

## Field Visit: C. Kora Institute of Village Industries



Date: 6th January 2024

Incharge: Ms.Priti Sivaramakrishnan

Starting Point: Churchgate

Destination: Borivali East

As part of the EC-2 course under the Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) program, we, the students specializing in Economic Pedagogy, under the guidance of Ms. Priti Sivaramakrishnan, undertook a field visit to the Kora Institute of Village Industries. The visit aimed to provide us with a comprehensive understanding of various Khadi Udyog

initiatives designed to promote self-reliance through self-help group programs. The journey began from Churchgate and concluded at Borivali East, where we were welcomed by Mr. Umakant Dapode, who provided an extensive overview of the institute's operations and objectives.

Mr. Dapode emphasized the institute's mission to empower students, elderly individuals, and women by providing them with essential skills and training. This training is a part of the Gram Udyog Vikas Yojana, which also includes the provision of necessary machinery. The institute offers various programs such as agarbatti and candle making, stitching clothes, jewelry making, and artwork. The field visit also included exploring the impact of these programs in different locations. For example, in Pandharpur, 350 people received pottery machines and agarbatti machines, while in Sindhudurg, food processing training was provided, including jam and jelly making. Senior citizens participated in bakery training sessions.

During the visit, we engaged in hands-on activities, such as making Maharashtrian Nath, gaining practical insights into the intricate process of jewelry making. We interacted with women working at the institute, who shared how the skills they acquired enabled them to earn an income while learning new crafts. The head of various training courses explained the manufacturing processes, such as the amount of caustic soda used in soap making and the differences between handmade and machine-made jewelry. The terracotta and resin work course, lasting 12 days and costing INR 5070, was also highlighted. The institute provides machinery through tenders raised on the GeM portal, with support from the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME). These courses are accessible online via the Khadi Gram Udyog website ([www.kbic.org.in](http://www.kbic.org.in)), with each batch comprising six to ten participants. Detailed explanations were provided on the ratios of different materials used in making agarbatti and dishwashers, distinguishing between gentle and regular dishwashing products.

Additionally, we visited the Gandhi Darshan Museum, which chronicles Mahatma Gandhi's life from his personal, social, and political journeys. The museum, with its well-illustrated historic moments and artifacts used by Gandhi, offers an affordable ticket price. This visit allowed us to explore Gandhi's vision of self-reliance and Nai Taleem, emphasizing learning by doing.

The field visit to the Kora Institute of Village Industries was highly enriching for us. It highlighted the importance of vocational training and skill development in fostering self-reliance and economic independence. The practical knowledge gained through this visit will undoubtedly contribute to our academic and professional growth. The trip concluded with a renewed appreciation for the role of Khadi Udyog initiatives in empowering communities and the pivotal role educational programs play in facilitating this empowerment. We expressed our gratitude to the head of the department and other staff, captured memorable moments through photographs, and left with wonderful ideas and a deeper understanding of the vision behind Khadi Gram Udyog.

