

# Field Visit To Tribal Museum

## Human Development and Sustainable Development

Tuesday - 20 August 2019



The students of MBA (Sustainability Management) first year had a wonderful opportunity to visit the the Tribal Museum located in the Bhubaneswar city as a part of their course curriculum for "Human Development and Sustainable Development" taken by Prof. Dr. Elizabeth Abba. The field visit gave the students an exposure to the lives of the tribal people, their way of thinking and the immense care and sense of responsibility they have towards their community. The students also got to have a glimpse at the various tool and techniques these people use for agriculture, the kind of clothes they wear, the traditions they follow and their beliefs.

The Tribal Museum in Bhubaneswar was established in the year 1953. This Museum is an integrated part of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI). The main aim of the museum is to protect and promote the Tribal culture of the state. The museum exhibits a wide spectrum of the tribal treasure of Odisha. In 2010, this museum was recognised as the best among the 21 Tribal Museums in India by UNESCO. It has 5 galleries that showcases tribes of 61 different communities. There are dresses and ornaments, dokra items, musical instruments, hunting implements, fishing nets, weapons of offence and defence, agriculture tools, household objects, personal belongings, tribal art, photographs and terracotta items in the archive. Traditional costumes such as the ringa of the Bonda tribe, phute sari of the Santhals and gatungkap of Lanja Saora can be seen at the museum



### **“Tribal people get more out of life”**

The staff at the museum shared their knowledge with the students about these indigenous people. They shed light on how the tribals take only what is really needed, do not exploit the resources for their desires and have a very strong sense of community hood amongst themselves. A very interesting session was conducted by a research scientist at the museum who spoke about how tribal people have survived over the years, how they maintain their harmony. In his words “there is no input and output, they see it as lives and they live it to the fullest”. They believe in optimisation, resilience and organic approaches. He also spoke about how the livelihood portfolio for these people is shrinking, but since these people are culturally motivated and not theoretically motivated, they have managed to preserve their practices despite slowly phasing into the cities. They now attend schools, work in government sectors and hold important position.

A major takeaway from this very enriching field visit was that “adaption and innovation” go hand in hand and both are very important factors towards “Human Development” which is a major contributing factor towards “Sustainable Development”