

Pune Educational Workshop-A Report

Dated: 25th June 2015

Namaste,

Vigyanvahini, an NGO of Pune, Maharashtra organized an educational workshop from 31st May to 7th June 2015, for the students of **Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya**, Arunachal Pradesh. A total of 19 students from 7 different VKV'S ,VKV Itanagar, VKV Nirjule, VKV Vivek Vihar, VKV Ziro, VKV Shergaon, VKV Roing and VKV Tafragam along with two escort teachers, Sri. Rajib Prasad of VKV Ziro and Sri. Krishna Tamang of VKV Kuporijo attended the workshop. The workshop was conducted with the motto of Transforming young budding minds to transform India and also to have a cultural and thought exchange between the two states.

The educational workshop gave students ideas likewise opportunities to visit prestigious agencies that help us to visualize what they are learning at school. It helped to develop their personality. Social grace and etiquette were too learned by experience. Moreover important to every student since it is a part of our learning process was to acquire more knowledge through actual exposure.

Tour gave new insight of the things outside the school which raise encouragements in them. Students practiced skills and critical thinking abilities outside of the controlled class setting. Being about able to ask experts about their particular area of study on the spot requires thinking. Students were able to learn real-world lesson.

Our team assembled at Guwahati and we left for Howrah at 12.30pm on 28th May. Reached Howrah at 0700 hrs on the next day. On reaching we visited different places like **Belur Math**, **Victoria Places**, **Howrah Bridge** and **Science City** of Kolkata. It was at Belur math, that Swami Vivekananda, the Cyclonic, Hindu, Patriotic monk of India, lived the last years of his brief life. Students saw the temples dedicated to Sri. Ramakrishna, Maa Sarada Devi and Swami Vivekananda. They also saw the museum which contains articles connected with the history of Ramakrishna Math and Mission. After Belur Math, Students visited a historical Monument that was Victoria Palace, a large marble building with the monolithic structure that materializes an austere expression of the neo classical style. Students observed the Royal Gallery, portrait gallery, arms and armory gallery and the big garden of it. After that we visited the science city of Kolkata which is the largest science centre in the Indian subcontinent. In science city, students observed the Dynamotion hall, which was a hands on and interactive exhibits on various topics of science that encouraged students to experience with props and enjoy the underlying scientific principles. They also saw a film "Wild Ocean" in 3-D Vision theatre and experienced the 3 D effect of Polaroid spectacles. They enjoyed the robotic pre historic animals, especially dinasorous and plants in the Evolution Park which portrays the story of evolution of animal life. They even experienced the thrill and joy of travelling through Ropeway.

DAY-1,31ST MAY, SUNDAY

We reached our destiny place, Pune on 31st May at 0700hrs. We had a warm welcome at the railway station itself by Dr. Sharad Godse, coordinator and other members of the Vigyanvahini.

On the same day, at 4.00 pm we had the welcome and introductory session. We had our first lecture session “**Where We Are**” by Sri. Raman Chitale where he located our place using maps taught how to study maps and explained about the different types of maps used. The next session of the day filled the heart of students with strength, joy, thrill and patriotism as the session was “**Antarctica**” where they interacted with Mr.Suhas Kane who spent 14 months in India’s Research Station, Maitri in Antarctica. He shared his entire journey experience and learning and said about the way the people do their work with full devotion, dedication and determination.

DAY 2,1ST JUNE, MONDAY

The day started with Kendra prayer followed by **Archery and Riffle** shooting by Mr. Ranjit Chamle and his students. Students loved the activity so much as they got the hands on experience to shoot bow-arrow and riffle.

The same day, students were taken to **TATA MOTORS** of Pune. Firstly students were shown a short film on Foundation of TATA. The students saw different divisional block units- like the Engine shop, Transmission shop, body shop, paint shop and the trim and final assembly shop where various commercial and passenger vehicles were manufactured. They saw the work undertaken by robots as well as designing and manufacturing of automated dies, fixtures and welding equipments. Students too witnessed the live show of 9 different hybrid and trained dogs.

On the same day, we had sessions that included” **Games and Quizzes**-A creativity class by Sri. Rajeev Tulpule, Lecture on “**Plastic**”- The modern material by Dr. O. Yemul and Birds, Animals, Trees by Dr. Mandar Dalar.

DAY 3, 2ND JUNE, TUESDAY.

The day started with kendra prayer and **self defense** technique trained by C. Bhosle sir. This day we had the golden opportunity to visit the **Indian Air Force** Station of Pune. Students had a close look of the landing and taking off of long range fighter aircraft SUKHOI-30 MKI. Students were taken to weather forecast room and got the knowledge about how weather forecast are done, weather reports are generated, studied and instructed to pilots. Students were even fortunate enough to climb over the pilot seat of SU-30 MKI fighter aircraft and knew about its operating system.

After our lunch students had hands on activity class on **Origami** by Milind kelkar where students learned to make paper toys without cutting and pasting.

After that students were taken to **IUCAA (Inter university centre of Astronomy and Astrology)**. It was something very special for the students that they had the life time opportunity to meet and interact with Dr. Jayanta Narlikar, Founder of IUCAA and recipient of Kalinga Award from UNESCO and Dr. Mangala Narlikar. Dr. Mangala Narlikar took a session “Fun with Maths” which students loved a lot. Students enquired their queries on Astronomy and Astrophysics which was answered by Dr. Jayanta Narlikar himself. A team of science centre IUCAA took a session and thought making of toys from scraps.

DAY 4,3rd JUNE, WEDNESDAY

The day started with Kendra prayer and practice of self defense technique by C. Bhosale. After breakfast students had their first session of the day that was **Economic literacy** by Yamaji Malkar. He talked about the factors on which the economic status of a country depends and the present economic scenario of our country. After the session the students were carried to **IISER (Indian institute of science education and research)** where students visited the Physics, chemistry and Bio laboratories of IISER and show the research studies undertaken by students. They had a good interaction with the research students and learnt about their studies which obviously might have developed a sort of scientific temperament in them.

After the return from IISER they had a sessions” **Life in Space**” by Dr. Yogesh Shouche and **Conversation with superman** in which they meet real hero Sri. Prasad Joshi along with Sri. Umesh Zipre of Giri premi Mount Everest expedition team who conquered the highest peak on Earth, “Mount Everest”. He shared his brave experience about conquering Mount Everest.

DAY 5,4TH JUNE, THURSDAY

I think this was the most awaiting day for the students. Their dream was to come true to see the dream city of India- **Mumbai**. Reached Mumbai at 9.00am and firstly visited, **Mazgaon Dock Ltd**, a ship construction company, where they got the chance to see the construction of the war ship-**INS Chennai**. Students were taken inside the ship to show how construction works are done, how its been sophisticatedly built to wage a war, how its been operated, its different chambers and control units.

Moving out of the Mazgaon Dock students visited the “**Gate Way of India**” adjacent to which was the famous **Taj Hotel**. The combined view of Gate Way of India, Taj Hotel and The Arabian see touched the heart of the students with its praise worthy view. After spending some time students visited the **Nehru Planetarium** and witnessed the show- Origin of Universe. On returning even they enjoyed the joy of riding over through the sea link bridge built over the Arabian Sea.

DAY 6,5TH JUNE, FRIDAY

On this day students had interactive session on “**Conventional and Non Conventional Energy**” by Dr. D. Bankar and “**Nanotechnology**” by Dr. Sulabha Kulkarni. There was a interview session named “**Disabled but second to none**” in which they meet Kr. Gauri Gadgil -Olympic gold medalist in swimming and even acted in a film named “**YELLOW**” whose glimpse was shown to students, Mr. Amol Kadra, player of the Indian cricket team of blind category and Mr. Suresh Jadav, a national level swimmer in spite of his two hand which he lost at a very early age due to an electric current accident. Though disabled they made their weakness as their strength with their immense hard work and strong determination and been living a respectful life. The way they were and the way they were living motivated the students .On interacting with students they boosted them by saying them if we can, Why can't you. Always say “**I CAN DO IT**”.I think it was the most heart touching session of the students.

Afterwards students had an exciting session “**Experience the thrill of handling live snakes**”, in which not only the got the knowledge on various types of snakes but also had the experience of handling live snakes. Really they enjoyed it a lot.

Next was the **meeting of students with their local parents**. The workshop also included staying together of students in pairs with certain good Marathi families with the motto of knowing each other culture and traditions. Their was a introductory session of the students with their guardian after which they left for their home in Pune.

DAY 7,6TH JUNE, SATURDAY

This day the students were completely along with their local parents. They experienced the joy of staying with them. The love and care the students got from their local guardians made them to feel as if they stayed with their own parents in their own home.

DAY 8, 7TH JUNE, SUNDAY

We all gathered together at 12.30 pm for our last event that was the closing ceremony of the workshop at Gyan Prabhodhini, Pune. The closing ceremony included felicitation of local guardians by the students, sharing of experience by students and escort teachers, Glimpse on Arunachal Pradesh, report presentation of the workshop, cultural programme by students ,felicitation of members of Vigyanvahini followed by group photographs.

After everything was over, it was the time to thank and to say Bye. It was not only we, whose heart filled with sorrow. The way we were loved and cared and the way the workshop was planned and arranged built unforgettable memories in our life. The greatest thing was the exposure provided to the students in the field of learning that was witnessed in the students while moving out itself. The days of the workshop were like the different colours of the rainbow, each day coming with a new colour to rejoice us and to teach a new thing.

Yours Faithfully

Rajib Prasad, Teacher, VKV Ziro