

Report for visit of Social Institute	
Institute Visited :	Swaraj Ashram
Officials involved from institute :	Mrs. Niranjana Kalarthi Dr. Pragna Kalarthi
Date :	17/12/2024
College / School	Sarvajanik College of Engineering & Technology (SCET)
Transportation :	Private Bus
Total No. of Students :	21
Faculty & Staff Accompanied :	Dr. Mayank Dalal ,Dr. Niket Shastri Dr. Ashish Desai ,Prof. Amit Mehta
Coordinator :	Dr. Niket Shastri , Prof. Amit Mehta

Institute Profile

Swaraj Ashram, located in Bardoli, Gujarat, holds immense historical significance as a prominent landmark of India's struggle for independence. Established during the Bardoli Satyagraha of 1928, it became a center for organizing and supporting the peasant movement led by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who later earned the title of "Sardar" for his leadership and dedication. The ashram spans across 21 acres of land.

Swaraj Ashram served as the organizational hub for this movement, hosting meetings, planning strategies, and providing moral and emotional support to the participants. The Ashram stands today as a tribute to those who sacrificed their livelihoods and fought against colonial oppression. It also reflects the Gandhian principles of non-violence, truth, and self-reliance that guided the movement.

In addition to its historical importance, Swaraj Ashram continues to inspire visitors and future generations. The Ashram promotes education, self-discipline, and community values. It stands as a reminder of the power of collective action and the importance of justice, equality, and unity in society.

A visit to Swaraj Ashram not only provides an opportunity to learn about India's freedom struggle but also encourages reflection on the timeless principles of perseverance and leadership that led to success during challenging times. The Ashram remains a proud symbol of India's fight for Swaraj (self-rule) and an enduring legacy of the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters.

Ground Report

Sardar Kanya Vidyalaya & Chhatralay (Uttar Buniyadi)

Sardar Kanya Vidyalaya is established on 15th June 1966 by Smt. Niranjanaben Kalarthi and it was inaugurated by Kakasaheb Kalelkar. Every year 120 girls from interior regions of Dang, Mahal, and other parts of South Gujarat are admitted in standard 9 and 10. Due to immense hard work of teachers and students they achieve 100 % in 10th board examination every year.

The lifestyle of students at Swaraj Ashram is rooted in discipline, self-reliance, and simplicity, reflecting values akin to the traditional Gurukul system.

In Vidyalaya girls follow a structured routine, handling their daily chores such as cooking and maintaining their living space. They wear identical uniforms, fostering equality and unity, and work together on various tasks, promoting teamwork. Students live in modest quarters, where they sleep and store their belongings. The students study and live in harmony with nature. The emphasis is on learning in an environment free from distractions, where the focus is on education. The lifestyle encourages living with dignity, humility, and respect for others, helping students lead a life of simplicity and integrity.

Hospitality Meets Tradition:

Upon arrival at Swaraj Ashram, we were warmly welcomed with songs sang by the girl students. The staff and students were exceptionally friendly, answering all our questions and sharing insightful stories about Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, which were both motivating and educational.

A significant aspect of the visit was the sense of community. The young girls at the ashram personally prepared our meal and served it with care. It was a humbling experience to witness their self-sufficiency and teamwork. If we could incorporate even 5% of the simplicity, discipline, and community spirit we observed at the ashram into our own lives, it would surely lead us to greater growth and success. In summary, the ashram's lifestyle promotes self-sufficiency, teamwork, and simplicity, aligning with traditional values that support both educational and personal development.

Sardar Patel's Nivas:

A significant part of the visit included a stop at Sardar Patel's Nivas, his residence during his time in Bardoli. This humble abode offers a glimpse into Patel's life and his connection with the local people. The house reflects his simple living and dedication to the cause of the nation. It houses several personal belongings and historical artifacts that depict his leadership during the freedom movement and his role in post-independence India.

Visiting this site was a powerful experience, allowing us to witness firsthand the space where Patel worked tirelessly to bring justice and unity to the people of Bardoli.

Interaction with the staff and Niranjana Baa.

Q.1 What is the daily routine of the girls, what are they taught, and how is their schooling conducted?

A.1 The girls start their day with morning prayers, followed by assigned duties like cooking, cleaning, or maintaining classrooms. They then attend classes, have meals, study for a couple of hours, and spend some time playing or completing tasks. The day ends with dinner and rest.

Q.2 How many children have been admitted so far, and how will they pursue their future goals? Does the Ashram help them in this?

A.2 The Ashram has supported over 6,000 girls so far and will continue to do so. If any girl wishes to pursue further education or a career, such as becoming a doctor or an engineer, the Ashram provides all necessary assistance to help them achieve their dreams.

Q.3 Does the increase in strength of students create any challenges in terms of resources or management? And how is the Gurukul system adapting to modern times?

A. 3 We limit the number of girls to maintain efficiency and avoid overcrowding. We focus on quality education, with a computer lab and skill development programs. The living arrangements are traditional, while the education follows standard curriculum and exams.

Q.4 Why free education is offered exclusively to girls and not to boys?

A.4 This system is not new; it has been in place since the time of the freedom struggle. Back then, the primary mindset was that girls were only meant for marriage. These girls come from small villages where girls are still considered less important, and education is often seen as a privilege for boys. That's why free education is provided to them, to encourage the idea that daughters should also be educated.

Purpose of Visit Swaraj Ashram

To understand the historical significance of Swaraj Ashram, particularly its role in the Bardoli Satyagraha, and to draw inspiration from the leadership of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel & connect theoretical knowledge of history with a real-world experience.

Glimpse of Visit....



Students & Professor Review about the visit

Our Learnings from the Visit

The visit to Swaraj Ashram was a transformative experience that imparted several valuable lessons:

- **Unity and Resilience:** We have learned how collective action and determination led to the success of the Bardoli Satyagraha, highlighting the power of unity in achieving justice.
- **Gandhian Values:** The principles of non-violence, truth, and self-reliance remain relevant even today, teaching us to address challenges with integrity and patience.
- **Sacrifices of Freedom Fighters:** The visit deepened our respect for the sacrifices made by leaders like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and the countless individuals who stood up against oppression.
- **Cultural and Educational Importance:** The Ashram continues to inspire generations, promoting education, moral values, and a sense of responsibility toward society.

Overall, the visit emphasized the importance of remembering our history and applying its lessons to address present and future challenges