



WINTER GROUP EXPOSURE 2009- FAQ sheet Pravah and NSS- IIT collaboration

Often when trying to decide whether you want to do something or not (especially on something like the Winter Group Exposure!) we have a lot of questions... We have tried to put together a few frequently asked questions along with their answers to help you along the way. Please ensure that you do read this FAQ sheet before applying. And if you need more info do get in touch with Sulab or Neha at 011- 26213918 or Anurag Kumar(9891537063) ,Abhishek Surana(9990909760) or Naveen Khandelwal(9990910542)

Happy reading!

What is Pravah?

Pravah, is a Delhi based registered non- profit organization, building leadership for social change among youth, since 1993. We at Pravah are committed towards creating active citizens- a base of sensitive, well informed, independent minded young people who can contribute constructively to society and create a better world in diverse ways irrespective of their specific chosen fields.

Our Youth Intervention programme offers various opportunities to young people between the ages of 18 and 27 to embark on a journey from self to society. It creates spaces for young people to engage deeply with social issues, get hands on exposure and act for social change. We believe that experiential learning is one of the best ways of learning and allows individuals to form their own opinion and differentiate the facts from fiction. Through SMILE (Students Mobilisation Initiative for Learning through Exposure) we provide various internship and group exposure programmes for young people.

For further details: <http://www.pravah.org> or <http://www.younginfluencers.com>

Why is Pravah doing this?

This is what we do! Our vision is to work with young people to travel a journey from 'Me to We' and from our experiences the exposures are one of the best ways to do this. Hence the IIT Winter Group Exposure 2009!

What is Group Exposure?

Group exposure is a one of the process available under Students Mobilisation Initiative for Learning through Exposure (SMILE). In group exposure young people visit grass route level organizations or movements in. We believe that this form of experiential learning is one of the best ways of learning and allows individuals to form their own opinion and differentiate the facts from fiction. It helps an individual to see, feel participate, communicate and therefore learn about communities and the related issues from the community directly and while doing so, also to start off the process of realising one's own potential as change makers in society.

The whole Exposure is divided into two three parts:



Orientation Camp (2 Days): This is a preparatory workshop to help the group prepare themselves by getting to know each other, setting the context, preparing ourselves mentally for the journey ahead. This will be in Delhi. We will leave for the exposure directly from the camp so, volunteers would be expected to come prepared.

Exposure (8 Days): This is the bedrock of the whole experience. This is where we will go and spend time at Narmada Bachao Aandolan. We will interact with the community, volunteer in the processes including Shramdaan, participate in interactive sessions on the issue as well as of course our experiences. -some self facilitated and others by facilitators from Pravah and the community.

Feedback camp (2 Days): This will take place once you are back from the visit. The space will provide you an opportunity to reflect back on your experiences and create a plan for how you would like to take the process further and apply your learning.

Where will we go?

We will be going to Narmada Bachao Aandolan (Indira Saagar Area, Khandwa). Narmada Bachao Aandolan has been working since 1987. The movement, which began as a fight for information about the Narmada Valley development project went on to fight for just rehabilitation for the lakhs of people to be ousted by the Sardar Sarovar Dam and other large dams along the Narmada River.

You can find out more about the issue and the movement at www.narmada.org .

What am I expected to do?

We expect you to come with an open mind and a desire to commit 100% to the process. We would like for you to commit to the process of getting uncomfortable and make the most of it.

Do trust us and together we will create a beautiful and powerful journey. We would expect that you will take full ownership for the process and the experience and will work with the Pravah team. We would also expect that you will hand us a reflective write up on the experience within a week of the exposure.

Remember this will be your Exposure... and you will be responsible for making it or breaking it... the more you will give the more you will get ...

And of course be ready to have fun along with all the learning! ☺

What will I get out of it? Why should I go?

Well we can assure you that every individual who has been on the group exposure has always taken away something. However each one takes away only as much as they choose to, because at the end of the day we can only create a space for an experience and help you make the most of it. Ultimately what you make of it will be dependent on you.



The process will give you an opportunity to challenge yourself and understand yourself better- gain confidence. It will help you understand different perspectives and help you learn how to take an informed decision and stance. IT will help you interact and communicate with people who you would not have met in your regular course of life and actually see for yourself a reality which exist in the country. Along with this you will also be able to learn through experience team work and leadership. This is of course just the tip of the ice berg, there is a lot more!

We will be providing certificates to all those who are part of this exposure. Those in the NSS can also cover their requisite number of hours through this.

Have there been others who have gone to NBA before?

Yes!

NBA invites people to volunteer irrespective of whether you agree or disagree with them. IN fact one of the main NBA facilitators is from IIT itself!

From Pravah too a number of SMILERS have done their exposures and internships at NBA both individually as well as in groups.

What did they have to say?

"...I left the Narmada Bachao Andolan office in Badwani ... for Jalsindhi, a village, and spent the rest of the week interviewing people in the nearby villages in Maharashtra (which is just the opposite bank)..... I had to translate for two Americans, one of whom was a journalist, writing on the tribal villages in the valley.

My experiences in the past month have been varied. From being happy in the non intrusive tribal villages where I seriously considered agriculture or even buying a boat as a career option, to being angry at the most in Indore...I think I've seen how different systems work and realized what system I would love to learn about and even live in.

.....Knowing that this water and the power generated (very small amounts though) eventually will go to people's houses in cities, I felt guilty, for being from the city and knowing that I've wasted water and electricity all my life.... I want to learn more about dams and their ecological effects and more importantly riverine communities, so I'm considering a Masters in sociology and environmental studies.

The last month has given me lot of perspective in the sense how the people whose livelihoods are going to be 'washed away' have been struggling for the past 20 years in a completely non-violent manner. I guess it's given me hope although dim, and more importantly, some focus."

(Excerpt from the introspections of Nitin.V. George, a SMILE volunteer from ST. Stephen's College who went to Narmada Bachao Andolan for his rural exposure)

- I used to be a shy and reserved person but Pravah made me address a meeting of 200 villagers during the exposure... this has given me a lot of confidence and I have become a stronger person - Chandini Tyagi (college Student)



- The pathetic state of the villages and their problems made me realise that life is not all that easy for everybody especially and ironically for those who produce for the rest of the world and themselves remain starved. I learned to respect and understand others' viewpoints. - Geetika Lohani (Mass Communications student)
- The very life in villages, noticing their life, which did not even always involve the basic essentials and the contrast, lived by ME - An Urban Know All Brat, was a new learning in itself. - Namrata Pant(college student from Kamla Nehru College)
- Waking up to the crowing of a cock at the break of dawn was something that I had only read about in books before this trip! - Alisha Ojha (College student from Miranda house)
- The trip to NBA has moved me a lot. The people, the river, the valley has a lot to tell. Going with Sylvie di to villages to brief the villagers of the dharas and also briefing them of the submergence of the villages, fields opened my eyes of the consequences that will happen when the gates are opened. I mean just putting ourselves in to their shoes one could feel what they will go through or some of them who have went through it. The mere compensations being given to the villagers by the NHPC and the state govt are not enough. - Anshul Uniyal

Do I have to pay something? Why?

We would like you to take care of the actual cost of the sleeper class train fare to and from Delhi as well as an additional Rs. 500/- for this entire 12 day experience. The actual cost of this would be more than Rs. 4000/- per person however we ask you to contribute a basic amount as a token of shared responsibility and ownership for learning. This money will also help us create more opportunities for people who may not be able to afford to go for such experiences otherwise, as our funding is also limited.

What if I can't pay? What do I do then?

As we mentioned this is a very subsidized amount. However if you feel that you would be unable to pay it, please mention it in the form under any other relevant information (Section V last row).

We will make exceptions and waive off part or if need be the full amount depending on the case. Please do not let your inability to pay be the criteria for not applying.

Why only fifteen people?

We believe in interactive spaces, where we can engage with each other meaningfully. There are only a certain number of facilitators who can go at this point in time for the exposure with you and along with it are also financial constraints. A group of 15 therefore would be ideal for this.

What if I don't know English or Hindi well?

No worries! It's all part of our learning curve and we will just work together on that. The sessions and communication in the rural areas may very well be a mix of Hindi and other local languages so we will just innovate. The sessions itself will be delivered in either or both the languages as per need.



How can I apply?

You need to fill the application form attached with the email and also available on our website- www.pravah.org (from Monday 2 November onwards). This will be followed by a two level selection process:

1. On the basis of the form
2. Those that make it through phase 1. Will be invited for a telephonic conversation

The selected volunteers will be notified thereafter. We hope to let you know the final list latest by 12 of November.

What after the exposure?

The Exposure will be followed by a feedback camp where individuals from the group will come together for two days to share their experience during the exposure visit. Here we will figure out if you would like to be engaged in any further processes or not, and if yes then how. The sky is the limit!!

I am still not sure... who can I talk to in order to find out more?

You can talk to Anurag(anurag0999@gmail.com) ,Abhishek(abhisheksurana.iitd@gmail.com) or Naveen(naveen.greatit@gmail.com) in IIT and Neha and Sulab at Pravah for all relevant questions. Contact details are given at the top of the form as well as the FAQ sheet.

We hope that you will apply and that we will see you at the exposure soon!!

Best of luck

From

The SMILE team

Pravah