

Best Practice -01

1. Title of the Practice: Exploration of Historical Sites

2. Objective of the Practice:

- To give firsthand experience to visit historical places
- To provide practical exposure to research methodologies
- To gain firsthand experience in research methods and skills in history,
- To gain confidence in their abilities.
- To familiarize them with archaeological and archival tools and techniques.
- Acquaint students with new employment opportunities in this field.

3. The Context: The primary concept behind the exploration of historical sites is to provide students of history with firsthand visits to historically significant places. Mainly, this involves visits to forts, ancient temples, historical monuments, and other sites to understand the importance of those places in the context of history. Along with this, students will also visit archives and museums to familiarize themselves with archival tools and to understand the research methodology required for historical studies. By integrating these visits into the curriculum, students will gain the necessary skills and knowledge to conduct research in a systematic manner. Additionally, practical sessions and sequential study programs will be conducted to ensure that experiential knowledge is imparted to the students, fulfilling the core objective of this concept.

4. The Practice: Department of History has been organizing this program since many years. It got momentum from Academic year 2018-19. Every year students of History are taken on this exploration tour. As part of the program of exploration of historical sites, in the academic years 2022-23, visits were arranged to significant historical locations. Notably, Historian Vikas Rajwade Research Center in Dhule, along with visits to Samartha Mandir, Dhule, Mahatma Gandhi Philosophy Center, Kala Maharshi Keki Moos Collection, and Laling Fort, were organized. During these visits, particular emphasis was placed on the visit to the Vikas Rajwade Research Center in Dhule, where students had the opportunity to understand the characteristics of historical research. Additionally, visits to archives provided children with information not only about history but also about future research prospects in the field and the emerging

employment opportunities in research and archival museums. The Vikas Rajwade Research Center showcased invaluable historical artifacts, and students were encouraged to maintain a keen interest in written documents, which are vital in historical studies.

5. Evidence of Success: Through the program of exploration of historical sites, participating students have shown the development of a research-oriented perspective. It is evident that they have gained conceptual clarity regarding historical studies and methodologies in this context. This outcome is reflected in the increasing interest of students in skill-based subjects such as archival science, architectural studies, and museum studies.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required : During the academic year 2022-23, the program involved visits to multiple locations, which led to students facing certain challenges, primarily related to financial constraints. While the major problem did not necessarily involve a shortage of funds, many students found themselves financially vulnerable due to the expenses incurred during these visits. Another issue of concern is still girls are not allowed to go on such excursions.

Sr. No.	Academic Year	Name of the Place Visited	Number of Participating Students
1	2019-2020	Kalamaharshi Keki Moos Art Gallery, Chalisgaon	17
2	2020-2021	Ajanta Leni	32
3	2022-2023	1) Historian V.K. Rajwade Research Center, Dhule	28
		2) Samarth Wagdevata Temple, Dhule	28
		3) Mahatma Gandhi, Science Temple, Dhule	28
		4) Laling Fort, Laling	30
		5) Kalamaharshi Keki Moos Art Gallery, Chalisgaon	52



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