

GYANODAYA IV – EXPRESS JOURNEY



In 2014 I got an opportunity to be a part of an unique experience “Gyanodaya IV” it was very what we can truly say fun learning. I was a part of this journey with 15 students representing Lakshmibai College.

The topic for the project for the students was “**STUDY ON THE LIFE OF FOOD VENDORS**” they interviewed and conducted a survey in Kanpur, Varanasi, Bhopal, Ahmadabad and Surat, The 5 cities that were a part of the trip. Students interviewed the vendors who earn their daily bread by selling food items. They interviewed about their average income, harassment and their legalization and many more. The main goals of this survey were to assess vendors knowledge ,

attitudes, practices and training in food hygiene and to generate data based proposals for improving the safety of street - vended foods.

Students developed a two-phase approach for sampling food vendors. In the first phase, vendors operating within the selected categories were interviewed. They collected the data to estimate the total income that the vendors are earning per day and the hours they give per day to earn this.

They also surveyed food vendors, selling food or beverages whose business are not conducted from a formal building, and consumers of street-vended food. Interviewers used a standard questionnaire to interview all food vendors present in five cities, who were selling peeled cut fruits or vendor produced beverages. This survey was conducted from 11-19 March 2014, with interviews in each area conducted in each city. Each interview took 5-10 minutes.

After completely collecting the data, they worked it in Excel sheet and used T-test for the conclusion.

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

- The Gyanodaya trip to five cities (Kanpur, Varanasi, Bhopal, Ahmedabad and Surat) of east – west corridors of India proved to be a great help to students both educationally as well as morally.
- This tour was project based which was very useful, as project based learning makes it easier to learn at a pace, that comforts them. The parameters for the respective project were set and the students were free to propose their own ideas, explore their knowledge and much more.
- All the students gained research skills and learnt how to write a research report.
- They came to know how to use computer software to analyze a given data, how to use different statistical tools and mathematics in their practical lives.

- Communication skills of all the students improved. The whole team interacted with a large number of vendors in different cities and was able to build up a disciplined and intellectual thinking that is clear, rational, open-minded and informed by evidence.
- They learnt how to live in different socio-economic conditions and were able to adjust themselves in different environments.
- They learnt the importance of time management.