Travel as a means of Education

Recently, our school had some visitors. A group of students from the Netherlands had visited our school as a part of the student exchange program called “EUMIND” or Europe Meets India.

Back in May, twelve students had gone to the Netherlands from the same program. There, they learnt about their culture. Their language, education system, history, habits and food along with so much more.

Now that they were here, it was them that would learn about our culture.

Of course they could know everything that they wanted from the internet or from books, but the program gave them something that any number of pictures and words would not. A first-hand experience.

They got to live each other’s’ lives, in each other’s homes. They got to taste Indian cuisine made by an Indian chef in an Indian restaurant. They got to learn about our schooling system by schooling with us for a week. They got to see the streets of Mumbai by walking on them rather than just reading about them.

Words and pictures leave a temporary impression. They create a temporary interest which soon disappears. An experience like this, remains forever embedded in our minds.

You pick up traits and qualities when you travel. You learn to be patient when a flight or bus is delayed. You learn new languages when you begin to talk to strangers. You become confident. You become humble enough to ask for help when you need it.

Education isn’t limited to textual knowledge, prose and poetry. Education is learning, and you keep learning with experience.

What’s the best way to gain experience?

Why, travelling, of course.