

Department of Geography - Extension Activities 2023-24

Event: Tree Plantation Drive in Collaboration with Municipal Cooperation Shimla Under the theme"Ek Buta Desh ke Naam"

Date: August 31, 2023

Objective: To enhance green cover, promote environmental consciousness, and foster community engagement in sustainable practices.

On August 31, 2023, atree plantation drive took place in Municipal Ward 21 Dhalli Mashobra. The initiative was jointly organized by the Geography Department of St. Bede's College Shimla and the Municipal Corporation Shimla. The event witnessed the active participation of esteemed dignitaries, including the mayor - Surinder Chauhan, deputy mayor - Uma kaushal, commissioner - Bhupendra Atri, BDO Mashobra Dr Ankit Mankotiyaa, BDC chairman block Mashobra Chandrakanta Verma, Counselor ward Dhalli Mashobra Vishakha Modi, Forest team Mashobra, along with enthusiastic college and school students.

Outcome: This event not only added 150 trees to the urban landscape but also raised awareness about the importance of trees and environmental stewardship among the citizens. It served as an example of how partnerships between educational institutions and local authorities can lead to a positive change. The staff of St. Bede's extended their gratitude to all the participants, sponsors, and volunteers who made this initiative possible making the city greener and more sustainable.













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Event: Field Survey (2023-24)

Date: October 18⁻23, 2023

Objective: The primary objectives of this field survey & extension activities are:

- To expose our geography students to a range of subthemes and research opportunities in a real-world setting.
- To foster a holistic understanding of geographic diversity, environmental issues, and cultural aspects in Ajmer.
- To develop research, data collection, and analytical skills among our students. To promote interdisciplinary learning by exploring various aspects of geography, such as physical geography, human geography, and environmental studies

On October 19 and October 20, a student exchange program between the Department of Geography St. Bede's College, Shimla and Sophia Girls' College, Ajmer was organized. Students from Department of Geography of St. Bede's College, Shimla went to Ajmer for the student exchange program.



Day 1 – October19, 2023 Student Exchange Program

The program started at 12.00 P.M at Sophia Girl's College. Principal Prof. Sr. Pearl delivered the welcome speech. Thereafter Dr. Monika Kannan gave an introduction about the exchange program, she also spoke about the Department of Geography, Sophia Girls' College, Ajmer. T Dr. Kannan also gave an introductory speech. Dr. Sr. P. Mary Santhi presented a short documentary of St. Bede's College to the gathering. Following this a virtual tour to Sophia Girls' College was given to the students.





Dr. Sr. P.Mary Santhi while presenting documentary

The faculty of St. Bede's College was felicitated by the faculty of Sophia Girls' College. Also, the faculty of St. Bede's gave a token of appreciation to the Principal as well as the faculty of the Department of Geography, Sophia Girls' College.



Faculty of Sophia Girl's College felicitating

Faculty of St. Bede's

Faculty of St. Bede's giving token of appreciation to the Principal of Sophia Girl's College



Faculty of St. Bede's College and Sophia Girl's College



Mrs. Shilpi Yadev and Mr. Kumar Gaurav gave talk to the students of St. Bede's College on "How to Prepare DEM- G.I.S Practical". It was a very knowledgeable session for the students and also a great opportunity for practical learning.



Mr. Kumar Gaurav while delivering lecture.

Mr. Anoop Dilta Assistant Professor St. Bede's College gave lecture on "Periglacial Landforms" to the students of Sophia Girl's College.



Mr. Anoop Dilta while delivering lecture on "Periglacial Landforms".

The students of the two institutions interacted with each other they shared their experiences and it was a fun filled activity for them.





Students from St. Bede's College and Sophia Girl's College with interacting with each others.

Students of St. Bede's also got an opportunity to explore the Department of Geography of Sophia Girls' College. It was a well maintained, beautifully decorated department. It was a memorable experience for the students.



Department of Geography- Sophia Girl's College

In the evening, the students of St. Bede's performed their folk dance and folk music on the occasion of "Dandiya Night" organized by Sophia Girls' College. Students thoroughly enjoyed the evening.





Students while performing folk dance of Himachal Pradesh Muskan Negi from Dept. of Geography, St. Bede's while presenting folk music of Himachal Pradesh

Day 2 – October 20, 2023 Visit to Tilonia Barefoot village

The students of St. Bede's College and Sophia Girl's College went to Tilonia Village in Ajmer along with their respective teachers. It is home of the NGO, Barefoot College, founded by renowned social worker Bunker Roy. Tilonia is also home of eShala.org, online educational portal co-founded by Kartar Jat. This village has become a model for all remote villages for education, economic and social development. Tilonia is also known as education hub with its meritorious students in Navodaya Vidyalaya and village school. Main occupation is farming but nowadays people are working in Indian Army, NTPC, BSNL, Indian Railway, Police and various other State and Central Government jobs from Group-D to Sr. Manager Levels. Students got an opportunity to interact with the locals as well as the workers working in the Barefoot College. It was a great experience for the students.



Students of St. Bede's College and Sophia Girls' College while exploring Barefoot College at Tilonia

After the visit to Tilonia village students went for field survey in different groups to different places. Students in field survey used questionnaire as well as observation method. There were five group in all. One group out of five went to village Patil in Ajmer to fill the questionnaires





on the topic "Livelihood Diversification in Rural Area". Rest four groups filled their questionnaire in the market area of Ajmer city. While doing the survey students used various instruments such as GPS device, hygrometer, anemometer, compass, etc.



Students while taking survey from the locals

Day 3: Field Visit to Pushkar city, Brahma Temple and Ajmer Sharif Dargah

On 21 October, the students went to Pushkar in order to fill their questionnaires. The students also went to Brahma temple situated in Pushkar. The teachers there told the students about the cultural and historical importance of that temple. After the visit to the temple students interviewed the workers working in the temple and the locals nearby for the purpose of their research work. While interacting with the locals' students got to learn about the history of Pushkar. The students learned about the cultural heritage of Pushkar as the place is culturally very rich. After completing the survey in the Pushkar city, in the evening students went to Ajmer Sharif Dargah. It is one of the most visited places of Ajmer; the Ajmer Dargah is a Sufi shrine which is believed to be one of the holiest places in Rajasthan. During the visit to Dargah, students there got some time to interact with locals and they utilized their time very well by attaining the knowledge of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti. Students also tried to fill a minimum of 2-3 questionnaires there as well.

Day 4: Field Visit to Jaipur (City Palace, Jantar Mantar, Hawa Mahal)

On October 22, 2023 the students along with the teachers went for a field visit to Jaipur- 'The Pink City' and explored three iconic historical sites: City Palace, Jantar Mantar and Hawa Mahal. These sites are not only architectural marvels but also hold immense historical and cultural significance which offers a glimpse of Rajasthan's rich heritage.

In the morning the students visited the City Palace, built by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II in the 18th century. Students there historically as well as culturally explored Jaipur. After visiting City





Palace students took interviews of the locals working near the City Palace. While interviewing the locals' students analyzed the cultural differences and unique traditions of Jaipur.



Field visit to City Palace

In the afternoon, students visited Jantar Mantra. It was built by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II in the 18th century is the largest astronomical observatory in the world. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site which consists of 19 large instruments designed for astronomical observations. The observatory features various astronomical instruments such as Samrat Yantra & the Jai Prakash Yantra, used for measuring time, predicting eclipses and tracking celestial movements.

Visit to Jantar Mantar very knowledgeable and interesting sessions for the students as it made them aware about astronomical sciences. Students there saw sun movement observatory and learned the scientific phenomena behind it practically. Students also learned the observation of astronomical position and time with the naked eyes. Some more instruments that students saw were Jai Prakasha Yantra, Sundial, Nadi Yalaya yantra, etc.

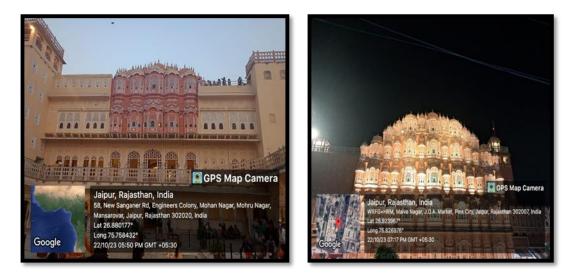


Instrument Jai Prakasha Yantra used for observing the position of the sun, ascendants and other heavenly bodies.

In the evening, students visited Hawa Mahel or the "Place of Winds", which was built in 1799 by Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh. Its unique honeycomb-shaped front with 953 small windows



(Jharokhas) allowed royal ladies to observe street festivals without being seen. Hawa Mahel represents the fusions of Rajput & Islamic Styles. Its design, resembling the crown of Lord Krishna, showcases the creativity of Rajasthani artisans. The students got a deeper understanding of Rajasthan's architectural brilliance, scientific achievements and cultural richness. After exploring the property students again started interviewing the locals for the purpose of their study or research work. Students there completed their questionnaire work and collection of responses from the locals,



Hawa Mahal, Jaipur

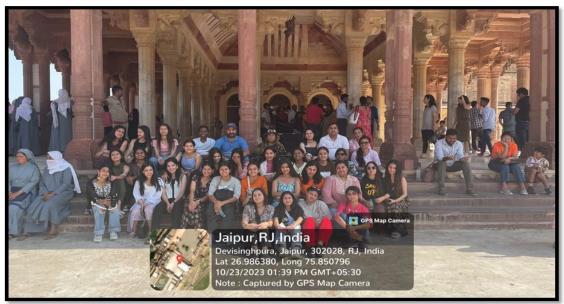
Day 5: Visit to Amer village and Fort

On October 23, students along with their teachers went to Amer Fort in Jaipur. Students went there to explore the village culturally and historically. Amer fort is located high on hills as it is the principal tourist attraction in Jaipur. Amer fort is known for its artistic style elements. This fort is a great example of Rajput architecture. Some if its buildings and work have influence of Mughal architecture, it is constructed with red sandstones and marble. Students there saw Diwan-e-Aam, or "Hall of Public Audience", the Diwan-e-Khas, or "Hall of Private Audience", the Sheesh Mahal (mirror palace), or Jai Mandir, and the Sukh Niwas and learned the beautiful history that lies behind them. Students got to know that the palace was the residence of Rajput maharajas and their families.

Visit to Amer Fort was only scheduled to make the students attain the knowledge about the history of Jaipur, Rajasthan.

Outcome: The outcome of this field survey is to generate new knowledge about the physical and human landscape, contribute to understanding geographic processes and phenomena, and inform decision-making and action in the real world. Students collected primary data through schedule and mapped the spatial problems of the study area. It also enhanced the research skill of the students while doing analysis and writing of project report.





Visit to Amer Fort

Event: Poster making and Awareness Rally

Date: October 13, 2023,

Objective: The objective of organizing an awareness rally and poster making competition on disaster risk reduction day was to promote a culture of safety, resilience and proactive action in the face of disaster.

A poster making competition and awareness rally were organized by Department of Geography in collaboration with Disaster Management Cell on the occasion of International Disaster Risk Reduction Day on October 13, 2023. The theme of the event was "Fighting Inequality for a Resilient Future". Students from different departments participated enthusiastically in the poster making competition, creating impressive and meaningful posters. The students conveyed messages of awareness about disaster risk reduction through their posters. After the poster making competition, the students carried out an awareness rally from the college gate to the Horticulture Department at Navbahar, holding posters to spread awareness about disaster management and risk reduction. More than twenty students participated in the awareness rally.

Outcomes: The awareness rally and poster making competition on Disaster Risk Reduction Day brought several positive outcomes as they contributed to increase the awareness among participants and the wider range of community about the importance of disaster risk reduction day





Awareness rally with posters at the main gate of the college



Best three posters were selected by the Judge of the poster making competition



सेंट बीड्स कॉलेज में आपदा पर करवाई पोस्टर स्पर्धा शिमला। राजधानी के सेंट बीड्स कॉलेज के भूगोल विभाग ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय आपदा जोखिम न्यूनिकरण दिवस के मौके पर प्रदेश के आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण के सहयोग से पोस्टर मेकिंग प्रतियोगिता का आयोजन किया। इसमें कॉलेज की छात्राओं ने भाग लिया। छात्राओं ने अपने चित्रों के माध्यम से आपदा को कम करने के तरीके सुझाए, जिसमें सुरक्षित भवन निर्माण, अवैध खनन को रोकने और पर्यावरण को बचाते हुए विकास की राह पर आगे बढ़ने का संदेश दिया। छात्राओं ने नवबहार में जागरुकता रैली निकाली। ब्यूरो

Media coverage of the event



Awareness rally ended at Directorate of Horticulture, Navbahar, Shimla