**Report on Grassroots Research Innovation Visit**

**Grameena Sankalpa Yatra (Rural Commitment Journey)**  
**Location:** Devarakaggalahalli Village  
**Date:** 27 September 2025  
**Organized by:** Centre for Grassroots Research & Innovation,  
Faculty of Engineering and Technology (FET), JAIN (Deemed-to-be University)

**Introduction**

As part of the Centre for Grassroots Research & Innovation initiatives, 26 students and 7 faculty members from FET, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University), participated in a **field visit to Devarakaggalahalli**, a village located approximately 3 km from the campus.  
The purpose of the visit was to **learn from the lived experiences of the local community**, observe grassroots innovation, and explore how engineering knowledge can be applied to solve real-world challenges.

**Objectives**

* To understand rural life, community practices, and local challenges.
* To identify innovative approaches used by villagers in their daily activities.
* To encourage students to apply critical and creative thinking to develop practical solutions.
* To promote experiential learning and social responsibility among students.

**Schedule and Activities**

The visit began at **9:30 AM** from the university and concluded at **3:15 PM**.  
Participants explored various sectors of the village, including **agriculture, small-scale industries, schools, and community spaces**.

**Key Highlights:**

* **School Interaction:** The team first visited the local school.
* **Sapling Plantation:** A symbolic activity demonstrating collective responsibility towards sustainability.
* **Agricultural Visits:** Observations included ragi, silk, flower, fields, providing insights into traditional and modern farming techniques.
* **Sericulture and Floriculture:** Participants learned about local livelihoods and entrepreneurial models in silk rearing and flower cultivation.
* **Local Industry Exposure:** A visit to a small-scale plastic unit offered understanding of rural industrial practices and environmental challenges.
* **Community Interaction:** Discussions with farmers and local families helped participants appreciate the resilience, creativity, and innovations emerging from rural life.

## ****Meeting Proceedings****

**9:30 AM – Departure from Campus**  
The day’s activities began with the team’s departure from the university. All participants assembled on time and followed punctuality guidelines to ensure smooth coordination throughout the visit.

**10:00 AM – Arrival at Devarakaggalahalli Village**  
Upon reaching the village, the participants took a few moments to regroup, plan, and prepare for the scheduled interactions and activities with the local community.

**10:10 AM – Visit to the Local School**  
The first stop was the village school, where the participants were warmly welcomed by the staff. This interaction set a positive and respectful tone for the rest of the day’s engagements.

**10:15 AM – Sapling Plantation Activity**  
A sapling was planted collectively by the participants — symbolizing growth, sustainability, and commitment to the environment. This hands-on activity reinforced the values of teamwork and community responsibility.

**10:25 AM – Visit to a Villager’s House**  
Participants were graciously invited into a villager’s home and offered coffee. This personal interaction fostered a genuine connection and deeper understanding of the local way of life.

**10:40 AM – Visit to Silk Field**  
The team observed sericulture activities and learned about the process of silk production. This provided insights into a key component of the local economy and the livelihoods it supports.

**10:50 AM – Walk Through Flower Fields**  
Participants explored vibrant flower fields, observing various agricultural practices and understanding the region’s diversity in floriculture.

**11:00 AM – Visit to Ragi Fields**  
The team studied the cultivation of ragi, a traditional and nutritionally important crop. Discussions with farmers revealed generational knowledge and sustainable agricultural methods.

**11:15 AM – Exploration of Cow Grass and Sugarcane Fields**  
Participants examined cow grass and sugarcane cultivation, understanding their dual importance in livestock management and as significant cash crops for farmers.

**11:20 AM – Visit to Gomphrena Globosa Field**  
The group visited fields of Gomphrena globosa (globe amaranth) to learn about its cultivation, market relevance, and aesthetic value in floriculture.

**11:45 AM – Visit to a Local Plastic Industry**  
To gain insight into rural entrepreneurship, participants toured a small-scale plastic manufacturing unit. The visit highlighted local economic diversification as well as environmental concerns.

**12:00 PM – Second Visit to Flower Fields**  
A follow-up visit to another flower field allowed for deeper observation and interaction with farmers. A Q&A session provided practical insights into agricultural challenges and innovations.

**12:30 PM – Visit to Cow Shed**  
Participants observed livestock management practices, gaining firsthand knowledge about feeding, maintenance, and dairy-related activities.

**1:00 PM – Observation of Spinach and Coriander Fields**  
The team explored vegetable cultivation practices, focusing on nutrition-based crops and family participation in farming activities.

**1:30 PM – 2:15 PM – Community Lunch**  
A traditional lunch was hosted by the villagers, offering participants a chance to experience local cuisine and hospitality in an informal and friendly setting.

**2:30 PM – 3:15 PM – Closing Session and Vote of Thanks**  
The day concluded with a reflection session, during which participants expressed their gratitude to the host community. The discussion focused on key learning outcomes, the importance of documentation, and the value of observing real-world practices to enhance innovation and empathy in engineering education.

**Outcomes**

* Students developed a **practical understanding of rural innovation** by observing how the community addresses challenges through resourcefulness and collaboration.
* The visit reinforced that **learning happens from the grassroots**, where the **common man’s lived experiences** offer deep insights into sustainability and problem-solving.
* Exposure to grassroots innovation encouraged students to think **critically and innovatively**, applying engineering knowledge to design meaningful solutions.
* Participants recognized the importance of **documentation** — recording field experiences as a valuable contribution to both learning and societal development.

**Conclusion**

The **Grameena Sankalpa Yatra** provided an enriching opportunity for participants to connect classroom learning with real-world experiences. The visit to Devarakaggalahalli served as a foundation for future **society-driven projects**, enabling students to engage directly with communities and contribute through **engineering-based solutions**.

This initiative reflects the core philosophy of the Centre for Grassroots Research & Innovation — **learning from people, innovating for society**, and nurturing engineers who think empathetically, act responsibly, and innovate sustainably.



 

