



CONFLUENCE VIII



**The Orchid School, Pune, India
Media Gymnasiet, Stockholm, Sweden**

INDIA-SWEDEN EXCHANGE PROGRAM MAY 2019



Collaborating with Swedish counterparts, communicating with them, listening to their ideas and sharing our own was quite educating for all of us. It also gave us a chance to reflect on the trends and traditions back at home. There were few areas where we felt proud of ourselves as Indians though few practices should definitely be picked up from Sweden (especially respect for time, civic property and rules). Visiting various sights in Sweden added new dimensions to the trip. One thing which was quite evident from all the sights we visited was, that Swedes value their past and take pride in it. New constructions have taken place, but the old ones are well taken care of. People are honest and organized. There is a space crunch but everything in the house has a place. Society is inclined toward aesthetics. People put heart and soul in whatever they do; no job is a small job and the list goes on.

Travel is learning in itself. You achieve many intended and unintended outcomes when you travel. It is more than a seeing of sights; it is the change that goes on deep and permanent in the ideas of living. Travel to Sweden was one of such learning.

TRAVEL - A LEARNING IN ITSELF

THE ORCHID SCHOOL, PUNE AND
MEDIA GYMNASIET, SWEDEN
EXCHANGE PROGRAM

**BY SONALI KHAMBETE
TOS TEACHER**

TOS-Media Gymnasiet exchange program gave a sneak peek into the culture, life style, society, technology, aesthetic, politics, history and geography of Sweden.



TRAVEL TO SWEDEN 2019

BY ISHAN SIDDIQUI
TOS STUDENT

Imagine spending 12 days in a foreign land all by yourself, away from your house and your parents, all on your own. We, the students of the Orchid School were a part of this adventure in Sweden in the month of May.

At the end of the trip I felt that this trip was a success. We all faced many challenges on this trip. More than just visiting places and being to a country in Europe I also learnt the necessity of getting my act together and living life all by myself.

This trip led me to realise that the world is a very large and wonderful place. There is a lot to learn. Our education does not stop at school. We need to be life-long learners if we truly want to live a happy life. That's what life is about.

A wise teacher once told me that experiences, especially good ones change you forever... and I believe that this is one experience which, in my opinion, is a necessary stepping stone towards becoming a successful adult who would be living on his own terms in this very large and limitless beautiful world. This for sure is an experience which I will remember and cherish for the rest of my life. I would like to thank the Orchid school for giving me this opportunity.



SWEDEN EXCHANGE PROGRAM 2019

BY VEDANG BHELANDE
TOS STUDENT

Sweden was an amazing experience, not just in terms of being Sweden, but because of the methods that encourage learning. It was a new place with new experiences and new things to learn. Not to mention the amount of learning that occurred in such a short period of time.

Going to their schools and seeing their methods of teaching helped me to learn how to process the information around me and to pay attention to my surroundings. Rather than just reading a book, it's necessary to make sure you find a practical application to understand the importance of what is being taught, an important concept that seems to have been successfully implemented over there. With different ways to appeal to different students, it is important to learn how to appeal to student's mind to enhance their learning experience. Due to this, my own experience was enhanced, and it was a pleasure to learn each and every new thing that crossed my path as a whole. Anything that crossed my mind, I did not hesitate to ask because of the openness of the teachers in Sweden.

There were many subjects you could opt to learn, ranging from films to mathematics. With so many things to learn about such as Retuna, the "upcycling mall" and Rembrandt's Triangle, a photography technique, your mind is stimulated and can absorb the maximum amount of information. By having the freedom to choose what you want to learn, you can explore your subjects of interest to the fullest.

As an individual, my willingness to learn and try new things has changed after this trip and helped in transforming me into a more knowledgeable person. My learning experience was not just in one, but in many unique and diverse methods. Hence, this trip has a great impact on my learning.



SWEDEN - A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

BY PRATHAM SURYAWANSHI
TOS STUDENT

This summer me and a few of my friends participated in the Sweden-India Exchange Program. This has been one of the most educating trips of my life till now. When the students came to India from Sweden, we participated in various workshops and team activities and worked together. This helped us test our communication skills and improve them. Although unfortunately I did not get to host anyone, the overall on-field experience of filming, being with them also helped increase a sense of understanding and patience which I think I lacked.

When we went to Sweden, the beauty of it struck me the most. Seeing new people, with different cultures was overwhelming at first. I was alone in a whole new country with only 2 teachers and a few friends. There I got a good exposure to their education system and how it is different from our country's educational system. Going to their school and attending classes with the students helped in enriching this process. When we were with the hosts, I learnt how to adjust. I learnt about their food, their culture, their daily life and so much more. There I also understood the importance of time and how to be responsible of my belongings etc.

Most importantly, I learnt how important nature is and how beautiful and therapeutic it can be. I also realized how important it is to preserve it, to take care of it and nourish it!

Overall it was a fun experience which taught and gave us a lot of qualities and experience which we won't normally get from classrooms and textbooks!



3) It also gave us a chance to reflect on the trends and traditions back at home.

4) Swedish people put heart and soul in whatever they do; no job is a small job and the list goes on.

5) Travel is learning in itself, you achieve many intended and unintended outcomes when you travel.

6) It is more than a seeing of sights; it is the change that goes on deep and permanent in the ideas of living.

Travel to Sweden was one of such memorable dream for me and visit to Greta Thunberg added more essence in that.

A MEMORABLE JOURNEY TO SWEDEN

THE ORCHID SCHOOL, PUNE AND
MEDIA GYMNASIET, SWEDEN
EXCHANGE PROGRAM CONCLUDES
FOLLOWING THINGS

**BY UPENDRA KAHANE
TOS TEACHER**

1) This program gave a sneak peek into the culture, life style, society, technology, history and geography of Sweden.

2) Collaborating with Swedish counterparts, communicating with them, listening to their ideas and sharing our own was quite educating for all of us.





EXCHANGE PROGRAM - MY LEARNINGS

**BY MYTHILI DESHPANDE
TOS STUDENT**

I always believed that experiences you have and the memories you make are the true essence of life. Experiences teach us various lessons that you can't just learn sitting in class or read in some book. You need to be there, discover, explore and make the most of it. So, when the opportunity of going to Sweden presented itself, I did not hesitate to participate and on the 5th of May, this summer, I went to Sweden as part of a student exchange with 6 other students from my grade and two teachers.

Right from the beginning, when we were leaving from India I learnt that I was responsible for all my belongings and to take the utmost care of all the important documents that I was carrying. As the days passed by, I understood the importance of basic life skills like, organisation, planning, co-operation, time management, money management and much more.

This exchange was with a media school in Stockholm, where they taught us how to hold and operate a camera, how to shoot videos, photography, stop-motion animation etc. The overall project was mainly focused on the environment and sustainability, for which we visited ReTuna, the recycle mall and shot films on the initiatives taken towards sustainability and participated in the school strike on climate change, thereby gaining a lot of awareness on the current situation of our environment.

During our stay with the host families I understood the skill of communication better, to build a good relationship with the family, the teachers and of course to make a lot of new friends.

As the days of our student exchange program were finally coming to an end, I wasn't ready to leave, but I realized that happy times will come and go, but memories last forever and so I took numerous photos as a return ticket to moments otherwise gone.



WHAT I LEARNT IN SWEDEN

**BY SAMIKSHA TAMBE
TOS STUDENT**

I learnt a lot of things when I was in Sweden, but the most important thing I learned is about their culture and the people who live in Sweden. I learned how to get along and become friends with people who are very different from me and grew up in very different conditions with very different values. Even with all that, there was a lot that was common among us like the type of movies we watched and the music we listened to.

I also learned how to take care of myself, being in a foreign country away from my family by myself. I learned how to manage my own money and to take care of my own health. I learned how to look after my things and how to present myself in a country where I didn't know the native language.

The experience for me was at times nervous but most of the time exciting as I got to see a new country and a new city through the eyes of a local and saw how they felt about their home.



A JOURNEY TO REMEMBER

**BY AYUSHI KHARE
TOS STUDENT**

Our exchange with Media Gymnasiet school, Stockholm started in February when two teachers and four students came to India from Sweden. We had workshops in Pune and filmed two documentaries in India. Our first documentary was filmed at Wablewadi school in Wablewadi near Pune. This documentary focused on the suitability of the school and its working with bare minimum resources. Our second documentary was filmed at Dharavi, the slums of Mumbai. It focused on how the people from the slums used their resources and manufacture leather, cloth etc.

In May, we went to Sweden. In the initial days of our journey we stayed at a hostel in Stockholm and attended classes at Media Gymnasiet school. It was exciting and fun to learn things at their school. Our group then separated out and each one of us went to our host families. We spent three nights at their houses and attending lectures at school. We then went to Gotland, an island near Stockholm through a ferry. We then experienced life at an adult school there and going around the wonderful island. We then came back to Stockholm and enjoyed two days of city sight-seeing.

This journey was a mesmerizing experience, something that we will probably never forget. We saw things that we think we should bring up in our country and our daily lives. It was exciting to see the life of people in Sweden and live it with them. I am truly grateful I was provided this opportunity.





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