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SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IIHMR UNIVERSITY JAIPUR

SUBMITTED BY: ASHOK KUMAWAT

CONSERVATION OF LANDSCAPE FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS

PROJECT IMPACT ASSESSMENT

FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY

BRIEF HISTORY:

The Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) was established in 2001 in India. It is a registered non-profit organization based in Anand, Gujarat, India, working towards the ecological restoration and conservation of land and water resources in ecologically fragile, degraded, and marginalized regions of India through the concentrated and collective efforts of village communities.

MISSION & VISION:

Mission:
FES aims to promote the ecological restoration and sustainable management of natural resources by empowering local communities and fostering collective action.

Vision:
FES envisions resilient ecosystems and communities where natural resources are managed sustainably and equitably, ensuring ecological health and economic well-being.

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE:

LEARNINGS:

- **Gained firsthand experience in grassroots work, enhancing understanding of community struggles.**
- **Conducted surveys that provided valuable data, emphasizing the climate's impact on environment and health.**
- **Experience taught resilience and adaptability, deepening appreciation for FES's mission.**

PRACTICAL EXPOSURE:

- **Fieldwork Experience – Understanding community and development processes**
- **Community Engagement- How society lives and grow with certain culture**
- **Project Implementation**

THEORETICAL UNDERSTANDING:

- **Resource Management and Governance**
- **Research Methodology**
- **Community-Based Approaches**

SWOT ANALYSIS:

STRENGTHS

•**Comprehensive Approach**: Integrates ecological restoration, water security, and capacity building.
•**Community Empowerment**: Focuses on strengthening governance and local institutions.

WEAKNESS:

•**Dependency on External Funding**: Reliance on funds and support from external entities like HDFC Bank and government schemes.
•**Climate Challenges**: Extreme weather conditions in Rajasthan can hinder project activities and data collection

OPPORTUNITES:

•**Technological Integration**: Use of scientific data tools and technology for planning and monitoring can enhance efficiency.
•**Livelihood Diversification**: Promotes alternative livelihoods and skill development, reducing dependency on agriculture.

THREATS:

•**Environmental Risks**: Climate change and natural disasters pose significant risks to the project's outcomes.
•**Sociopolitical Factors**: Changes in government policies or lack of support from local authorities can affect project progress.
•**Resource Limitations**: Limited access to resources like water and fertile land can hinder ecological restoration efforts.

Aim:

- **Improve Ecological Health**
- **Ensure Water Security**
- **Strengthen Governance**
- **Capacity Building**
- **Promote Awareness**

OBJECTIVE:

To evaluate the HDFC project's impact during April 2021 to 31 March 2024.

FINDINGS Of STUDY:

Fig.1 Banera has the highest number of individuals employed through MGNREGA, Peepalkhunt has a balanced distribution, and Begun has the highest number of individuals employed through both pathways.

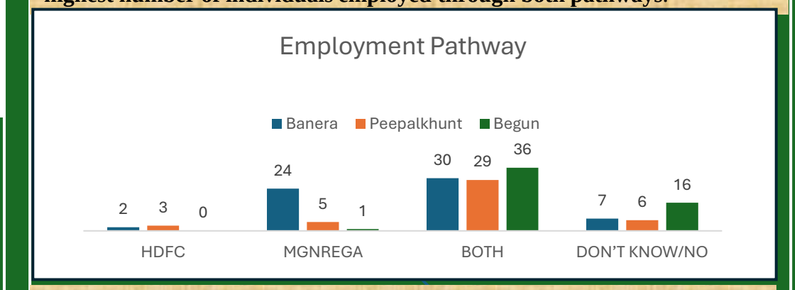

Fig.2 The data indicates that most farmers have experienced some increase in their cultivated land area, with the most common increase range being 10 -20% for Banera and 0 -10% for Peepalkhoont. Begun shows a more varied range of increases, including higher % increases, suggesting that this block may have more dynamic changes in land use

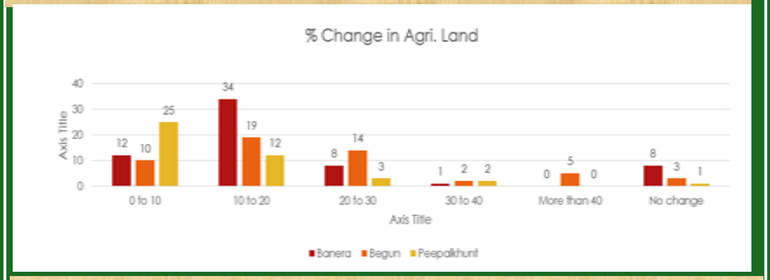

Fig.3: Begun shows a more varied range of income increases, Banera has a relatively higher number of cases with no change in income, and Peepalkhoont has the highest concentration in the 5 to 10% increase category.

Has there been a change in the agricultural income in the past three years (2021 to 2024)?

Block	0 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 50	50 to 75	75 to 100	No Change
Banera	9	15	13	14	3	0	0	0	9
Begun	4	19	6	8	4	8	0	1	3
Peepalkhoont	8	22	7	9	0	2	0	0	1

CHALLENGES FACED DURING INTERNSHIP:

I faced significant challenges including extreme heat in Rajasthan, which posed health risks and affected survey efficiency; inadequate basic amenities in the community house; and transportation issues that made reaching remote locations difficult, with rough terrain and high temperatures exacerbating travel hardships.

USEFULNESS OF INTERNSHIP:

- **Real-world Application:** It allowed the application of theoretical knowledge to practical, real-world problems, particularly in the context of ecological development. and community .
- **Career Insight**: Insight into the workings of impact assessment.
- **Professional growth**: The internship fostered the development of key professional skills such as teamwork ,communication, problem-solving, and adaptability in challenging environments.

SUGGESTIONS:

Improve Communication: Establish clearer communication channels with NGO partners to ensure consistent and reliable data collection.

Increase Field Visits: Allocate more resources for extensive field visits to better understand ground level challenges.

Use Digital Tools:
Adopt digital tools for streamlined data collection and real time analysis

GLIMPSES: