

Improving Disposable Income for Micro Entrepreneurs for Sustainable Rural Communities in India

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Abstract In this paper we introduce the Designing For Service construct to improve disposable income of micro entrepreneurs in the rural India. The Service Learning Program (SLP) developed by the Modern Higher Education Institutes (HEI) caters to the need of modernizing the business of the micro-entrepreneur in rural India.. SLP is to be designed to address the health care sector in the rural area in which people are facing problem of malnutrition, anemia and bedsores. The University Based Support System (UBSS) in collaboration with hospital, public health centre and urban health centre shall conduct survey of the people and address the problem as service learning through nurturing of the students. In this paper a use case of the berry farm in the rural Gujarat, where in the micro entrepreneur works to pick up berries from the many trees in the farm with help of some workers. This, he does with his family. The collection and separation of the berries is done manually. He is plugged into a supply chain for getting his product to various markets. Students participating in the SLP will be tasked to develop smart services and smart appropriate technology to improve the efficiency of the farm. Indrashil's engineering department will coordinate development of automatic plucking of the fruit and classification of good and spoiled fruits on the branch itself. Though the task is difficult and challenging but achievable. Thus, the system studied will help improving disposable income of the microentrepreneurs community to be sustainable. Both cases have been implemented and the outcome is much relevant to the sustainable communities in the rural sector

Keywords: Designing for Service, Service Learning Program, Health care, Agriculture, Sustainable community