



Oriental Education Society's
Oriental College of Education & Research
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Adarsh Nagar, Andheri (W)

Report on Gandhi Jayanti Celebration (Visit To Mani Bhavan)

Date: 2nd October 2024

Venue: Mani Bhavan, Gamdevi, Mumbai

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, 2nd October 2024, S.Y.B.Ed. students from Oriental College of Education and Research, Andheri West, visited Mani Bhavan, a historical site deeply associated with the life and work of Mahatma Gandhi. Located on Laburnum Road in the Gamdevi precinct of Mumbai, Mani Bhavan served as Gandhi's headquarters during his time in PP the city between 1917 and 1934.

The visit was part of the college's initiative to honor the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi by allowing students to engage directly with the history that shaped India's freedom movement. The theme of the visit, "*Road to Mani Bhavan: Gandhi's Headquarters*," emphasized Gandhi's pivotal role in shaping modern India's political landscape and inspired students to reflect on his values of non-violence, truth, and self-reliance.

Highlights of the Visit:

1. Introduction to Mani Bhavan's History:

Upon arrival, the students were given a brief historical overview of Mani Bhavan. The mansion, belonging to Gandhi's friend Revashankar Jagjeevan Jhaveri, was Gandhi's Mumbai headquarters for 17 years, from 1917 to 1934. During this period, Gandhi initiated several significant movements from Mani Bhavan, including the Non-Cooperation, Satyagraha, Swadeshi, Khadi, and Khilafat movements.

2. Exploration of Gandhi's Life and Legacy:

Students had the opportunity to visit the various exhibits within the museum. The ground floor housed a library where a bust of Mahatma Gandhi stands, serving as a place for visitors to offer tributes. The first floor featured a photo gallery, with pictures chronicling Gandhi's life from childhood to his assassination. The exhibits included press clippings and rare photos depicting key moments of Gandhi's life and his contribution to India's independence movement.

3. Gandhi's Personal Room and the Charkha:

A highlight of the visit was seeing the room Gandhi used during his stay at Mani Bhavan. Through a glass partition, students could view personal artifacts such as two of Gandhi's spinning wheels (charkha), a book, and his simple bed on the floor. This room illustrated Gandhi's commitment to self-reliance and the Swadeshi movement, which he promoted through spinning cotton and encouraging others to use local products.

4. **Historical Context of Movements:**

The terrace, where Gandhi was arrested on 4th January 1932, was also part of the visit, providing students a tangible connection to the history of India's freedom struggle. Mani Bhavan's significance was further highlighted by its connection to the Home Rule Movement and Gandhi's unique protests, such as abstaining from drinking cow's milk in opposition to the inhumane practice of *phookan*.

5. **Reflections and Learning:**

The visit concluded with a reflection session, where students shared their thoughts on how Gandhi's principles of non-violence and simple living remain relevant in today's world. The experience deepened their understanding of Gandhi's ideology and his unyielding commitment to the principles of truth, justice, and freedom.

Conclusion:

The visit to Mani Bhavan on Gandhi Jayanti was a profound learning experience for the students of Oriental College of Education and Research. By retracing the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi and exploring his contributions firsthand, the students were inspired to carry forward his ideals in their personal and professional lives. The event successfully instilled a sense of national pride and respect for the values that Gandhi upheld throughout his life.

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