

Delving deeper into ruralities



The second field visit helped in concretising students' understanding of the villages

It is rightly said that India's heart lies in its villages. Villages are quite known for their untouched natural beauty where people often go to find peace and solidarity or to take a break from their city lives. However, there is another side to the coin—students of the Project Groups walked out to eight different villages with an intent to explore this 'other side' on the 2nd Field Visit of the Rural Immersion.

During this 6-hour engagement, students performed **Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)** which is a set of participatory and largely visual techniques for assessing group and community resources, identifying and

prioritizing problems and appraising strategies for solving them. Specifically, the **Village Mapping** tool was used by the students to learn about the communities they visited and its resource base. The primary concern was not to develop an accurate map but to get useful information about local perceptions of resources. Students interacted with the villagers, probed them and witnessed harsh realities of rural life. Students were pleased with the hospitality they received from the villagers.

Retrospection sessions later in the day amalgamated the essence of learning that all participants were assimilating from their own experience as well as others'.

Football Match – DPS Vs. Parivartan

The *Sports4Development Manoeuvre* took an interesting turn on Day 3 in the form of a football match between Team DPS, represented by its students and Team Parivartan, composed of youngsters from the neighbouring villages. Thus began the treat which Parivartan's Community Sports vertical is dishing out for the participants every day during the recreational hour.

The playground was abuzz with festive thrill and both teams faced each other

for the toss which was won by Team Parivartan. Ashutosh Mishra from the theatre group acted as the referee of the match. Parivartan players kicked off the play, but soon after Team DPS took over and scored the first goal. That got both teams pretty defensive the action slowed down till the second half. Eventually, in an interesting twist towards the end, Aakash from Team Parivartan found an opening to goal, thereby ending the match that lasted for 50 minutes in a 1-1 draw.

Highlights October 25 | Day 3

- Delving deeper into ruralities - Second Day
- Football Match – DPS Vs. Parivartan
- Experiencing villages at night!
- Morning Routine: A Glimpse



Reaching out to the villagers



Bending it like Bhutia!

Experiencing village at night – Night Walk



Even the most innocuous of things has a tendency to appear different in moonlight. To experience this difference, it is customary for students to venture once during RIP into the villages surrounding the Parivartan campus after sunset and observe 'rural night life'. On the evening of Day 3, the students were divided into five factions and each faction was allocated a Parivartan volunteer who guided the respective group of students and teachers on a walk to a particular village in the vicinity. The villages covered are Narendrapur, Narayanpur, Miyan Bhatkan, Babu Bhatkan and Khem Bhatkan.

The purpose of taking students for a night walk to different villages was not just to make them appreciate the stars, moon on a clear night, but also to make them witness the darkness that prevails after sundown, to see how so many households still live by candlelight and oil lamps in villages. This experience indeed nudged them to think how lucky they are to have 24 hours of continuous power supply in their homes. It also prodded them to admire the simplicity and efficiency of the rural folk in managing all their chores with limited light at hand.

The 60-minute exercise was effective in acquainting students with the link between the way of life and the aspirations of the people in the villages.

Morning Routine: A Glimpse

Spoiler (pun intended!): the routine one keeps during the Rural Immersion is strenuous indeed. Other than giving students exposure of myriad problems existing at the grassroots, equal importance is given in strengthening their overall well-being. Students after a long day of field work and late evening sharing & retrospection session wake up as early as 5 o'clock in the morning to freshen up and report for the morning session every day.

This segment begins with chanting of a *Shlok* and few prayer songs. Thereafter, a 30-minutes Yoga session is taken up for all students in the Open Air Theatre of Parivartan by expert Shri Yogesh Ji. Various *asanas* of Yoga are taught to students, aiming at balancing the body, helping the brain to function better and improving the ability to concentrate and retention capacity.

After Yoga, the participants get ready, are given briefing on the day's field visit, have breakfast, and are ready to leave for their village.

