



Parivartan campus from a different perspective, showing (from left) Sabhaghar, Administrative Block, Library, Dormitory blocks and part of Muktakash Manch

HIGHLIGHTS OCTOBER 10 | DAY 3

Delving deeper into rural realities

•
Face to Face with a development guru

•
Experiencing village at night!

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Concretising the project

Parents are welcome to visit Parivartan for a day to experience the RIP till October 13, 2017

Face to Face Session

Through the *Face to Face sessions*, students get the opportunity to interact with a guest speaker who has worked at length in the field of rural development. The first of this session for RIP 2017 was conducted in the evening on the topic *Role of Knowledge in Rural Development* by Dr Shaibal Gupta, Founder Member Secretary of ADRI and the best-known expert on the politics and economics of Bihar. Dr Gupta chose to begin with expounding on the prime four aspects brought forth by the Deloitte report, viz. *Learn to know - Learn to do - Learn to be - Learn to live together*. RIP as a model, he stressed, is doing exactly the same by using education as a tool for mutual development of the students as well as the rural areas. He further highlighted the growing importance of social capital and knowledge capital over physical capital. Towards the end of the talk, he took questions from students and shed light on crucial aspects of development in rural regions.

Retrospection

The end of the day sharing session was facilitated by Dr Rajeshwar Mishra, an eminent professor of Social Psychology and Founder, CDHI, a development initiative in North Bengal. This segment had the Groups sharing their takeaway from the day's field visit and the night walk. Students were encouraged to discuss about the most moving experience they had hitherto had during the RIP, which brought forth insightful observations and raised critical questions from the ten Groups.



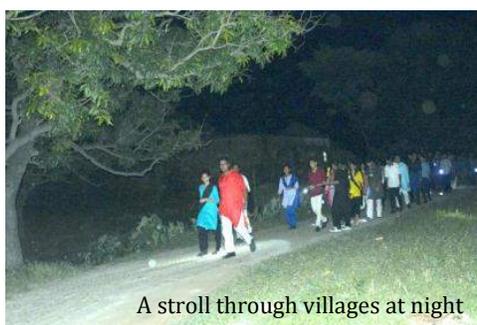
Interacting with villagers



Compiling the impressions garnered



Face to Face Session



A stroll through villages at night



Retrospection with Dr Rajeshwar Mishra



The second field visit

After the morning routine of Yoga, getting ready, having breakfast and taking pre-field visit briefing on Day 3, the Village Working Groups proceeded to their respective working areas for the 2nd field visit of the Rural Immersion.

During this 6-hour engagement, students visited village institutions including Gram Panchayat, SHGs, rural banks, schools, ICDS centres, PDS, IAY households, NREGA worksites, PHC centres, etc., for a thematic study. They also tried to ascertain the status of the Jan Dhan-Aadhar-Mobile Yojana. The objective was to construct a 'village map' to represent the demography and resources available, and to interact intensively with all factions of the community so as to recognise key concerns of the locale and identify the main issue which the Groups would take up to solve/mitigate by planning a Constructive Collective Action—to be executed by the students in the villages the following day.

Upon returning from the field, the Groups assembled for the compilation and analysis of data collected. By now, the Groups had decided upon the key issue they were focussing upon. So, the planning for collective action began, as did the preparation for the final day's presentation.

Rural Night Trail

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 four factions and each faction was allocated a Parivartan volunteer who guided them on a walk to a neighbouring village. Narendrapur, Narayanpur, Miyan Bhatkan, and Sikiya villages were covered for the trail.

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 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. Upon return, they headed for Retrospection session.