gujarat completed my internship for three months in this institute where I participated in various projects apart from my personal research work. Dang is completely tribal and got the opportunity to work with the organization in two taluks namely AHWA and Subir in the district.

The main objective of this internship was to gain hands-on experience in the field of rural development, and at the same time to evaluate the work done by the organization. The aim was to implement the theoretical concepts learned in the university and to increase insight into the problems and potential of rural areas. During the internship, I got the opportunity to work under the supervision of different experts like agriculture expert, governance expert who introduced me to the reality of rural development process.

These parts of the report include information on the organization of AKRSPI, detailing the activities of the interns, evaluation of the results and outcomes of the projects carried out, and evaluation of the acquired knowledge and skills.

OBJECTIVE OF INTERNSHIP:

- The main objective of this internship is to gain practical, hands-on experience in the field of rural development by actively participating in various projects and activities undertaken by the AKRSPI organization.
- To assess the socio-economic impact of solar-based irrigation pump intervention in Ahwa and Subir Blocks of Dang District undertaken by AKRSPI Institute under various projects.
- Also to study the regenerative agriculture in Dang district and to understand the natural farming, its challenges, the intervention made by the organization and overall rural life.

Organization Profile:

As an intern I worked at the Aga Khan Rural Assistance Program (India) a non-communal, non-governmental organization dedicated to improving the lives of rural communities in India. Founded in 1984, AKRSP(I) functions under the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), a group of development organizations founded by the Aga Khan. AKRSP(I) is active as a catalyst for the improvement of rural communities by directly supporting the local communities in more than 3255 villages of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra AKRSP(I) acts as a catalyst for the improvement of rural communities by directly supporting the local communities. More than 80% of the families affected by the activities of AKRSP(I) belong to marginalized communities like tribals, dalits and minorities. More than 60% of beneficiaries are women who form the core group for program interventions.

This organization is actively working in Dang district since 2010. The organization implements various types of projects to improve the standard of living of the people, thus the organization has built a model of holistic development. Dang is intervening through solar powered irrigation system under various projects in Subir and Ahwa talukas of district. These initiatives aim to address the problem of migration from the district by increasing local employment and income opportunities in agriculture and allied activities. This stops migration and boosts local economic development.

AKRSP(I) has pioneered various participatory development methods in the country and received various national and international awards for the same. The backbone of AKRSP(I)'s work is the empowerment of rural communities, particularly in disadvantaged communities and for women - through collective mobilization as well as promoting individual initiatives. Building self-reliant people's institutions for economic inclusion, livelihood enhancement and improved rural governance is central to the organization's approach. At present AKRSP(I) has major interventions in the following areas:

- Agricultural and Climate Resilience
- Work and activities
- Rural governance
- Health and Nutrition

Vision of the organization: The Vision "AKRSP(I) can contribute in India to the creation of an enabling environment in which rural people can identify their needs and priorities and with professional support, organize themselves to improve the quality of their lives"

Mission of the organization:

“AKRSPI exists to enable the empowerment of rural communities and groups, particularly the underprivileged and women, to take control over their lives and manage their environment, to create a better and equitable society”

Values:

- Empowerment
- Equity
- Collaboration
- Professional Excellence
- Transparency
- Responsive to Change.

Services Provided By AKRSP(I):

Through the AKRSPI, they have given many services to community development. and implanting them proactively. For improving livelihood opportunities and making self-reliant them.

- Support for Agriculture:

1. training farmers about modern methods of agriculture to increase crop yields and promote sustainability.
2. encouraging environmentally friendly practices including organic farming.
3. providing them access to better fertilizers, seedlings, and farming supplies.

- **Non-Agricultural Employment Opportunities:**

1. promoting and aiding alternative forms of employment like small-scale manufacturing, handicrafts, and vocational education.
2. establishing connections with markets to assist farmers and craftspeople in selling their goods at fair rates.

- **Water conservation**

1. Building ponds, check dams, and other water storage facilities to improve water supply throughout the year.

- **Youth empowerment**

1. providing youths with programs for skill development and vocational training to improve their employability and entrepreneurial abilities.

- **Nutrition program**

1. implementing nutrition awareness campaigns to inform local populations about the value of a healthy diet.
2. implementing programs into place to address malnutrition, particularly in children and pregnant women.

- Women empowerment

1. establishing and promoting SHGs to encourage women's income-generating initiatives, loan availability, and savings.
2. giving training in money management, leadership, and entrepreneurship.
3. Encouraging women's participation in decision-making processes at the community level.

- Capacity building

1. implementing workshops and training sessions to increase the leadership and capacity of local community members.
2. promoting neighborhood-based development initiatives that promote sustainability and local ownership.

All these areas are worked by AKRSP(I) in the Dang district in Gujarat. developed community and improved their livelihood opportunity on in which lives.

Major activities/projects undertaken other than thesis.

1. Studying regenerative agriculture in Dang district.
2. Training about natural farming and discussion with a farmer who has received natural farming training.
3. Collecting data for the study of regenerative agriculture.
4. Meeting and training with women's groups.

Key Learnings from Internship

1. Bottom-up approach. The organization is working on a needy basis at the grassroots level.
All activities are done sustainably.
2. I studied equality and equity in the classroom, but I learned practically how the organization focused on equity.
3. Regenerative Agricultural Practices.
4. Using COBO tool for survey data collection.
5. Adapting yourself to your surroundings.
6. People's problems are different according to geographical conditions and location, to know and solve them, active participation is important.