



## The Rang De Field Trip- a guide to etiquette

info@rangde.org | www.rangde.org

We are pleased to know that you have volunteered to join us for a field trip. If you have already done this sort of a thing for other NGOs, I am sure you know what to expect...Expect the unexpected! If you are doing a field visit of this sort for the first time, then please take a moment to go through this document.

The Rang De Field trip is a great opportunity to understand how things work at the grassroots level, especially in terms of microfinance. While you would learn how well microcredit can work, you may also see it working not too well. Don't get disheartened! Make a note and broadcast this information to Rang De and the field partners.

Apart from meeting and making new friends during your journey, you also get to understand a little about what people in a village or a small town do to earn a living. Many of our volunteers and social investors have come back with a great amount of feedback for the field partner, some learning for themselves and a few have made new friends in the village too!

So, do take on the field trip with an open mind and do help us get an objective view of how people are making use of the loan.

When you reach your destination, you will be received by the field coordinator who works for our field partner. He/She will be in charge of taking you around and introducing you to borrowers. If you are in a big group, it will be great if you can split up into smaller groups. A group of three or four could interview each borrower. It is usually nice to have an informal conversation rather than make the interview structured. People open up very easily when you are informal. Many of our borrowers love to get photographed and some do care about what they are wearing and may not like it if you are just clicking away. Please seek their permission – some women have gone back to change and get ready just to pose for the photograph.

All Rang De borrowers are aware that money comes to them from individuals. However, you are more like a 'secret santa.' On your field trip, you may end up meeting someone to whom you have given money. In order to ensure that we



info@rangde.org | www.rangde.org

do not intrude into their lives, let's keep it a secret and not reveal that we have given them the money.

If you have any clarifications, please feel free to ask the field co-ordinator. A few borrowers would have done exceptionally well with the loan and will be quite articulate. A few may be doing well, yet may not be very articulate. So be prepared to face such situations.

We all like to be remembered by our names. Before you embark on your field trip, you will be provided with the names of the borrowers and the business activity for which they have borrowed the loan. Make a note of their name before you begin interacting with them. The smile in her eye when you call 'Lakshmi' by her first name will be hard to miss.

Last but not the least, we at Rang De are all ears to find out how your field trip went – the highs and the lows. That's what helps us improve and make our program better. We would also love to get a feedback about our field partner and the work they are doing!

Wishing you all an enriching field trip!

The Rang De Team

(updated 12<sup>th</sup> November 2009)