

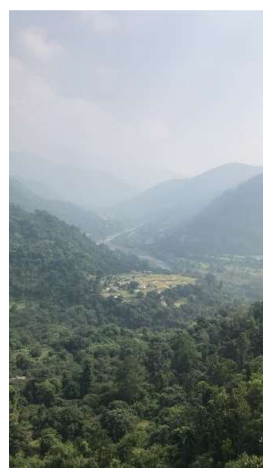


STUDY TRIP REPORT 2019

Most awaited trip to -

MUKTESHWAR AND CORBETT NATIONAL PARK

(13.10.19 – 16.10.19)



INTRODUCTION

In an effort to provide field based knowledge, TERI University organized various educational field trips for the first year students. This trip gave a platform to the graduates to understand the issues at the grassroot level especially in mountains. In an attempt to create a broader understanding, each of the trips had an Urban Site, a Village Site and a Natural Habitat Site to visit. We got the opportunity to gather a better understand of their life and daily struggle for their survival and How TERI is helping those families to grow and sustain a better life.

ITINERARY

Date	Travel Plan	Activity	Time	Night Stay
13 th Oct	New Delhi Railway Station	New Delhi to Kathgodam (travel)	6:20 AM - 11:40 AM	TERI Guest House
	(Report @ 5:30 AM)*	Kathgodam to Mukteshwar (travel)	12:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Mukteshwar
	to	Lunch	2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	
	Kathgodam - Mukteshwar	Ice breaking Session	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	
		A Session by NGO	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	
14 th Oct	Mukteshwar	Visit to Trisha; TERI Research Center	9:30 AM - 12:30 PM	TERI Guest House
		Lunch at Village	1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Mukteshwar
		Exposure to TERI's Initiative at Village	3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	
		Visit to Sunset Point	5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	
15 th Oct	Mukteshwar	Mukteshwar to Ramnagar (travel)	9:30 AM - 2:00 PM	Wild Crest Resort
	(departure after breakfast)	Lunch	2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Ramnagar
	to	Session by DFO, Jim Corbett	3:00 PM - 4:00 PM	
	Ramnagar	River Walk	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	
16 th Oct	Ramnagar	Jeep Safari	5:30 AM - 9:30 AM	
	Kathgodam	(Jim Corbett National Park)		
	to	Breakfast at the Resort	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	
	New Delhi	Ramnagar to Kathgodam (travel)	10:30 AM - 1:30 PM	
		Lunch at IRCTC at Kathgodam	1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	
	Kathgodam to New Delhi (travel)	3:35 PM - 8:50 PM		

The itinerary provided a good mix of education and free-time. This allowed the entire group to learn a lot about the each other and explore the culture and landscape. Four days was an ideal length of time for this trip due to the large number of activities involved.

Day 1: October 13,2019

On October 13,2019, in the wee hours of morning, a group of students from cross batches with their mentor Mr. Sandeep Arora and assistant Mr. Shashank left boarded Train from NDLS to Kathgodam and from Kathgodam boaded a bus for Mukhteshwar. This town is a popular tourist destination and is castled in the Kumaon Hills at an altitude of 2286 meters in the Nainital District of Uttarakhand. The 10 hour odd journey didn't seem to bother any student despite rocky roads and hilly terrain. The excitement to witness spectacular Indian Himalayas from Mukhteshwar, the zeal to learn ample from Teri setup and the nervousness of staying in camps could not be missed from their faces. The accommodation at Mukhteshwar was one of its kinds and could not have been exchanged for! The beautiful Teri Himalayan Resort at Latey Bunga is a well-built green space accommodating cottages, tents, a conference hall, playground court and a dining hall. After experiencing wonderful hospitality from the staff at Teri Himalayan Centre.

We got the opportunity to interact with Mr. Diwan Singh Bisht. He is part of NGO named Chirag which was estd. in year 1991 working in the field of Education and Health. This NGO helped women to have a better position in the society. Graduation percentage of women is higher than male. The women of this region are more involved in working as well as education. This NGO is working for the improvement of their health by immunising the women using immunisation vaccine. The students interacted with him to understand the working of their NGO and how they are helping the villagers to attain better health and education. After the NGO session we had our ice breaking session. All the student played team building games and had a lot of fun during the session.



Thereafter we had Dinner to treat the travel stress and slept in the humble looking tents engendered a sense of coexistence with nature. As night approached, this beautiful abode provided warmth, comfort and space to all the tired souls.

Day2: October 14,2019

Soon after the glaring sun engulfed the cold mist of night, the students woke up to the sounds of birds and falling dew on leaves. After enjoying the best of breakfast the students were addressed by Dr Narayana Singh who is been leading proponent in TERI regional Centre and guiding the management of TRISHA for many years. It is acronym for TERI's Research Initiative at Supi for Himalayan Advancement that is spread across 7.5 hectares of land.





He enlightened us on the economic, social and ecological challenges of Mukhteshwar and about TERI's Initiatives to wrestle them. Among the other challenges, the unfavorable climate and the depleting groundwater acts as a barrier to generate a stable agricultural produce for the farmers. The gender inequality is also a grave problem-pressurizing woman of the society. The presence of middlemen in food chain has never guaranteed farmers a fair price for their produce and hostage many under loans. The unfair selling of land to corporate owners has led to land and resources depletion. With the recent construction activity and township mushrooming in and around Mukhteshwar, the residents will soon face other problems. The solution to these problems needed a holistic approach based upon villagers feedback therefore TERI found an innovative solution and introduced culinary herb farming to generate employment and income for both genders. With the use of conventional and biotechnological knowledge, the best practices were adopted. To catch the action live, students visited TRISHA and experienced the working of it. It was explained that the best quality seeds of Oregano, Thyme, Parsley, lemon grass, etc. were sold to farmers for free and the produced collected at a pre-fixed price to be processed and sold to national and international markets. One can see here Water harvesting, Bio farming, Poly house technique, Air quality checking unit, Soil Testing Lab along with herbs plantation. Mr. Arvind proudly showed the cultivation around and shared its consumer benefits. It was astonishing to know that India has a native origin of every herb that is consumed worldwide. Such is the Richness that the mountains behold!

Another interesting development setup was the KUMAON VANI, a community radio service set up at a frequency of 90.4Hz. Launched on March 11, 2010, it provides a common platform for local communities to discuss environment, agriculture, weather, and education in the local language. With a 25 km aerial transmission, it connects remote villages with each other in times of distress. This service has been graced with many awards by the government. The students participated in the interaction thoroughly and appreciated every minute detail of the tour.



Post Lunch, students visited a remote village Sunkiya, that is one of the many villages under Teri's Rehabilitation setup. The chief greeted us with warmth and shared his experiences on joining hands with TERI. Students then buckled up for a 3 km trek through the village where they were exposed to practices like oil distillation unit, low cost water management technology, roof top harvesting, and aromatic oil extraction. It was wonderful to witness a self-sustaining village with satisfied villagers. Another interesting thing to observe was the knowledge the local residents were equipped with of the herbs to treat ailments.

With all the information imbibed, it was now time to enjoy the scenic beauty of the mountains and to witness the most breathtaking sunset. At this point, the rocks were cut out from the hill at a bizzare angle that made it look more scenic. For some, it is also the best suicidal point because of its steep height. Nobody ever imagined that the end of the day to be that beautiful. The sun softly parted away giving mesmerizing views later in night we enjoyed the dinner with bonfire and slept.



Day 3: October 15,2019

In Mukteshwar we got the privilege to attend morning prayer assembly of Saraswati Shishu Vidhya Mandir. We interacted with the students, got some gifts for them and enjoyed their happy faces.



We started our journey to Jim Corbett, that was a four hours drive from Mukteshwar.



Though it was a sad moment to leave the beautiful campus of, “TERI Himalayan Center”, we were equally interested for our next destination.

On reaching Jim Corbett, we were stationed at a very beautiful location known as the “Wild Crest Resort”.

Besides being amazed by the beauty of the resort, we were equally hungry and hence all of us decided to carry on with a hefty lunch. Post lunch, a session was conducted by the DDCTR of Jim Corbett, “Mr. Chandra Shekhar Joshi” who enlightened us about the entire demography of Jim Corbett national park and its history and how it is the oldest national park to sustain Bengal tigers and other famous animals such as spotted deer, jackal, barking deer and some native bird species spreading over an area of 1318 sq.km. He also mentioned the modern technique used in saving and breeding of tigers which led to increase in tiger population approximately by 215 or plus as of 2018. He also explained us about man and wildlife conflicts which is a major ongoing problem. In the evening we went for river walk, enjoyed the serene view and ended our day with delicious food.



Day 4: October 16,2019

Interested students went on a jungle safari to experience the rich wildlife at Jim Corbett that was arranged in the early morning. All the students assembled for tea and cookie in early morning and went for our safari in our designated jeeps. We started our safari ride at 6:30am from Bijrani gate which was opened only a day before our safari. Lucky students had sighting of Spotted Deer, Barking deer, Jackals and native Bird species.



The students are very obliged to Mr. Sandeep Arora for organizing this perfect, stimulating, knowledge-gaining trip. His care and concern for us on the trip is commendable. He didn't let any student go through any discomfort in this challenging trip. His passion for the trip always encouraged us to walk that extra mile. The trip will be imprinted in the chapters of TERI forever because of his efforts. The students were also thankful to Mr. Shashank who was a very good company and a guide to all of them. The students bonded very well over a short period of time. The students exhibited punctuality, discipline, active participation, humility towards other students and villagers in high degrees. TERI has implanted a very strong foundation of Environment Sustainability in their minds.

