



Study Tour Report

Organised by: **Department of Sociology,**
Padmabhushan Vasantodada Patil Mahavidyalaya, Kavathe Mahankal

Dates: 22nd February - 23rd February 2025

Location: Mumbai

Objectives of Study:

1. To provide students with firsthand exposure to various sociological aspects, including urban life, marginalized communities, and cultural heritage.
2. To enhance students' practical understanding of social issues through direct interaction with different communities and organizations.

Introduction

The Department of Sociology, Padmabhushan Vasantodada Patil Mahavidyalaya, Kavathe Mahankal, organized a two-day study tour to Mumbai on the 22nd and 23rd of February. The tour aimed to provide students with firsthand experience of various sociological aspects, including urban life, marginalized communities, cultural heritage, and historical sites. The visit covered key locations such as Koliwada Worli Fishermen community, Dharavi Slum, Kamathipura, Nehru Center Museum, Mani Bhavan, Jehangir Art Gallery, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Museum, Kanheri Caves, Mahim Dargah, and Mount Mary Church in Bandra.

Day 1: 22nd February

1. Visit to Koliwada Worli Fishermen Community

The tour began with an insightful visit to the Koliwada Worli Fishermen community. Students observed the traditional fishing practices and the socio-economic challenges faced by the Koli people. Interaction with fishermen provided valuable insights into their daily lives, struggles, and efforts to preserve their cultural identity in the rapidly urbanizing Mumbai.



2. Exploration of Dharavi Slum

Dharavi, one of Asia's largest slums, was the next stop. Students explored the dense network of small-scale industries especially *Kumbharwada*, including pottery, leather, and recycling businesses. Discussions with local residents and community leaders highlighted the resilience and entrepreneurial spirit of Dharavi's inhabitants despite socio-economic hardships.



3. Study of Kamathipura (Red-Light Area)

The group then visited Kamathipura, Mumbai's oldest red-light district. Students engaged in discussions with social workers and NGOs working for the welfare of sex workers. The visit emphasized the importance of rehabilitation programs, healthcare access, and legal reforms to improve the lives of women in this sector.



4. Nehru Center Museum

The day concluded with a visit to the Nehru Center Museum, which provided an enriching experience on India's history, culture, and scientific advancements. Students learned about India's journey to independence and post-independence development through interactive exhibits and historical artifacts.



Day 2: 23rd February

5. Mani Bhavan (Gandhi Museum)

The second day started with a visit to Mani Bhavan, a historic place closely associated with Mahatma Gandhi. The museum showcased letters, photographs, and other memorabilia reflecting Gandhi's contribution to India's freedom struggle. The visit deepened students' understanding of non-violent resistance and its significance in social movements.



6. Jehangir Art Gallery

Students then explored Jehangir Art Gallery, a hub of contemporary and traditional Indian art. The visit provided exposure to various art forms and their role in social and political expression. Interaction with artists and curators enhanced students' perspectives on art as a medium of social change.



7. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Museum:

This museum visit introduced students to a vast collection of ancient sculptures, numismatics, and miniature paintings. The exhibits on India's rich cultural heritage and history were particularly enlightening for students interested in historical sociology.



8. Kanheri Caves

Next, the group visited the Kanheri Caves, an ancient Buddhist site located in the Sanjay Gandhi National Park. Students examined rock-cut structures, inscriptions, and Buddhist stupas, gaining knowledge about early Buddhist influence on Indian society and architecture.



9. Mahim Dargah

The visit to Mahim Dargah offered students an opportunity to explore Sufi traditions and the role of dargahs in communal harmony. The historical and spiritual significance of the shrine was discussed, along with its influence on the cultural landscape of Mumbai.



10. Mount Mary Church, Bandra

The final destination was the Mount Mary Church in Bandra, a prominent Christian pilgrimage site. The visit allowed students to observe Christian religious practices and understand the church's role in fostering community welfare and interfaith dialogue in Mumbai.



Outcomes:

1. Students analyzed urbanization patterns, migration influences, and the socio-economic disparities in Mumbai.
2. The tour provided insights into informal economies, housing issues, and resilience strategies of urban poor communities.
3. Observing spatial segregation and social stratification helped in understanding urban planning and policy challenges.
4. Exposure to cultural institutions and historical sites highlighted the coexistence of tradition and modernity in urban spaces.

Conclusion:

The two-day study tour to Mumbai was a transformative experience, providing practical exposure to sociological concepts. Students gained insights into urban sociology, marginalized communities, cultural heritage, and social movements. The interactions with various communities and experts enriched their understanding of contemporary social issues. Such field-based learning experiences are invaluable in developing sociological perspectives and critical thinking skills.

Shikshan Prasarak Sanstha's
Padmabhushan Vasanttraodada Patil Mahavidyalaya, Kavathe Mahankal

Department of Sociology

Activity Report



Title	“Study Tour : Mumbai”
Day & Date	22nd Feb and 23rd Feb 2025
No of Students	4
Co-ordinator	Surendranath Babar
Background	The Department organized a two-day study tour to Mumbai on the 22nd and 23rd of February. The tour aimed to provide students with firsthand experience of various sociological aspects, including urban life, marginalized communities, cultural heritage, and historical sites. The visit covered key locations such as Koliwada, Worli Fishermen community, Dharavi Slum, Kamathipura, Nehru Center Museum, Mani Bhavan, Jehangir Art Gallery, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Museum, Kanheri Caves, Mahim Dargah, and Mount Mary Church in Bandra.
Objective	To provide students with firsthand exposure to various sociological aspects, including urban life, marginalized communities, and cultural heritage. -To enhance students' practical understanding of social issues through direct interaction with different communities and organizations.
Conclusion/ Outcomes	The two-day study tour to Mumbai was a transformative experience, providing practical exposure to sociological concepts. Students gained insights into urban sociology, marginalized communities, cultural heritage, and social movements. The interactions with various communities and experts enriched their understanding of contemporary social issues. Such field-based learning experiences are invaluable in developing sociological perspectives and critical thinking skills.

Department of Sociology

-PRINCIPAL-

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