



Introduction

Rural Immersion Programme (RIP), the six-days, five-nights long residency at Parivartan, Siwan meant for the students of class XI from Delhi Public School Patna began on October 23, 2016. Under the RIP, student participants along with their teacher mentors get the tri-pronged opportunity to explore rural realities in the most authentic state, to dabble into the folk and classical art forms, and to interact with eminent personalities and

visionaries. Parivartan is an organisation under Takshila Educational Society that works to facilitate multidirectional progress of village communities. Set up at a campus in Narendrapur village in Jiradei block of Siwan district in Bihar, and operational since 2011, Parivartan reaches its initiatives to over 47 villages in the fields of vocational training, women empowerment, agricultural advancement, community sports, theatre-based cultural development and handloom revival.

Welcome at Parivartan

142 students and 9 teachers embarked on a road trip from Patna to village Narendrapur on October 23. On reaching the gates of Parivartan campus, they got a warm reception. They were felicitated by applying *tilak*, the highest symbol of honour in Indian tradition. Teachers were presented with greeting cards handmade by the *Bal Pathiks*, a

faction of children that represent Parivartan in the community. The participants were ushered to Sabhaghar for registration, a process in which students were divided into their project groups, given RIP bags and programme hand-outs, and introduced to their respective village volunteer who would accompany them on all field visits.

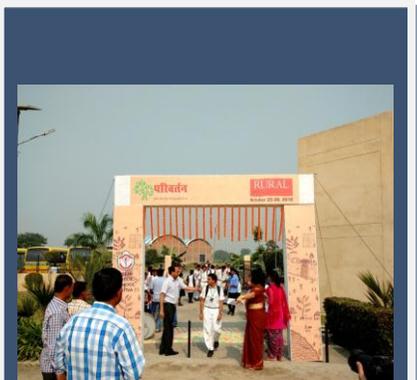
Induction Ceremony

The Induction ceremony of RIP 2016 commenced with chanting of *Gayatri Mantra* by DPS Patna choir, followed by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Shri Vinod Tiwari, Pramukh, Jiradei Block and Shri Sudhanshu Kumar, a renowned agricultural specialist. Shri B. Vinod, Principal, DPS Patna addressed the gathering, in which he not only emphasised on the objective of RIP but also advised students to make use of this opportunity to the fullest. Thereafter, a brief introduction of Parivartan was

given by Parivartan theatre vertical facilitator Shri Ashutosh Mishra in which the work being accomplished under all seven verticals of Parivartan was elucidated upon. A wonderful performance by the *Natya Mandali*—Parivartan theatre team—conveyed the feelings of the people involved. Shri Sudhanshu Kumar's brief talk enumerating his choice of bringing about agricultural revolution in his native village over a well-paying city job influenced the audience tremendously.

Highlights October 23 | Day 1

- Induction Ceremony
- Parivartan Tour
- Indian Classical Dance Concert: *Odissi* by *Sharmila Biswas*
- Sports for Development Manoeuvre - *Pair Se Cricket!*
- Initiating the project



Students welcomed at Parivartan



Induction Ceremony RIP 2016

Parivartan Tour



The students were divided into the eight Project Groups and two *Baal Pathiks* accompanied each Group on a tour of Parivartan. The *Baal Pathiks* helped the students to navigate in the campus in an organised manner and answered their queries. The students were given the chance to explore each vertical sequentially where there was even a live demonstration of work like the working models prepared by community kids in science lab, play by the theatre group. The idea of the tour was to make the students familiar with the ongoing work in Parivartan— Education, Women & Adolescent Girl Empowerment, Agriculture, Community Theatre, Sports for Development, Khadi and stitching.

पैर से Cricket!



No development for young people is complete without recreation and play. Parivartan's Community Sports vertical which is run in collaboration with Magic Bus India Foundation has designed special activities and games for students and teachers this year under the segment titled *Sports-for-Development Manoeuvre*. This involves one-hour of immense fun every evening during the RIP. The opening day was assigned to *Pair Se Cricket* which as the name suggests is a type of cricket played using feet. *Youth Mentors* from Magic Bus facilitated the sessions during which the students literally put their best foot forward. In addition, the young boys and girls found ample time for rounds of football, volleyball and badminton.

Project Initiation



The central theme of the Rural Immersion Programme is the exploration of rural reality by students. Towards this, the Project Groups are assigned a particular village which they visit and learn to understand and empathise with. Follow up discussion amongst students, teacher mentors and village volunteers of the eight groups forms the crux of this exercise. This platform was utilised by the Project Groups to interact with the village volunteers and understand their milieu. Students put forth various questions about their assigned villages and its social dimensions. The students along with the mentors and volunteers chalked out a plan for the following day's village visit before it was time for dinner.

Dance Concert: Odissi by Sharmila Biswas

It is customary to engage students as audience in cultural performances organised in collaboration with SPIC MACAY in the evenings during the RIP. The first performance in this series was *Odissi* dance concert.

Graceful performance by Sharmila Biswas, a well-known Indian Classical danseuse, and her talented disciple Rohini Banerjee set the mood of the evening. Her disciple showed a dance form called *Sthithi* (Sanskrit for stability) which had fancy footwork and complex yogic postures. Her non-stop 30 minutes performance was breathtaking.

Sharmila Biswas' dance form was based on a story called 'Yashoda's Ramayan' in which she conveyed the message of the story through facial expressions and magnificent eye movements. Her performance was appealing to the audience. In the concluding speech, the veteran dancer reiterated the value of our culture and encouraged the young audience to put in efforts towards keeping our heritage alive.

