

LOCATION PROFILE

UMRI, GUNA, MADHYA PRADESH



Umri village, considered to be the remotest of all villages in India, is located in Guna Tehsil of Madhya Pradesh, India. It is situated 12km away from Guna, which is both district & sub-district headquarter of Umri village. As per 2015 stats, Umri is the Gram Panchayat of Umri village. The total geographical area of the village is 640 hectares. Umri has a total population of 3,413 peoples. There are about 689 houses in Umri village.

Demographic Details

Location	Umri Village
Geographical Area	640 hectares
Maximum Population	3413
Number of homes/tents	689
Number of children	3-4 per family
Number of literate inhabitants	13
Number of Women	200
Typical salary	INR 3000-4000

Housing, Water and Electricity



Cement, bricks, and concrete base are, in fact, said to be a 'Pucca Houses'. Most of the houses in Umri are too 'Pucca Houses', made of semi-permanent dwellings. The houses have toilets and access to water too. Though the structure is pucca but the top ceiling is made of twigs, cow dung and materials like that, this becomes a problem during the rainy season. As discussed with one of the villagers (name anonymous) he complained that during the rainy season the heavy flow of water pouring leads to destroying of rooftop and hence after every rainy season the villagers build a new rooftop each to their own house. The system of joint families in the area is still prevalent with shared kitchens where women of the house in cohesion cook their meals. When one walks around in Umri, observes a true sight of rural India but with a certain degree of basic facilities available like electricity and water. Yes, the village has water, pucca house and electricity, washroom within each household. Now, one must wonder then why is it the remotest of all villages in India? The answer lies in the fact that the education rate, development of the overall village is still not to the mark of calling it a developed village. Indeed, it is a village in transition.



Education

The kids attend the nearby government school. The conditions of the school are not very favourable for hostile development of the kids. The infrastructure is poor, the basic facilities like washroom, computer, is in a demeaning sight. This also becomes a core reason for children to drop out of school. The majority of the population is educationally backward and challenged, due to which there is a high prevalence of orthodoxy, gender bias, alcoholism,

domestic violence and lack of sensitivity and awareness about the issues faced by women in society. As surveyed by Lakshyam, 'pre-assessment' survey to understand the conditions of the area. It was observed that most of the women (now part of Lakshyam centre) are a mixed bunch of who have either never been to school or are educated till 5th Standard form nearby school.

Work

The propounding alluring feature of the village is both men and women are working to have 'sustainable life'. Men work on fields as agriculturalist like it is said Madhya Pradesh is famous for two 'Nutri' and 'Wheat' Production. Men work on the field for the same. Umri is one of the largest villages of the Guna district. Both men and women work in order to have a sustainable life.

Women Issues

Women along with their routine household chores perform a range of task to support their family financially like stitching as most of them know stitching. These women have been a member of Self Help Groups for some time now and different groups engage in different livelihood opportunities. However, being village women are not as exposed to opportunities like one normally has in urban dwellings. Hence, women face the problem of a stable 'earning source'. Moreover, it is observed not many opportunities are available to the educated youth (till 5th standard or so) of the village. Especially Girls despite knowing stitching work have to move to the main district in search of jobs. That too if family permits. Therefore, there is a need to develop income generation means, the setting up of units which are accessible. The orthodox, patriarchal prevalence visibly palpable as women are expected to look after their house and work simultaneously in order to sustain family. When surveyed about women conditions, suneeta didi (a beneficiary of Lakshyam) answered that normally marrying a girl means to give a dowry amount of minimum 11 Lakhs. Yes, the system of dowry is still present.



Women consider domestic violence as a normal phenomenon. Therefore, there is an immediate need to enrich a new thought process. As development must be grass-root level.



Food and Medicine

According to Rekha (now a member of Lakshyam), the hospital service is available in the main district of Guna for which they have to travel and cover a way of 45 to 60 minutes. So, if they have a medical emergency they'll have to travel. Hence, the medical facility is not available. As being an agriculturalists village the food is not an issue in the area. Although, due to a stable income source being a major issue which directly has an effect on standard of living and procuring things for the villagers.

