

Dr. Sharad S. Kulkarni

Principal

Tel. (02451) 222004, 223080 (R.) 222427

Email- [principalnutan@rediffmail.com](mailto:principalnutan@rediffmail.com)

## “Excursion Tour Report: Adarsha Gram Ralegan Siddhi, Ahmednagar”

**Date:** January 27, 2019

**Place:** Ralegan Siddhi, District Ahmednagar

**Students Participants:** 23 B.Sc.,

**Faculty Participants:** 2 Faculty Members

### **Introduction:**

On January 27, 2019, the Department of Botany at [Nutan Mahavidyalaya, Selu] organized an excursion tour to Adarsha Gram Ralegan Siddhi in Ahmednagar for 23 B.Sc. students and 2 faculty members. This educational visit aimed to expose students to a model village renowned for its successful water conservation, ecological restoration, and community-driven development practices. Through first-hand observations and interactions, students gained insights into the village's inspiring transformation and its valuable lessons for sustainable living.

### **Location and Significance:**

Ralegan Siddhi, recognized as an "Adarsha Gram" (Ideal Village), serves as a beacon of hope and resilience in a drought-prone region. Led by social activist Anna Hazare, the village community has undertaken remarkable initiatives to overcome water scarcity, revive barren land, and build a self-sufficient economy. This visit offered students a unique opportunity to witness the power of collective action and learn from a successful model of rural development.

### **Aims and Objectives of the Excursion Tour to Ralegan Siddhi, Ahmednagar**

#### **Aim:**

- To enrich the botanical knowledge and understanding of B.Sc. students from the Department of Botany, Nutan Mahavidyalaya, Selu, by immersing them in the diverse plant life and sustainable practices of Ralegan Siddhi, Dist. Ahmednagar, and bridging the gap between theoretical learning and real-world applications.

  
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## Objectives:

### Knowledge and Understanding:

- **Expand Plant Diversity Awareness:** Enhance students' understanding of the rich variety of plant species found in the Ralegan Siddhi region, including native flora, cultivated crops, and potentially endangered or endemic plants.
- **Solidify Theoretical Concepts:** Allow students to connect classroom learning to real-world scenarios by observing plant morphology, adaptations, and ecological roles within the context of sustainable practices.
- **Gain Insights into Sustainable Agriculture:** Foster appreciation for the innovative water conservation methods, agroforestry techniques, and other sustainable practices implemented in Ralegan Siddhi.

### Skills and Application:

- **Develop Plant Identification Skills:** Equip students with the ability to identify and classify various plant species encountered during the tour.
- **Refine Field Observation Techniques:** Hone skills in data collection, note-taking, and scientific observation in a natural setting, focusing on the impact of sustainable practices.
- **Apply Theoretical Knowledge Practically:** Enable students to bridge the gap between theory and practice by analysing how botanical principles contribute to sustainable agriculture and ecosystem management.

### Personal Development and Values:

- **Spark Scientific Curiosity:** Ignite students' interest in plant science, ecology, and the potential of applying botanical knowledge to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable development.
- **Cultivate an Appreciation for Environmental Responsibility:** Foster a sense of wonder and respect for the interconnectedness of plant life, water resources, and human activities, emphasizing the importance of sustainable practices.
- **Promote Teamwork and Communication:** Encourage collaboration and information sharing among students through group activities and discussions with local stakeholders.
- **Develop an Understanding of Community Engagement:** Instill the value of community involvement and collaborative efforts in achieving environmental and social sustainability.

### Activities and Learning:

The tour incorporated various engaging activities designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of Ralegan Siddhi's remarkable journey:

- **Guided Village Tour:** Local representatives led students through the village, showcasing key projects like watershed development structures, check dams, vermicomposting units, and organic farms.

  
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- **Interactive Discussions:** Students interacted with villagers, community leaders, and volunteers, gaining insights into their experiences, challenges, and contributions to the village's transformation.
- **Documentary Screening and Presentations:** A documentary film showcased the village's history and initiatives, followed by presentations by experts delving deeper into specific projects and their impact.
- **Data Collection and Documentation:** Students documented their observations and learnings through notes, photographs, and data collection for further analysis and report writing.


### Additional Considerations:

- Tailor the specific objectives to align with the current curriculum and learning outcomes of the botany program at Nutan Mahavidyalaya, Selu.
- Offer activities that cater to various learning styles and interests of the students, such as interacting with local farmers, visiting model farms, or participating in data collection exercises.
- Encourage reflection and analysis through post-tour discussions, written reports, or presentations, focusing on the impact of the excursion on their understanding of sustainable practices and their potential future applications.
- By fulfilling these aims and objectives, the excursion tour to Ralegan Siddhi can be a transformative learning experience for the students, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for the vital role of plant life and sustainable practices in maintaining ecological balance and achieving holistic development.

### Outcomes and Impact:

This excursion tour provided students with several valuable takeaways:

- **Real-World Application of Knowledge:** Students connected their theoretical knowledge of environmental science, resource management, and community development to the practical solutions implemented in Ralegan Siddhi.
- **Understanding Sustainability Principles:** The visit provided a deeper understanding of key sustainability principles like water conservation, renewable energy, and community participation.
- **Inspiration and Hope:** Witnessing the village's transformation from drought-stricken to self-sufficient served as a source of inspiration and hope, motivating students to consider their role in promoting sustainable practices.
- **Community Empowerment:** The experience highlighted the importance of community-driven initiatives and empowered action in addressing environmental and social challenges.

  
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**Conclusion:**

The excursion to Ralegan Siddhi, Ahmednagar, proved to be a pivotal and enriching experience for the B.Sc. students of the Department of Botany at Nutan Mahavidyalaya, Selu. Immersing themselves in the diverse plant life and ground breaking sustainable practices revolutionizing the region bridged the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application, solidifying their understanding in a unique and impactful way. Stepping beyond textbooks, students witnessed first-hand the morphology, adaptations, and ecological roles of various plant species thriving under sustainable strategies. This hands-on exposure likely sparked not only scientific curiosity about plant science and ecology but also a deep appreciation for environmental responsibility and the potential of applying botanical knowledge to address real-world challenges. Beyond personal interest, the excursion fostered teamwork and communication through interaction with local stakeholders, group activities, and discussions. This collaborative learning environment undoubtedly strengthened their understanding of the interconnectedness between plant life, water resources, and human activities, emphasizing the importance of sustainable practices and community engagement. Overall, the Ralegan Siddhi experience effectively supplemented classroom learning, leaving a lasting impression on the students. This immersive exposure will likely influence their academic journey and motivate them to further explore the fascinating world of botany and its potential for sustainable development. They now carry a newfound appreciation for the vital role of plant life, responsible human interaction with the environment, and the power of collaborative efforts in creating a more sustainable future.

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**HEAD**  
Department of Botany  
Nutan Mahavidyalaya  
Sailu, Dis. Parbhani

Director IQAC  
**Director**  
**IQAC**  
Nutan Mahavidyalaya, Selu

Principal  
**PRINCIPAL**  
Nutan Mahavidyalaya  
SELU, Dist. Parbhani

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Visit to Adarsha Gram Ralegan siddhi, Ahmednagar.

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