



Sarvajanik College of Engineering and Technology



VISIT REPORT

Visit Organized by	NSS SCET
Name Of The place	Swaraj Ashram , Bardoli
Day of visit	17/12/2024
Time	9 AM - 4 PM
Semester	6
No. of students attended visit	21
No. of Faculty	4

Summary of visit: On 17th December 2024, NSS SCET organized a visit to Swaraj Ashram in Bardoli, Gujarat, to explore its historical significance in the Bardoli Satyagraha. We learned about Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's leadership and the Ashram's role in the freedom movement. We interacted with Dadi, Didi, and student's gaining insights into the Ashram's values of self-reliance, unity, and community service. The visit included a tour of Sardar Patel's Nivas and an Art Gallery, showcasing the region's cultural heritage. Overall, the visit deepened student's understanding of Gandhian principles and the importance of preserving history and culture.

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1.Introduction

The visit to Swaraj Ashram in Bardoli on 17th December 2024 was an insightful and enriching experience organized by NSS SCET. The tour provided a deeper understanding of the Ashram's historical significance and the ideals it represents. Swaraj Ashram holds a unique place in India's freedom struggle, being closely associated with the Bardoli Satyagraha led by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in 1928. The Ashram stands as a symbol of resilience, unity, and self-reliance, embodying the spirit of India's fight for independence.

During the tour, we had the opportunity to explore the Ashram's premises, interact with the dedicated individuals associated with it, and reflect on the values that it continues to preserve. This visit not only offered a glimpse into the sacrifices made by freedom fighters but also highlighted the importance of Gandhian principles such as self-discipline, community living, and non-violence, which remain relevant even today.

The interactions with Dadi, Didi, and the students further enriched the experience, offering personal insights into the legacy of the Ashram and its role in fostering education, empowerment, and cultural values.

2. About Swaraj Ashram

Swaraj Ashram, located in Bardoli, Gujarat, holds immense historical significance as a prominent landmark of India's struggle for independence. Established during the Bardoli Satyagraha of 1928, it became a center for organizing and supporting the peasant movement led by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who later earned the title of "Sardar" for his leadership and dedication.

The Bardoli Satyagraha was a pivotal event in the Indian freedom struggle. It was a non-violent protest against the unjust increase in land revenue taxes imposed by the British colonial administration. The farmers, unable to pay the excessive taxes due to poor harvests, turned to Sardar Patel for guidance. Under his leadership and with the support of local leaders and volunteers, the peasants collectively refused to pay taxes, demonstrating remarkable unity and determination. The success of this movement led to the return of confiscated lands and withdrawal of the oppressive tax regime, making Bardoli a symbol of courage and victory.

Swaraj Ashram served as the organizational hub for this movement, hosting meetings, planning strategies, and providing moral and emotional support to the participants. The Ashram stands today as a tribute to those who sacrificed their livelihoods and fought against colonial oppression. It also reflects the Gandhian principles of non-violence, truth, and self-reliance that guided the movement.

In addition to its historical importance, Swaraj Ashram continues to inspire visitors and future generations. The Ashram promotes education, self-discipline, and community values. It stands as a reminder of the power of collective action and the importance of justice, equality, and unity in society.

A visit to Swaraj Ashram not only provides an opportunity to learn about India's freedom struggle but also encourages reflection on the timeless principles of perseverance and leadership that led to success during

challenging times. The Ashram remains a proud symbol of India's fight for Swaraj (self-rule) and an enduring legacy of the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters.

3. Our Observation

During our visit to Swaraj Ashram, we observed the following key aspects:

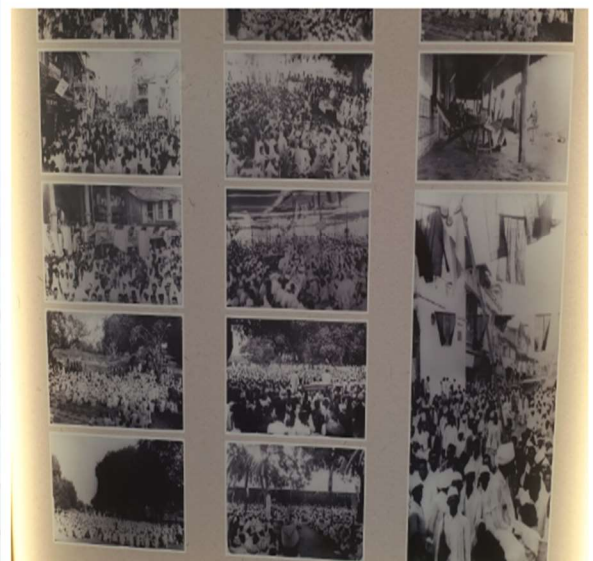
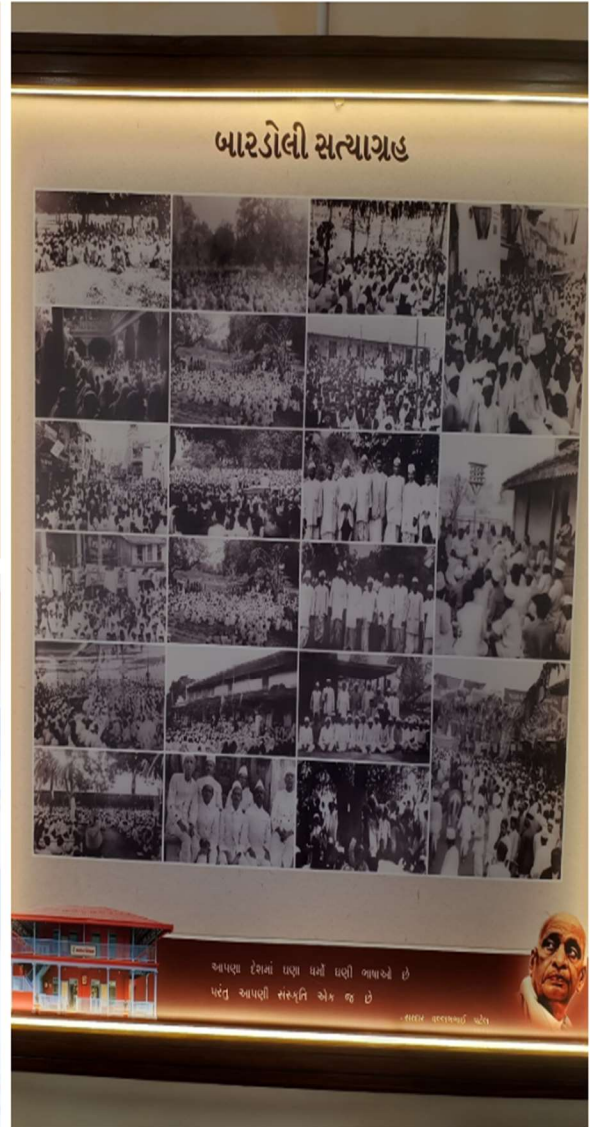
- **Swaraj Ashram Premises:** The Ashram is well-maintained, and its serene atmosphere mirrors the ideals of simplicity, truth, and non-violence championed by Mahatma Gandhi. Various artifacts, photographs, and written records of the Bardoli Satyagraha were on display, helping us understand the immense struggle and triumph of the farmers under Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's leadership.



- **Sardar Patel's Nivas:** A significant part of the visit included a stop at Sardar Patel's Nivas, his residence during his time in Bardoli. This humble abode offers a glimpse into Patel's life and his connection with the local people. The house reflects his simple living and dedication to the cause of the nation. It houses several personal belongings and historical artifacts that depict his leadership during the freedom movement and his role in post-independence India. Visiting this site was a powerful experience, allowing us to witness firsthand the space where Patel worked tirelessly to bring justice and unity to the people of Bardoli.



Art Gallery: Another highlight of the visit was the Art Gallery, which showcases paintings, sculptures, and other artistic representations that reflect the cultural heritage of the region. Many of the works in the gallery are inspired by the Indian freedom struggle, depicting scenes from the Bardoli Satyagraha and other historical events. The gallery also features contemporary art that emphasizes themes of unity, peace, and social justice—values deeply rooted in the Ashram's philosophy. The presence of these artworks not only enhanced our understanding of India's artistic evolution but also deepened our connection with the historical and cultural significance of the region. The visit provided a well-rounded perspective on the Ashram's historical importance, as well as a deeper understanding of Sardar Patel's life, leadership, and the cultural heritage of the area.



4.Our Dialogue with Dadi, Didi, and Students

- One of the most enriching parts of the visit was our interaction with Dadi, Didi, and students associated with the Ashram. The warm welcome we received from all the girls, who greeted us with the song "Dhruv Bhatt's Ochintu", was both heartfelt and memorable.
- Didi took us on a tour of the Ashram's every room, where she explained the work being done by the students. She shared how the students are learning various skills, including computer literacy, to equip themselves for the future while continuing the Ashram's tradition of community service. Didi also addressed our questions about the functioning of the Ashram, explaining how it has been running so smoothly and comfortably for so many years. She detailed the routines of the students, including their academic schedules, daily activities, and the emphasis placed on discipline, self-reliance, and community living.
- Dadi shared personal stories and experiences, recounting how the Ashram continues to uphold the values of selflessness, unity, and service to society. Their wisdom and dedication toward preserving the Ashram's heritage were evident in their every word, leaving a lasting impression on all of us. Dadi also emphasized the heritage of the Ashram and spoke about the importance of cultural preservation in the context of India's freedom struggle. She highlighted the contributions of the Ashram to the Bardoli Satyagraha, stressing how it became a beacon of courage and unity in the face of oppression.



5.Our Learnings from the Visit

The visit to Swaraj Ashram was a transformative experience that imparted several valuable lessons:

- **Unity and Resilience:** We learned how collective action and determination led to the success of the Bardoli Satyagraha, highlighting the power of unity in achieving justice.
- **Gandhian Values:** The principles of non-violence, truth, and self-reliance remain relevant even today, teaching us to address challenges with integrity and patience.
- **Sacrifices of Freedom Fighters:** The visit deepened our respect for the sacrifices made by leaders like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and the countless individuals who stood up against oppression.
- **Cultural and Educational Importance:** The Ashram continues to inspire generations, promoting education, moral values, and a sense of responsibility toward society.

Overall, the visit emphasized the importance of remembering our history and applying its lessons to address present and future challenges.