

Questions for Student Discussion on Jamkhed and Gadchiroli

Please note:

This is a list of questions that students prepared to discuss with the faculty. Please note all questions listed may not have been asked in the order presented in this document. Also, due to time limitations all questions may not be asked or discussed.

Dealing with Communities/Cultural Context

1. There are few rural communities in the world today that have not yet had contact and been subject to some kind of NGO programming. How do we start working and attempting to establish genuine trust with communities that have been subject to a long list of past broken promises made by other NGOs?
2. How can one produce enthusiasm and lead communities toward achieving a common “public good” goal when most everyone is implicitly concerned with “self” first, especially in a scenario where outsiders are considered as sources of income only?
3. How did the men in Jamkhed change their traditional feelings toward the role of women – from submissive beings to village health workers and eventually to entrepreneurial partners?

Government

1. How important is social pressure in bringing about desired change by the government?
2. Gadchiroli saw extensive bottom-up and outside-in approaches. Would these interventions have succeeded if the government did not support the ban on alcohol or if the next administration lifted the ban on alcohol?
3. Will the governmental infrastructure cooperate with you in your initiatives if you go as a health professional without any external funds? Does the local government (and community) understand our sincere intention to not make the community dependent on outside sources?

Research vs. Community

1. How do we balance coming into a community with a set research approach (e.g. Gadchiroli) vs. the services approach (e.g. Jamkhed)? What are the benefits and weaknesses of each of these approaches?
2. How does one balance the requirements of research study design with the priorities of the community? What do you do if these needs conflict?

