

Sophia College for Women (Empowered)

-

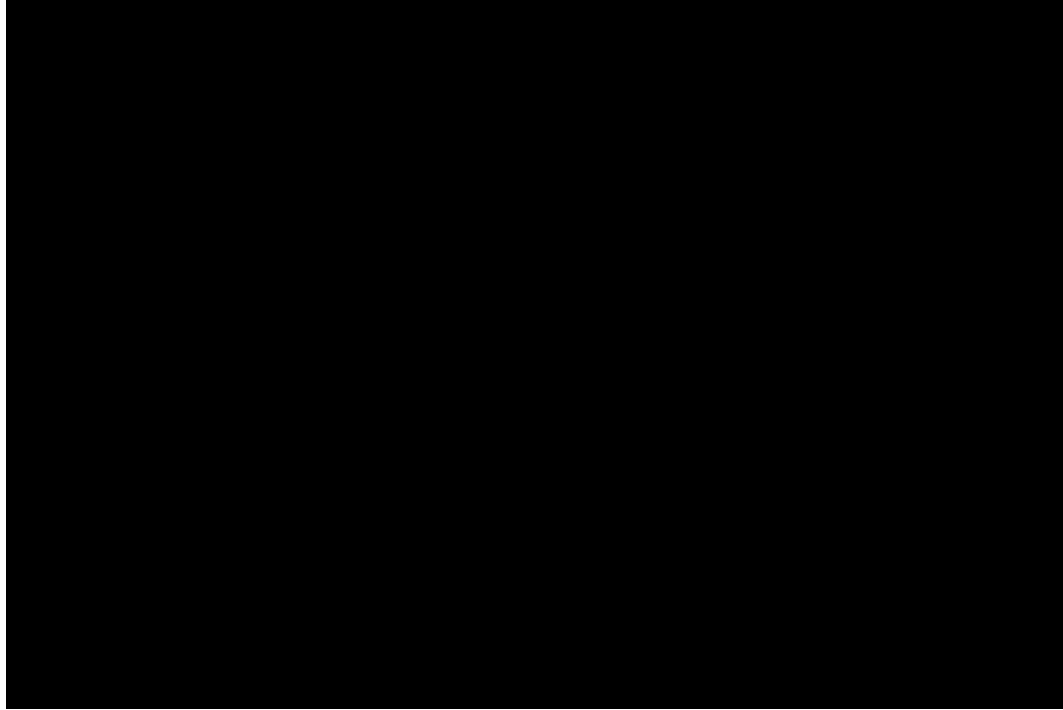
DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

A.Y. 2018-2019

A. P. Patil

Dr. Anagha Tendulkar Patil
HOD



(Evidence)

Department of Sociology

Field Visit to Saras Exhibition: Students of TYBA Sociology visited the Mahalaxmi Saras Exhibition organised at the MMRDA grounds, BKS as a part of their Sociology of Work paper.

Date: 2nd February

Exploring the Informal Sector, Self-Help Groups, and Agrarian Society: Insights from the SARAS Exhibitio

On 2nd February, the Third Year Bachelor of Arts (TYBA) students visited the SARAS Exhibition, an enlightening event aimed at offering a deeper understanding of the informal sector, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and the agrarian society. This visit was an invaluable educational experience, designed to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and real-world application, and to provide students with practical insights into these critical areas of economic and social development.

The primary objective of the visit was to explore the informal sector, which encompasses various economic activities that occur outside the formal regulatory framework. At the exhibition, students encountered a diverse array of products and services, including handicrafts, textiles, and local foods, all produced by individuals and small-scale enterprises. This hands-on experience highlighted the informal sector's significant role in sustaining local economies and providing employment, especially in rural and semi-urban areas. The students observed how

this sector operates independently of formal regulations yet remains a crucial component of the economy, bridging gaps in formal employment and offering a livelihood to many.

A central focus of the visit was on Self-Help Groups (SHGs), which were prominently represented through various stalls showcasing their products. The students gained insight into the formation, structure, and operational methods of SHGs. These groups are often formed by individuals from marginalized communities coming together to pool resources and support one another. The exhibition featured success stories of SHGs that have successfully empowered women and driven community development. Through these examples, students saw firsthand how SHGs foster economic independence, improve social cohesion, and contribute to the broader socio-economic fabric.

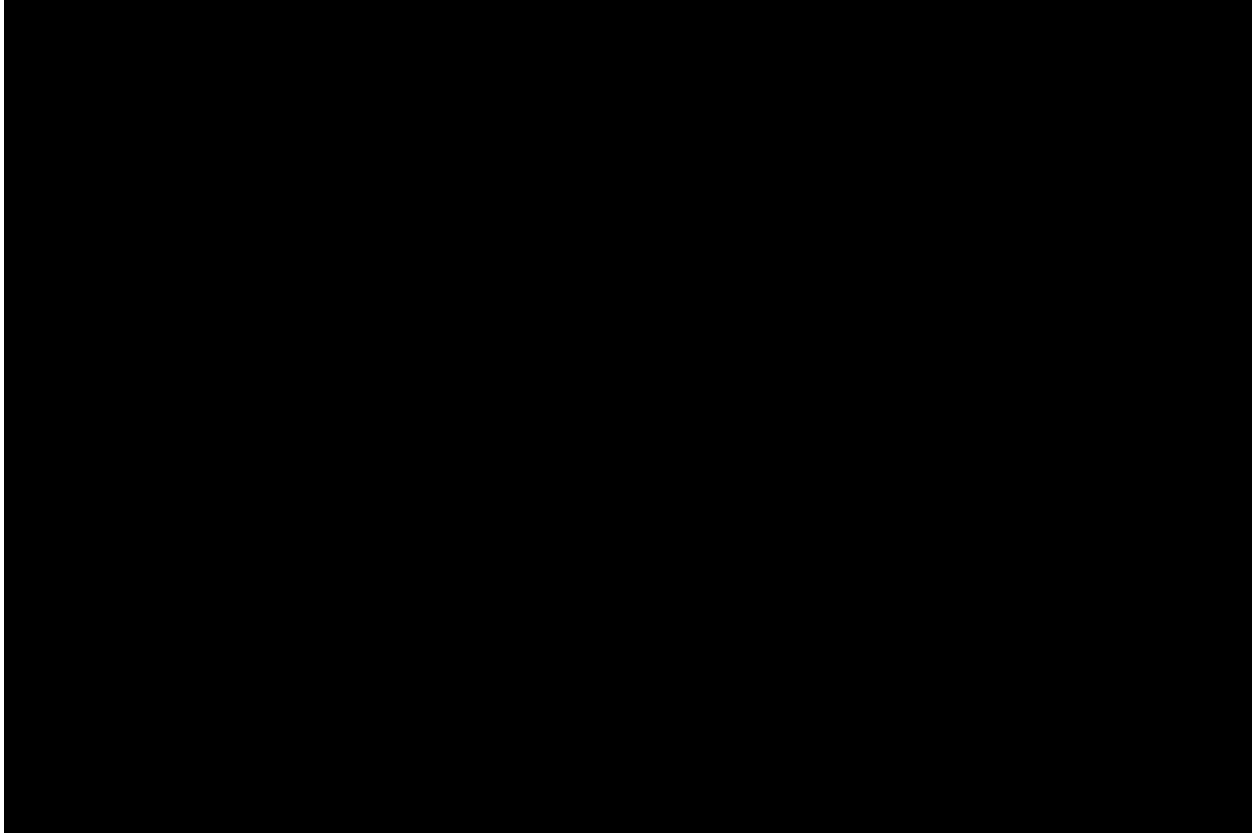
The agrarian society was another critical aspect explored during the visit. The exhibition included displays related to agriculture, highlighting innovative farming techniques, organic practices, and traditional products. Students learned about the various challenges faced by farmers, such as market access issues, climate change impacts, and resource management. The exhibition also showcased sustainable agricultural practices and initiatives aimed at improving productivity and environmental sustainability. This exposure provided students with a nuanced understanding of the agrarian sector's complexities and its pivotal role in the socio-economic landscape.

Overall, the SARAS Exhibition provided TYBA students with a comprehensive and practical understanding of the informal sector, SHGs, and the agrarian society. The visit effectively connected theoretical concepts with real-world applications, enhancing students' appreciation of these areas and their significance in fostering economic and social development. Students left the exhibition with a deeper awareness of the informal sector's contributions, the empowering impact of SHGs, and the challenges and innovations within the agrarian society.

The experience underscored the importance of integrating such practical insights into academic curricula. It is recommended that further engagement with informal sector initiatives and SHGs, through additional field visits or workshops, be considered to enrich the learning experience. Additionally, incorporating case studies and real-world examples from such exhibitions into the curriculum could offer students a more holistic understanding of these critical sectors.

In conclusion, the SARAS Exhibition was a valuable educational opportunity that provided TYBA students with essential knowledge and insights into the informal sector, SHGs, and the agrarian society. The visit not only bridged theoretical knowledge with practical experience but also

inspired students to appreciate the broader implications of these sectors on economic and social development.



Sociology students of T.Y participated in the annual Umang Program which was organized by the Rotary Club of Mumbai (Nariman Point). This provided a great opportunity for the students to understand and interact with various social groups.

A . P . Patil

Dr. Anagha Tendulkar Patil
HOD