

Educational excursions are very important for the overall development of students. It gives them an opportunity to learn from their own experiences and from experience of others. When students and teachers are together outside the classroom new educational environments and experiences are possible. Students may have the opportunity to observe many things that are not available at college including exotic wild life and rare plants. Simply reading text books of University prescribed curriculum produces only book worms. For having enlightened citizen for a better word order we should encourage educational tours in our college and thus develop the personalities of the youngsters.

Practical experiences are invaluable and the fact that Sevadal Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Nagpur, has always been a outstanding educational leader in higher education is largely due to its long standing commitment to provide real hands on learning opportunities for its students; real world knowledge about life, personal exposure to people and other places , cultures, ecosystems through travel and learn to live and work with others supporting each other during group learning activities.

This year Sevadal Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Nagpur has organized a study tour to **Kolkata, Gangtok, and Darjeeling** from January 19th to 28th 2019. The undergraduate, postgraduate students (54) and teachers (4) of science faculty moved for the study tour. The accompanied faculties were Dr. Sashikant Rokde, Convener of Educational Excursion portfolio, Dr. Mrs. Sulbha Kulkarni HoD Botany, Dr. Mrs. Anjali Mahakalkar, HoD Chemistry and DR. Rajesh Gadewar.

Day 1

Our tour to **Kolkata, Gangtok, and Darjeeling** was from 19th to 28th January 2019. On the first day i.e. 19th January we started from Nagpur railway station in the morning at 11 a.m. by Howrah mail. Our first destination was Kolkata.



Day 2

We reached Kolkata in the morning. After breakfast we visited following places:

Indian Museum

Indian Museum is the earliest and the largest multipurpose Museum not only in the Indian subcontinent but also in the Asia-Pacific region of the world. It was founded in 1814 at the cradle of the Asiatic Society of Bengal (at the present building of the Asiatic Society, 1 Park Street, and Kolkata). The Museum Directorate has three main cultural sections namely, Art, Archaeology, and Anthropology together with eight



Co-coordinating service units such as Preservation, Publication, Photography, Presentation, Modeling, Education, Library, and Security. The administrative control of the cultural sections, viz. Art, Archaeology, and Anthropology along with the other co-ordinating units/sections rests with the Board of Trustees under the Directorate Office of Indian Museum. This Institution is under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.



Victoria Memorial

The **Victoria Memorial** is a large marble building in Kolkata, West Bengal, India, which was built between 1906 and 1921. It is dedicated to the memory of Queen Victoria (1809–1901) and is now a museum and tourist destination under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture. The memorial lies on the *Maidan* (grounds) by the bank of the Hooghly River, near Jawaharlal Nehru Road (better known as Chowringhee Road). Every year thousands of people come to visit this museum. Like the Taj Mahal, the Victoria Memorial is built of



white Makrana marble and is a memorial to an empress. In design, it echoes the Taj Mahal with its dome, and four subsidiaries, with octagonal-domed chattris.

Science City

The Science City, one of its kinds in India, inaugurated on 1st July, 1997 has been developed as a major attraction for the residents' of Kolkata as well as for the national and international visitors to the metropolis. Developed by the National Council of Science Museums, it is one of the largest and finest in the world, presenting science and technology in a stimulating and engaging environment that is truly educational and enjoyable for the people of all ages. It has, over the years, become a place for memorable experience and enjoyment for both the young and the old. Number of experiments based on simple basic principles or laws of science mainly physics and chemistry were at display. Adjacent to the experimental setups, the principles involved in working of the particular experiments were displayed so that, even a student who is not conversant with it can handle and understand the working of it. Various experiments involve simple pendulum, multiple



pendulums, Newton's law of motion, electromagnetic spectrum, multiple images, Bose experiment, multiple mirror images, evolution of earth, Astrology and many more were skillfully and scientifically displayed. It was really knowledgeable, informative and innovative. Students were delighted as they actually performed the experiments themselves. On 20 th night we headed towards New Jalpaigudi by train. We reached in the morning to New JP and from there to Gangtok by road. On the way to Gangtok we saw some beautiful valleys, a green river called Tista River and many more natural things.

DAY 3

We reached Gangtok in the evening. After taking a bit of rest we went to the Mahatma Gandhi Market which was very beautiful. We found some good stuff likes sweaters, shawls, and few eatables. After shopping we returned to our hotel rooms.

Gangtok is the capital of Sikkim and has more than a few wonderful places to visit. We visited the most wonderful following places



M.G. Market

Day 4

On day 22nd Jan i.e. fourth day of our tour, we visited local places at Gangtok.

Ganesh Tonk

It has an old temple of lord Ganesh where devotees offer prayer. It has a view point at top of the temple at great height from where the view of Gangtok looks very beautiful



Plant conservatory

It is a nice place to see the different types of plants at one place. Annual, trees, climbers, xerophytic and few hydrophytic plants were observed by students. Most of the plants are the members of Compositae; Lily, Roses, *Clematis florida*, *PlerogonF1*, *Ampasis grandiflora*, *Chamaerops humilis*, *Madame galen* (Trumpet creeper), *Lapageria rosea* (Hugletts blush), *Boronia hetrophylla*, *Cycas*, *Furcaria*, *Crotons* etc. plants were planted in the garden. Coloured angiospermic plants add beauty in the



nature and helps in pollination. Students enjoyed in the garden and studied the taxonomic characters of plants.

Tashi View Point

It is located in Tashi and about 8 Km from the Gangtok town. It offers a sweeping view of Kanchanjunga snow peaks on a clear day in fact the view of sunrise from here is unforgatable. For that you must reach the point before 5am.



Namgyal Institute of Tibetology

It is a Tibet museum in Gangtok, Sikkim. It was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on 01.10.1958. The Institute employs researchers and one of its new research programme is a project which seeks to documents the social history of Sikkims monestry. There we observed the history of Buddhist culture i. e. old and rare photographs of Sikkim, coins, ornaments, utensils and weapons used at that time.



Deorali Monastery

This is a Buddhist Monastery in the Indian state of Sikkim. This is also known as Do Drul Chorten. This Stupa was built by Venerable Trulshi Rimpoche, head of the Nyingma order of Tibetan Buddhism in 1945. Inside the stupa there are complete mandala sets of Dorjee Phurba (bajra Kilaya) a set of Holy books. There are prayer wheels all around the monastery and it is good fun as you walk around moving these wheels around and saying your prayers by default. All in all a beautiful monastery, we will feel at peace walking around here.



Day 5

Tsomgo Lake

Tsomgo Lake, also known as Tsongmo Lake or Changu Lake, is a glacial lake in the East Sikkim district of the Indian state of Sikkim, some 40 kilometers from the capital Gangtok. Located at an elevation of 3,753 m (12,313 ft), the lake remains frozen during the winter season. The lake surface reflects different colors with change of seasons and is held in great reverence by the local Sikkimese people. The lake is formed in an oval shape and has a surface area of 24.47 hectares (60.5 acres). The maximum length of the lake is 836 meters (2,743 ft) and has a maximum width of 427 meters (1,401 ft). The maximum depth reported is 15 meters (49 ft) while the average depth is 4.58 meters (15.0 ft). The lake water quality is of moderate turbidity.

The lake is the venue for the Guru Purnima festival which is also the Raksha Bandhan festival when the faith healers known as *Jhakris*

of Sikkim assemble at the lake area to derive benefits from the healing qualities of the lake waters.

Alpine forests cover the catchment of the lake. After the winter season ends in middle of May, the periphery of lake has scenic blooms of flower species of Rhododendrons (the state tree of Sikkim), Primulas, blue and yellow poppies, Irises and so forth. Also seen in the precincts of the lake are several species of birds including Brahmin ducks.

Tourist attractions at the lake site include joy rides on decorated yaks and mules where kiosks offer variety of food and drinks. There is also a small Shiva temple on the bank of the lake. There is a ropeway on the bank of river. We had great fun at Changu lake and enjoyed the snow fall which was amazing.



Day 6

In Darjeeling

On 24 th January we started from Gangtok and reached Darjeeling in evening. On the way we had seen a Lovers view point and a beautiful Lammhatta garden. This garden contains many types of flora. It has a wide variety of cactus, indoor plants, and bonsai Lamahatta has been developed as an ecotourism place in late 2012. This place was created by the villagers and forest protection team. Lama in Lamhatta stands for Buddhist monk and Hatta for hut- a monk hermitage. It is located at high an altitude of about 5,700 feet and at a

distance of 23 kms. From Darjeeling hill town. It is connected by Darjeeling Kalimpong state high way. The main inhabitants here are tribes like Sherpas, Yalmos, Tamangs, Bhutias and Dupkas. The garden is full of seasonal flowering plants including white and other colourful

orchids. Along the way we find wooden and bamboo made gazebos where we can relax in the charm of the garden. There are wooden benches on the pathway. We see a row of colourful prayer flag fluttering in one side of garden. It is said that that when breeze passes through prayer flags it purify the surrounding and mind of the people. On a clear day we see the snow peaks of kanchenganga, Tiger hill, Namchi of Sikkim and Rangeet river flowing below.



Day 7

Tiger hill

Early in the morning at 4 o' clock we started for Tiger Hill to enjoy the beauty of sun rise.

Tiger Hill (2,590 m) is located in **Darjeeling** in the Indian State of **West Bengal**, and is the summit of Ghoom, the highest railway station in the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway—a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It has a panoramic view of **Mount Everest** and **Mount Kanchenjunga** together.

It is 11 km from the town of **Darjeeling** and can be reached either by **jeep** or by foot through Chowrasta, Alubari or Jorebangla and then climbing up the incline to the summit.

Panorama of the **Kanchenganga** massif from Darjeeling's Tiger Hill.

At sunrise, the peaks of **Kanchenjunga** are illuminated before the sun is seen at lower elevations.

From Tiger Hill, **Mount Everest** (8848m) is just visible. **Makalu** (8481m) looks higher than Mt. Everest, owing to the curvature of the Earth, as it is several miles closer than Everest. The distance in a straight line from Tiger Hill to Everest is 107 miles (172 km).

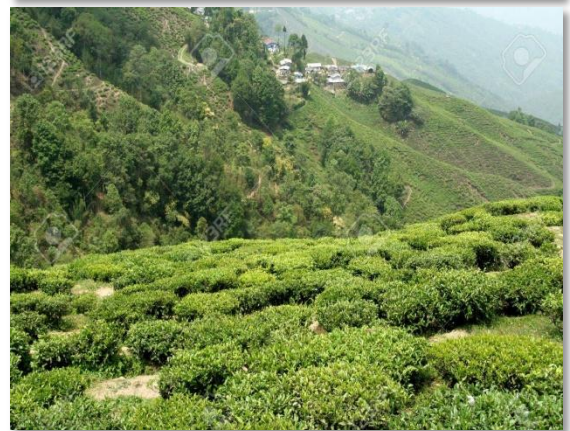
On a clear day, **Kurseong** is visible to the south and in the distance, along with **Teesta River**, Mahanada, **Balason River** and **Mechi River** meandering down to the south. ChumalRhi mountain of Tibet, 84 miles (135 km) away, is visible over the **Chola Range**. **Senchal Wildlife Sanctuary** is close to Tiger Hill.



On the way to hotel we visited Ghoom monastery. Monastery of Ghoom is one of the oldest Tibetan Buddhist Monastery in Darjeeling area which was built in the year 1850 . The external structure was built by the monk and a famous Lama sherab Gyatso. Located below Monastery is Ghoom railway station.



After having breakfast we started visiting local places of Darjeeling. We went to tea garden and saw large number tea plants beautifully planted on mountain slopes.



Padmaja Naidu Himalayan zoological park

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (also called the **Darjeeling Zoo**) is a 67.56-acre (27.3 ha) zoo in the town of [Darjeeling](#) in the [Indian](#) state of [West Bengal](#). The zoo was opened in 1958, and an average elevation of 7,000 feet (2,134 m), is the largest high altitude zoo in India. It specializes in breeding animals adapted to alpine conditions, and has successful [captive breeding](#) programs for the [snow leopard](#), the critically endangered [Himalayan wolf](#) and the [red panda](#). The zoo attracts about



300,000 visitors every year. The park is named after [Padmaja Naidu](#) (1900–1975), daughter of [Sarojini Naidu](#). The zoo serves as the central hub for [Central Zoo Authority of India](#)'s red panda program and is a member of the Aquariums. There was a unit of Himalayan mountaineering which shows the various mountaineering activities of trackers. The photographs from first to latest trackers were exhibited. The oxygen cylinder and all accessories of mountaineering were displayed.

Tenzing Rock

Tenzing Rock is one of a pair of large natural rocks used by people to practice rock-climbing, including beginners.



Day 8

On day 8, we headed to New Jalpai Guri from Darjelling by road for our return journey. Then we took a train from NJP to Kolkata at night.

Day 9

We reached Kolkata in the morning. We had Azad Hind Express from Kolkata to Nagpur at night 9:45 pm

Day 10

We reached Nagpur railway station on 28th January 2019 in the evening.



As far as the benefits of the tour are concerned, during such tours students are not only able to consolidate existing knowledge but also able to expand their horizons. They can gain a deeper understanding of real life situations and trends than a book can ever convey. Along with professional skill development students can get chance to try out the

languages they have studied with native speakers. They can build independence and confidence as they explore new places and local customs. Perhaps most important of all, students gain new insights into their own culture, and a more global perspective.

Acknowledgement

We are very much thankful to Prof. Pravin Charde, Honourable Principal, Sevadal Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Nagpur, for granting permission to organize this educational tour with whole hearted cooperation.

Report submitted by

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Study Tour Itinerary

Date	Time	Schedule	Place visited
19.01.2019	11.05 am	Journey by train: Bombay Howrah mail: 12809	
20.01.2019	8.30 am	Kolkata arrival. Fresh-n-up Breakfast, Lunch n dinner Departure for New JP. By Darjeeling mail 12343 at 11.00pm	Indian museum, Victoria memorial and Science City.
21.01.2019	7.30 am	New JP. arrival, Fresh-n-up departed towards Gangtok by vehicles , reached at 5.00pm	MG market in evening.
22.01.20`19	9.00 am	Gangtok sightseeing	Ganesh tonk, Plant Conservatory, Tshi view point, Namgyal Institute of Tibetology and Deorali Monastery
23.01.2019	8.30 am	Gangtok sightseeing	Tsomgo lake
24.01.2019	8.00 am	Departed for Darjeeling	Lovers view point and Lammhatta garden
25.01.2019	5.00 am	Darjeeling sightseeing	Tiger hill, Ghoom Monastery, Tea garden Tenzing rock, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan and Zoological park,
26.01.2019	7.30 am	Departed for New JP by vehicles. Departed to Kolkata at 9.30 pm. By New JP. - Kolkata Express.	Reached 11.30 am New JP station.
27.01.2019	9.30 am	Reached Kolkata at 9.30 am Departed for Nagpur by Azad Hind Express 12130 at 9.45pm.	
28.01.2019	8.30 pm	Arrived at Nagpur railway station.	

