

Xavier School of Rural Management

Xavier University, Bhubaneswar

Rural Living and Learning Experience

RLE Mela 2015-16

RLE, an integral pedagogical component of the MBA-RM Program is mandatory for all students. Animated by the conviction that students of the **MBA-RM** must have the willingness, capacity and drive to learn from the lives of people with whom they are going to work, is the main component of RLE.

The event was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor of Xavier University, Prof. Dr. Fr. Paul Fernandes S.J.

Students are attached to a development organization and stay in a village for **forty five (45) days** to understand village society, economy and polity in all its complexities, learn to appreciate the difficulties faced by communities and experience for themselves the wisdom and resilience with which households and communities order their lives.



Students are often placed in under-served rural areas and carry out active projects and research and documentation necessary for conveying local conditions and processes to the world; this helps them learn as also to add value to the communities and organizations which host them.

Fieldwork to learn Participatory Rural Appraisal, and micro research and field application projects included in other courses also provide practical opportunities. These facilitate students to design systems that connect the local, regional and global stakeholders and plan innovative interventions in rural areas.



The students were divided into 27 groups and stayed at villages of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and some other states as part of their Rural Living and Learning Experience programme. Each group consisted of two to five students. As many as 81 students had taken part in the programme between November 17 and December 31 last year.



The Xavier University had tied up with organisations such as Unnati, Abhiyan, Udyogini, Srijan, Parivar Vikas, SLI-Auroville, Sodhana, Farm2Food Foundation, Tambul Plates, Gram Vikas, Mrida, Atragamee, Seva Mandir and the Ajeevika Bureau for the programme.



