

Salesian College Siliguri

Faculty Study Trip cum Trekking Camp

17 - 19 March 2016

Onward Route: Siliguri to Molat Pul Bazar via Sonada, Cedars etc

Return Route: Molat Pul Bazar to Siliguri via Dhajia, Bungkulung and Dudhia

Faculty Study Trip cum Trekking Camp as a part of Faculty Development Programme was organized by the NSS Unit of Salesian College, Siliguri in collaboration with Department of Sports Management from 17 to 19 March 2016 with the objective of finding the level of education, health & sanitation, and environmental awareness among the population of Molat Pul Bazar village in Darjeeling district. With this view a team of ten faculty members – Peter Lepcha and Oindrila Moitra Singh of English Department, Mohan B Subba and Subhajit Paul of Mathematics Department, Amit Ghosh Roy of Computer Science Department, Surendra K Saha and Gunjan Agarwal of Commerce Department, Monisha Hembram of Geography Department, Bhaskar Purkayastha of Education Department led by NSS Programme Officer Sandeep Sundas of Commerce Department, started by road to Salesian College, Sonada at 8:45 am from Darjeeling More, Siliguri. The team stopped at the college to meet Fr Patrick Lepcha and other faculty members. After a quick breakfast at the nearby eatery, we started off on foot at 12:30 pm towards Sonada town from where the trekking trail began. A five hour picturesque and often treacherous track through hamlets and tea gardens finally got us to Don Bosco School, Molat where we were assigned rooms for our two nights' stay. We were offered the kind hospitality of the local family where we had our meals on both days. The dinners were prepared by the trekking team members themselves after buying the ingredients from the local bazaar.

On 18 March we were divided into three teams with at least one member familiar with the local language and ethos of Molat. Each team was assigned a particular area to survey and collect data from. The topics of survey were Health and Sanitation, Environmental Impact and Education. Each team prepared separate questionnaires and a minimum of 30 houses were surveyed. We were visited by Fr Mathew Pulingathil SDB, Rector of Salesian College Siliguri who joined us for lunch and applauded us for our effort and enthusiasm. After lunch we had a session of sharing of our experiences of the trip and the survey. Each member of the team appreciated the cooperation of the other members, the leadership and organizational skills of Mr Sandeep Sundas and the general mood of enthusiasm and camaraderie and helpfulness. The members felt a sense of

oneness with Nature and took the opportunity to introspect and sympathise with the villagers and appreciate their lot.

On the 19th morning the team left Molat in a vehicle and reached Ferrando Convent at Dhajia where we met the MHMHC sisters and enjoyed a cup of refreshing tea. The last leg of our trek began at Dhajia through a trail running along the Balasun river till we reached Dudhia in approximately five hours. We had also stopped for a snack at Bungkulung where we extended a helping hand to the lady cooking our meal. After lunch at Dudhia we boarded a vehicle to Darjeeling More where the trip ended much to everyone's disappointment but not before we celebrated our success with sweets.

Reported by Ms Oindrila Moitra Singh, Department of English & Mr Bhaskar Purkayastha, Department of Education