



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Experiential Learning Visit to Leather Shadow Puppet Village





PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY

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EVENT REPORT

Experiential Learning Visit to Leather Shadow Puppet Village

1. About Event

*The Presidency School of Liberal Arts and Sciences (SOLAS), Presidency University, Bengaluru, organised an experiential learning visit to **Jeekavandlapaali Village, near Chikkaballapur**, on 21 February 2026. Curated by **Local Narratives**, the visit provided students with first-hand exposure to indigenous art practices, traditional craftsmanship, and rural community life.*

2. Event Details

- **Title:** Experiential Learning Visit to Leather Shadow Puppet Village
- **Date:** 21 February 2026
- **Venue:** Jeekavandlapaali Village, Chikkaballapur
- **Organiser:** Presidency School of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- **Curated by:** Local Narratives
- **Participants:** SOLAS Students
- **Focus:** Indigenous art, traditional craftsmanship, cultural heritage, and rural community life

3. Objectives

- To provide students with direct exposure to indigenous art and traditional craft practices.
- To familiarise students with the techniques involved in leather shadow puppetry.
- To connect classroom learning on culture, heritage, and tradition with lived experiences.
- To create awareness of the socio-economic realities of traditional artisans.
- To encourage appreciation and preservation of indigenous cultural practices.

4. Event Proceedings

The students interacted with a multi-generational artisan practising **Tholu Bommalata**, a traditional leather shadow puppetry art form. The artisan demonstrated the process of preparing leather, sketching figures, and painting puppets using natural pigments. He also explained how stories from the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* are traditionally presented during village festivals.

Students observed the tools, materials, and techniques used in puppet-making and participated in a hands-on activity involving basic sketching and colouring under the artisan's guidance.

The visit also included an interaction at the local **Paalvaadi (village early childhood centre)**, where students observed the learning environment and community



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engagement. The artisan's family hosted the students and engaged them in informal discussions on livelihoods, transmission of craft traditions, and rural life.

5. Outcomes & Impact

The visit enabled students to gain first-hand knowledge of an indigenous art form and understand the skill, precision, and dedication required to sustain traditional crafts. It provided insights into the livelihoods and challenges of artisans while strengthening students' understanding of culture and heritage through direct community interaction.

The programme also encouraged students to reflect on the importance of preserving traditional knowledge and supporting artisan communities.

6. SDG Alignment

- **SDG 4 – Quality Education:** Promoting experiential learning and connecting classroom knowledge with real-world cultural and community experiences.
- **SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth:** Creating awareness of traditional artisan livelihoods and the economic realities associated with sustaining indigenous crafts.
- **SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities:** Encouraging meaningful interaction with rural communities and greater understanding of diverse social and economic contexts.
- **SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities:** Supporting awareness and appreciation of indigenous cultural heritage and traditional art practices.
- **SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production:** Highlighting traditional, skill-based craft practices and the use of natural materials in artisanal production.

7. Conclusion

The visit to Jeekavandlapaali Village provided students with a meaningful experiential learning opportunity, enabling them to engage directly with traditional craftsmanship and rural community life. The interaction with artisans, hands-on puppet-making activity, and reflection session helped students develop a deeper appreciation for indigenous heritage, traditional knowledge, and the communities that sustain these practices.



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Poster



Event Picture

