



## **BISHOP COTTON WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN COLLEGE**

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### **REPORT ON FIELD VISIT TO GOTTIGERE VILLAGE AND KR MARKET**

The Institution's Innovation Council of Bishop Cotton Women's Christian college organised an Exposure and Field visit to KR Market and Gottigere village for effective problem identification in alignment with the UN SDGs. The main purpose of the visit is to interact with the key stakeholders and identify the real-life problems that require solutions. Students had active interactions with the villagers and with the vendors in the form of interviews. They also conducted surveys and group discussions where the stake holders discussed about their problems and challenges they face in the market place.

The villagers discussed about their real-life problems related to poverty, lack of access to clean water and sanitation, poor healthcare, non-provision of ration cards, limited educational opportunities, No electricity in the house hold and unemployment. They also explained how their children have to travel long distances to get into higher educational Institutions which demand high fees. The villagers also discussed about how this isolation makes it difficult for them to access resources, services and opportunities available in urban areas. Women expressed that they are mainly confined only to kitchen and other household chores. They are not allowed to go out to work. They cannot express their opinions about anything in that patriarchal structure. As the village is close to Bannerghatta National Park, the villagers also mentioned about human-elephant conflicts that are common in that area. Elephants are attracted to crops leading to damage and loss for farmers, which result in retaliatory actions against elephants. Elephants deliberately enter human settlements causing fear and damage. Students also observed inadequate infrastructure and development of essential services and facilities such as roads, hospitals and schools in villages which lead to limited economic growth and poverty in rural communities.



**Students actively interacting with the villagers in Gottigere**



**Interviews and discussions with villagers in Gottigere**



Students interacted with the stakeholders at the KR Market who expressed their problems about travelling from distant places to the market and earning meagre income like a thousand per day. They also face many challenges like poor infrastructure lack of amenities, traffic congestion and inadequate waste management. Basic facilities like toilets and clean water facilities are lacking. Parking facilities are poorly maintained and insufficient for the needs of the market. Garbage is piled up everywhere which might lead to health hazards. Proper segregation and disposal of wastes doesn't happen as vendors are not educated. There is lot of traffic around the area obstructing customers into the market. There is minimal security and thefts are very common. Vendors also expressed their dissatisfaction about health and sanitation. There are lot of mosquitoes, rodents and cattle in the market posing health risk to vendors as well as customers. Students observed that the fruit and vegetable vendors discard the rotten ones on the side of the road, where it rots and creates a foul odour. It was observed that there were many illegal traders who sell fake goods and items. These vendors pay bribe to police and get away with their trade.



**Students interviewing the stake holders in KR Market**



**KR Market-The vendors expressing their views about the market and its amenities**

Students asked open-minded questions to the stakeholders' challenges and problems and discussed about the identified issues, their underlying causes and potential impact. After the visit, a brainstorming session was organized in which the participants came up with potential solutions to the problems heard with creativity and collaboration. Students discussed about community empowerment, good governance and digital literacy to implement smart village initiatives. By addressing these key areas villages can be transformed into sustainable communities. About the observations on the market area, organised loading and unloading, controlling the traffic around market area, having good security around, improving the roads near the market area and reconstructing the old market building were discussed in the session.

This exposure gave the students a wealth of learning experiences beyond the class room making them understand real-world, empathy and deeper understanding about village life. This also motivated to students to choose career paths related to rural development. Market visit provided practical learning about business and consumer behaviour. They gained insights about market operations.

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