



Muktakash Manch is the seat of wide scale performances at Parivartan for the community

Yoga to start the day

Day 2 of the Rural Immersion Programme 2017 dawned bright and early at 5 o' clock for the participants. Students had a 45-minute Yoga session and thereafter proceeded to get ready for the day. Next they assembled in *Sabhaghar* to take pre-field visit briefing from the mentors until it was time for breakfast.

First look of the working area

Today brought the 1st Field Visit of the ten Village Working Groups to their assigned villages, viz. Chandauli, Ruiya, Santhu, Badhuliya, Balaipur, Bharauli, dharampur, Baikanthpur, Belahi Purab and Bhanwraipur. Every Group was accompanied by a volunteer from Parivartan and was met with a local volunteer at the village, both of whom were to provide route guidance and facilitate the students' interaction with the community. The prime purpose of the 6-hour visit was to capture "the first look" of the working area.

The target was to collect visual impression and basic information on the physical environment of the locale. To accomplish this, the Groups met up with native villagers with help from the volunteers, and tried to garner basic understanding of the village in addition to collecting primary data for further work. Once the core group of 'friends' from the village were established, the Village Working Groups sub-divided themselves to visit the various households and interact with the community. Care was taken to cover four main groups: women, farmers, marginalized community, and persons with disability. Strong emphasis was given to put earnest efforts for 'making friends' with the villagers to understand their life and problems, and to gain their trust which could lead to constructive collaborative action for development.

On the basis of the impressions the sub-groups gathered, each Group mapped their village, and attempted to identify the key socio-economic issues of the area. Packed lunch was served to students in the afternoon. Most young participants were in a village for the first time, so there was plenty to observe and imbibe. Villagers were by and large friendly and forthcoming, however at places there was reticence amongst the womenfolk in conversing with strangers. Caste conflicts, improper waste disposal and non-functional government institutional services were commonly encountered. Towards the end of this visit, the Groups had sufficient information to profile their village, and lots to explore the following day.

Time to nap and then play!

Upon returning to Parivartan campus, the exhausted group of our students literally crashed in their dormitories, however on waking up they were more than ready to head to the playground for recreational sports activities.

Sharing and retrospection

In the evening, all the ten Groups shared their perceptions and experiences of the day during the Retrospection session. The day ended with the students sitting in *Sabhaghar* and talking about what they saw and felt in the field on the first visit. They discussed the culture change they observed between the villages and the cities. They were able to visualize the difference between the two societies, and were hopeful of having a more productive day the next time.

Parivartan's invitation to parents for visiting its campus for a day to experience the RIP stays open till October 13, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS OCTOBER 9 | DAY 2

Exploring the Villages, the First Day

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Recreational Activities

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Sharing and retrospection on the experiences garnered by the ten Village Working Groups

