

**Study Tour of MSc. Biostatistics and Demography students to PUNE during 21-22
January 2019**

The fourth semester students of M.Sc. Biostatistics and Demography were taken to various institutes/organizations based in and around Pune namely Vadu Health and Demographic Surveillance System (KEM Hospital Research Centre), Micro Health centre and Tele consultation centre at Pabal (KEM Hospital Research centre), School of Health Sciences (Pune University), Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, during 21-22 January 2019 to understand the activities and approaches and methods of solving community's health problems by researching with people.

On 21st January, students started their journey from IIPS around 6.30 AM. It was dark outside, and the weather was cold. It was their educational tour. We were all very excited. As we were heading towards Pune the sun started rising; it was bright, orange in color and beautiful. At 11:15 AM, we reached our first destination that is the Vocational Training Centre and Women Development Centre which comes under the KEM Hospital Research Centre. The centre was established in 1988. At present several vocational courses are being provided by the centre namely, bedside assistance or nursing, electrician, food processing, tailoring or garment construction. The name of the project is "Uddyam", and it is funded by "Larsen & Toubro". There is also a Micro Health Centre (MHC) which is funded by "Hewlett & Packard." Patients come to this facility for checkups. Basic demographic information, as well as health-related measures (temperature, BP etc.), are taken there, and data are sent to IGI on a daily basis.

Just after visiting this training centre, we went to the KEM Hospital Research Centre. They have initiated the Vadu Rural Health Program. They collect demographic and health data of 22 villages under Health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS) survey. We found it very interesting because in India we have very limited information on health and in this situation, such surveys can be beneficial. We came to know about free data repository IN-DEPTH ISHARE. We had our lunch in KEM hospital. A tour of the hospital was also given to us. In the evening we reached the guest house of Gakhale Institute. The accommodation very impressive and the food was also good. We were all tired and went to bed at 12 AM.

Next morning after having breakfast we went to Savitribai Phule Pune University. Dr. Aarti nagarkar is the present director. She told us about two courses taken at the department, i.e. Master of public health and Master of Health sciences. She gave us information about Pune university, School of health science. She explained her research in Anthropology, the project of urbanisation and health, Gerontology, tobacco risk management. UGC-UP scheme. Dr. Angeline Jeyakumar explained project of the prevalence of undernutrition among children. Allergies-child feeding, Hyperactivity. I liked the terminology Bioavailability she explained with the help of an example. She told about the participatory method of teaching, nutrition specific interventions, and translational research. Dr. Preeti Gautam madam explained the impact of Ayurveda in medicine. We also saw the "Foldscope" in their laboratory.

After this, we went to visit the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics. There we were told about various programs and projects they were involved in. We were also told that while entering the field, you should not take any preconception in your mind. Your mind should be free and adaptive. We left the beautiful campus at 1:25 PM. Then we returned to the guest house, had lunch, packed our bags and left for Mumbai at 2:00 PM. On our way, we visited Shaniwarwada. Its foundation stone was laid on Saturday, 10th January 1730 and it was

opened on another Saturday- 22nd January 1732. Stusents returned to IIPS at arong 7 PM with some beautiful memories from Pune.