

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES FIELD TRIP

Bagrakote, 20th February 2016



To undertake the Environmental Studies Field Work which is a part of the new EVS Syllabus, a visit was organised by the college management to Bagrakote on 20th February 2016. Bagrakote is a small settlement that lies to the east of Siliguri, off NH31. A total number of 120 students were taken for the field work. This group consisted of First Year B.A students from the departments of Education (H), English (H), Geography (H), Mass Communication and Journalism (H), Political Science (H), Psychology (H) and B.A. General. This group was placed under the charge of 12 teachers from the respective departments.

The students and the teachers were accommodated in 4 buses. The journey to Bagrakote began from the College premises at about 8:15 am and reached the destination at 9:45 am, i.e. in one-and-half hours. The route taken to Bagrakote was the following – Salesian College, Siliguri – Check Post – Salugara - Coronation Bridge, Bagrakote tea garden and the Bagrakote Settlement. The site of the study was on the banks of River Lish, next to the Army Public School Bagrakote.

The purpose of the visit was to study the forest ecosystem and a riverine ecosystem. After reaching the destination different groups were formed to study the ecology of the River Lish (a tributary of River Teesta) and the forest ecosystem surrounding it. The students climbed the slopes of the mountain that was covered with thick vegetation. The students were enthusiastic about the trek and were eagerly collecting samples of flora and the fauna from the forest. The students also studied the

river ecosystem. They measured the flow of the river which was greatly reduced at this time of the year. The students also documented the river pollution and identified the sources of pollution. For each of the findings, students were eagerly taking photographs which would help them in preparing the reports.

After the study, food was served which was cooked there itself. Following the lunch students enjoyed as arrangements for the music was also there. By 4:00 pm the trip ended and the buses returned to the campus. The event went well and it was a great learning experience for the students.

