

2016-17

A group of students from AIMIT, St Aloysius College (Autonomous) visited Nesargi, around 35 kms away from Belgaum, as part of the Rural Exposure Programme. Students were given an orientation in Christ Nivas, Jessuit House, Nesargi. RevFr Joe Chenakala SJ, RevFr Tom Chenakala SJ, Sr Bridgit and other activists of Jana Jagaran spoke about the initiatives taken by Jan Jagaran in and around Belgaum for the upliftment of rural masses. After the orientation, students were sent to 9 different villages such as Kolyanatti, Deshnur, Mohre, Koladur, Hanabarahatti, Michelmeradi, Madhanbhavi, Vannure and Nesargi which are situated in and around Nesargi. Students had a wonderful time in villages with a rich learning experience. They interacted with the villagers and lived as one among them for 4 days. Students made visits to the schools, interacted with children and conducted cultural programmes for them. Students also visited the Panchayats and tried to understand the developmental initiatives taken by them. The role of Self-Help groups (SHGs) in empowering rural women is well appreciated throughout the globe. Participating in SHG meetings was a very good experience. Students could witness the changes brought by SHGs in the lives of Rural women in these areas. Pastoralists are an important sub-section of the animal husbandry sector in this district, and shepherds predominantly herd sheep and goats. Deccani sheep are the most popular amongst pastoralists. Despite consecutive droughts in the area in recent years, the Deccani sheep population has not declined, indicating the good herd management of shepherds. There is a handicrafts centre in the village 'michelmeradi' which was started because of the efforts of JanJagaran and now it is handed over to the villagers. They export handicrafts even to European countries. Like any other rural village, the villages in and around Nesargi also lack proper sanitation. Here arises the significance of the efforts of JanJagaran to build biogas toilets. The area is also famous for cultivation of various vegetables and crops. However, in some places, water is not available to clean those vegetables. It results in less price for the vegetables. Presence of intermediaries to purchase agricultural produce has an impact on the chance of getting good price.

The right of these rural masses like any other communities in India to have access to clean and hygienic environment to live to a major extent depends on eradication of illiteracy. The Government, the society and even the corporates have the responsibility to support the education of these rural children with arranging the proper infrastructure and facilities in school. The prejudices such as Girls should not be send to schools and colleges should be erased from their minds. Overall the Rural Immersion

Programme was fruitful. It enabled all MBA students of AIMIT to think about the need for Inclusive Growth and Rural Development. Moreover students are convinced of the huge opportunities available for companies in the rural market segment. At the same time, it proves the significance of Corporate social responsibility initiatives(CSR) of Corporates.



2017-18

The AIMIT, St. Aloysius College provided the students with a beautiful experience called Rural immersion programme in remote villages of Mundgod and Hanagal. This event brought in our students curiosity, thrill, excitement and sense of solidarity with the poor, neglected and less cared for. The students of AIMIT felt that they were fortunate to stay with the poor and learn much from them. They also could experience their genuine love, positive attitude towards life, commitment towards their family and compassionate gesture to the strangers.



When corporate teaches us to ignore the poor and unprofitable, these poor people taught us to embrace the unwanted. They taught us what is life all about. They are poor not by option but the corporate has made them to be so in economic terms. They are denied basic facilities by government. The rich and the powerful exploit them. They are rich in many ways. They are rich in hospitality, concern towards others and in sharing whatever they have. They are ready to sacrifice to take care of strangers. They may not have ornaments or jewellery to wear but their smile, helping nature, concern are the permanent jewels that they wear everyday.

Some students would express their experience as “.....those were really a beautiful days in my life, on my last day in the rural camp, I really didn’t want to leave that village and come back to Mangaluru, this was just because of the love that I received from the people, the hospitality that they provided, the

food that they served every time when we visited their homes, the cooperation they gave, made me never look back and spend some more time in village with them”.

The great hospitality shown by the people, their love and affection made us feel that we were one among them. We learnt a lot by interacting with them. We got to know the culture and traditions of the village by attending their Sankranti festival. Though they do not have enough money to fulfil their needs they are happy in their life. This is an important thing they taught us in those four days. Sometimes the smallest things take up the most space in our heart this rural camp is one such experience. I am grateful to AIMIT”.

2018-19

The students of AIMIT along with faculty members, went to Mundgod, Nesargi, Pannur, Hangal for Rural Exposure camp during 2018-19. They stayed in remote villages in families. During their stay students interacted with children, visited local balwadis and government schools and conducted games. It was a very wonderful and unique experience for them. They also conducted surveys and became aware of the situation of the village folk.



2019-20

During 2019-20, 190 students from MBA and 108 students from IT department attended rural camp along with 4 faculties each from MBA and IT department of AIMIT. The places they visited/stayed are Mundugod, Hangal, Raichur, Nesargi, and other nearby places belonging to those villages. Students are mainly focusing on the life lead by villagers and the work they do to earn their livelihood. Students also would visit government Anganwadis and schools and involved the students in cultural activities and games. They also conducted many knowledge sharing sessions to villagers.



Remarks