

Report on Educational Excretion in Shantiniketan

Date: 14.03.2024 to 15.03.2024

Place: Shantiniketan, Birbhum, West Bengal

Educational excursions not only enhance the knowledge of the students but also broaden their outlook towards the outside world. Students of 6th semester, Education (Hons) of Gangadharpur Mahavidyamandir developed a love for nature and reinforced their creative faculties when they got a chance to visit the land of Tagore, Santiniketan. We conduct the excursion because there is a visit to a historical place in their 5th semester Honours syllabus (Educational Thought of Great Educators). The college provided an amount of 13735/- for the journey. Collections of Rs. 3000/- were made from students and teachers contributed 250/-. There was a total of 13 students from the Education department.



The word Shantiniketan means “the abode of peace” Indeed the place is located in the northcentral region of west Bengal Bhirbhum district approx. The town is known for its literary & artistic heritage with the notable figure being Rabindranath Tagore and. In addition, The Visva Bharati also serves as Shantiniketan’s cultural centre. Rabindranath Tagore wrote many of his literary classics at Santiniketan. In Santiniketan, seasonal changes bring their own colors and

beauties with various festivals. The emphasis in organizing these festivals is on traditional Indian forms & rituals. Holi, the festival of colours celebrated in its own style at Santiniketan.

Day 1

The students and teachers reached the Howrah station by train. Then we boarded the Shantiniketan Express at 10.10 A.M. on 14th March, 2024 from Howrah station. We reached the Bolpur station at 1.25 P.M. After that all of us took our lunch at the outside restaurant in Bolpur station. Then we moved towards our hotel named Ritu Ranga Lodge. Then we freshened up and took rest for a while. At 4 P.M.

The students were visited the weekly market at Shonajhuri. The lovely Shonajhuri, flowers, the colourful artefacts, the graceful tribal dancers and the songs of the Baul Singers - all of this was a perfect setting to tickle the imagination of our young learners. The students then had a wonderful time shopping for themselves and their dear ones. After that we returned to our hotel and took our dinner. The children had a wonderful time at Patha Bhavan as they sang songs of the bard and recited his poems. They were enthralled by the idea of an open-air school. Once they were back to the hotel the students then wrote about their day's experience in their diaries. They enjoyed floating sky lanterns, had a sumptuous dinner and retired to their beds all excited for the next day.

Day 2

Day 2 began with a warm-up session which set the tone for the exhilarating day ahead. We visited the 'Srijanishil' programme. Srijanishil programme is a Beautiful Cultural and Art centre that showcases the homes, lifestyles and handicrafts to the Eastern and North-Eastern states of India. This spectacular experience centre is spread across sprawling grounds and is designed to be a hub for rural artisans to sell their fabrics and other local handicrafts. At most two hours We had a wonderful experience there. Entry fee to the place is INR 10 per person.

Then we visited 'Tagore's Museum'. The museum displays several original manuscripts, photographs, gifts Tagore received on his travels, letters (including Tagore's hand written letter refusing to accept Knighthood) and his replaced Nobel Prize and citation. It was an amazing experience for all. Then we went to the bank of the 'Kopai River'. The natural setting of 'Kopai River' made us mesmerized. We remembered our childhood book by Tagore, "Sahaja Patha, Kisha Laya". On the way, we saw the house of another Nobel Laureate, Amartya Sen and Aapa of Partha Chatterjee former Education minister in West Bengal.

We were also visited the Visva Bharati University. The students had an exquisite time at 'Vinay Bhavan', the Education department of the University. At the Assembly Hall, we had an interaction with the faculty members of the Education department of the University and with the students of the 2nd sem. The students of our college were enthralled by the thought of an open-air teaching environment. The students sang songs of Tagore and recited his poems.

The children had a wonderful time visited at Centre library in Vishwa Bharati University. Then we returned to the Bolpure station as we had our return train on 1.10 P.M. We took our lunch in train. Then we reached the Howrah station at 3.45 PM. From there everyone went to their home. All students were reached safely home and unforgettable experience.

Some snapshots of the tour in the Dept. of Education

