

REPORT On visit Sanskriti Museum.

I recently had an opportunity to accompany students of Santa Maria KG C & D along with their class teachers Veronica Ma'am & Aashu Ma'am as a volunteer to Sanskriti Museum on 17th July 2019.

Sanskriti Museum is a museum of Everyday Art, Indian Terracotta and Textiles are a conduit for the preservation and presentation of indigenous heritage, craftsmanship, aesthetic functionality and cultural practices.

It is located on NH 24 (Mehrauli Gurgaon Road) towards Gurgaon. Between Ghitorni Metro station and Arjanagarh metro station. It is known by the name of **Anandgram**.

All artefacts, Charts, Murals & Idols in the museum are personal collection of Padmashree Mr. O P Jain.

The notice about the visit to the museum was sent in the diary on 15th July, so me and my daughter Sia (KG- D) were equally excited about the visit. Sia loves to explore and learn new things by observing, so I was happy that she will learn a lot about our culture through this visit.

However next day when I went to collect her after school, her class teacher Aashu ma'am asked me if I would accompany them for the visit, I was overwhelmed and it doubled our joy & excitement for the visit.

On our way home that day, Sia told me that Aashu Ma'am had briefed them about the museum and things that they will be seeing like mitti ke bartan, mitti ke pots.. and clay items.. she also told me that they tried their hand at school making some items with clay... she could not make anything but just alphabet "C".

So Sia had picture in her mind about what she will be looking forward the next day when she will visit the museum.

At Home, both of us were gearing up for the visit the next day, I had to prepare Sia not be too clingy to me while I would be around in the school. I tried my best though...

Next morning when we woke up... it was not a good start for the day, as it was raining very heavily since the night and it did not look as if it will stop either.

I was not sure if the school would take the kids to the museum or would postpone the plan.

However, I got my morning chores done. Both of us got ready for the school with little drop in our energy and enthusiasm levels because of the rain.

On our way to school, Sia kept singing rain rain go away... thinking Rain God would hear her prayers.

As soon as we reached school, met Aashu Ma'am she confirmed that the visit is on schedule and they will be taking the kids to the museum... her words were instant energy booster for both of us.

As we reached the school, the kids got into their regular school mode of keeping their bags & water bottles at respective places. Children kept their diary on Aashu Ma'am's table.

Aashu Ma'am then asked the kids to put away any toys they have been playing with in their respective baskets or trays and put on their ID Cards.

Then they all sat down for a circle time. This is the time when Aashu Mam briefed the class KG D, about their visit to Sanskriti Museum, they also recollected what activities the students had done in the class the previous day with Clay, so they can relate with what they should expect to see at the

museum. They knew they will be seeing olden days items like clay items, Pottery, earthenware & natural fabrics etc...

Next topic was safety talk... the students were told that they should not touch anything at the museum as everything is very delicate and old. They should not leave line/ group and walk holding hands, Follow all instructions as given by her and most important Not to talk to strangers.

Soon all the students along with their bags were moved to the buses and in no time we arrived at Anandgram i.e. Sanskriti Museum.

It was surrounded by lots of trees and beautiful gardens. We all were welcomed by a huge Banyan Tree.



The kids were all very excited to visit the place.

As we moved in, the first place to visit was the clay pottery section, there we saw how pots and other clay items are made using potters wheel. Few aunties were making vases when we went there. All the vases, pots and decorative items made with clay, were so beautiful.



The teachers kept repeating to the students not to touch any items, but it was very tempting for them to control their urge to touch and explore the items.

Next section we saw was the furnaces where the raw clay items were put in to make it dry & hard. There few pots were getting painted too.

All this while the rain God had been listening to Sia's prayer, but soon it started to raining again... The teachers and the school staff quickly got trampoline/ huge plastic sheets to cover the students and get them to safety shelter from rain.



We had to wait for few minutes for the rain to stop again before we moved to the next section.

Next section was small mud houses with mud floorings, have collection of earthenware from different states of India like Bihar, Uttarpradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamilnadu, Madhya Pradesh & Kerala.

The entrance of this section has huge earthen pots used to store grains in olden days. Kids were happy to see such big pots and even said that the too could fit into them.



Kids enjoyed to see animals made out of the clay. They also got to see different kind of clay like pillimitti, gerua, chinimitti etc... They got to know that in many states like Madhya pradesh, Bihar & Uttar Pradesh animals are made out of Clay and offered to Gods for happiness & Prosperity. They could identify artefacts of horse, cow, elephant & eve Rhinoceros.



One of the house had diyas&madhubani Painting on the wall of the house.. with all images of animals, bird and butterflies... kids were excited to identify these in the paintings.



The curator of the museum gave lot of information to the kids as well us about every item and also told us that all paints used in the paintings or colouring the pots were made using natural plant extracts.

Next we headed to a replica of temple of South India which had beautiful colourful horses, idols of god & goddess.



From there the next section lined for visit was the textile museum....

The next curator, Mr. Faisal accompanied us to this museum. He showed the kids spinning wheel, how threads are made and then woven into fabrics.

He also showed cotton pods and silk worm cocoons to the kids.



Next he took us to gallery where different fabrics were framed. One huge frame contained fabric with map of Jagannath Puri temple embroidered on it with real gold thread.



He made active interaction with the kids to make them understand how fabric was used in earlier days instead of paper to make maps.

Next he took us to various galleries show casing fabrics from different states like Kashmir, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Assam etc.. he also showed us zari& zardozi work, Zoroastrian embroidery.

From the textile museum, we moved to metal gallery... here the kids saw copper & bronze items.

They also saw kalam – pen used in olden days. They saw huge book made with leather and natural handmade paper. Diyas, Knives, Pichkari made of metals.



This was the last gallery we visited before we left Anandgram and headed back to school.

It was quite a learning experience.

What we read stays in our imagination but what we see and learn stays with us forever and for kids it was very easy to understand what they saw and will remember for a long time.

The visit was very educative and therefore it was overall a very nice experience. It reminds us of our glorious past and a journey through the museum actually gives a full glimpse of the history of Culture.

-Report By

Vineeta Tokas (Mother of Sia Tokas KG- D)

