



HSNC UNIVERSITY, MUMBAI

KISHINCHAND CHELLARAM COLLEGE



Department of Life Sciences
Organized an
Institutional Visit
To
St. Xavier's College, Mumbai (Autonomous)

The Department of Life Sciences, K.C. College, HSNC University, organized an Educational institution visit to St. Xavier's College, Mumbai on 8th February 2023. A total of 37 students from First year undergraduate Life Sciences course, visited three laboratories (Caius lab, Blatter Herbarium and Department of Geology) at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai (Autonomous). Three teachers from Department of Life Sciences Dr. Suvarna Sharma, Dr. Mayuresh Sharma and Mr. Romil Daga accompanied the students during this visit.

The visit started with dividing the student participants into 3 groups accompanied by one teacher each. It was explained that each of the group would be visiting the three laboratories mentioned above, in rotation. Each group spent approximately an hour in each of the laboratory and the faculty members in the labs gave a detailed explanation regarding the experiments, activities, displays of samples and models, in each of the lab visited.

Dr. Pravin Henriques was the coordinator for the visit to Department of Geology, Xavier's College. Students had the opportunity to have a tour of newly inaugurated Geology Lab in old school premises wherein they could observe various types of Rock, Gemstones, and Crystal models. Students enjoyed the informative session by Dr. Hrishikesh P. Samant on Meteorite Trap and Ancient Metallurgy. Students were privy to analytical interpretations of fossils, different types of rocks based on their hardness, instruments used in analysis and the scope of Geology in modern times.

The visit to Caius lab was coordinated by Dr. Priya Sundarajan. She gave wonderful insights of the lab and further demonstrated the working of various instrument with the help of some Research fellows working in the Caius lab. Students could observe the working and application of instruments like Biosafety cabinet, Orbital shaker cum Incubator, UV-visible Spectrophotometer, HPTLC, Gas Chromatography and ELISA Plate reader.

The third visit on the list was the famous Blatter Herbarium, which was coordinated by Dr. Pravin Kale. The Herbarium department large collection of flowering plant specimens that dates back to 1816, with over 1,50,000 specimens from all over India. It is considered to be one of the largest plant specimen collection, maintained by an educational institution in India. Students were explained the concept of techniques of Wet and Dry preservation of plant samples, process of making a Herbarium Sheet and the importance of maintaining a Herbarium in the study of plant world.

It was an enriching experience for all student participants and the faculty members to visit all three laboratories of multifarious nature, which exposed them to the various fields in Life Sciences. It also reinforced the need for an interdisciplinary approach to widen the scope of their future careers. It fuelled their intellect and planted the seeds of future collaborative approaches with other institutions. The student's feedback expressed their satisfaction over the visit and a demand for more such visits to distinguished educational institutions across India. This visit was organized by the faculty members, Dr. Sagarika Damle and Dr. Aashu Vajpai from the Department of Life Sciences at K.C. College and the department is grateful to Dr. Rajendra Shinde, Principal St. Xavier's College and other staff members for their guidance and cooperation rendered for organization and a successful culmination of this successful visit.

Report by:

Mr. Romil Dagha

Dept of Life Sciences

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