

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL EXCURSIONS**

According to Francis Bacon, travelling is a part of education. An excursion is not just pleasure trip. It is an extension of the classrooms. So, most schools organise excursions to famous places every year.

Educational tours are part and parcel of life of students. Students need rest and entertainment after working hard for many days. Excursions can provide them with this much-needed leisure. They refresh their tired brains and add charms to their lives. Today, the government allows many concessions and grants for educational tours. The railways regularly allow about fifty percent concession on tours to educational and historical centres and places of importance like dams, hill stations, sanctuaries and monuments.

When students leave their surrounding and stay out for a few days with their friends and teachers, they develop qualities like self-confidence, responsibility, punctuality, self-reliance, tolerance and above all general knowledge. The students get first-hand knowledge of people and place while participating in an excursion. They can eat different kinds of food. When they have to eat a food which they don't like, it is training for them to face the adversities in life later. A good part of the organising and conduct to tour is done by the students. Thus it will help to bring leadership qualities. An excursion also gives them practical lessons in service.

Educational tours give the students practical experience of the world. They acquaint themselves with the style of living, habits, customs, clothing and traditions of people. Excursions broaden their outlook and they become cosmopolitan. They also learn to develop a spirit of tolerance. The students visit educational and historical centres, big cities and places noted for their scenic beauty. They see for themselves what they have only heard or read out. No classroom can teach as much as the students learn while they are on an educational tour. Thus excursions have great educational value.

From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, and from the Rann of Kutch to Arunachal Pradesh, our country provides hundreds of places known for architecture, scenic beauty, history, flora and fauna. Simply reading books on them produces only book-worms. For having enlightened citizens for a better world-order, we should encourage educational tours in schools and colleges and thus develop the personalities of our future generations.