

Memorable, Educative and Happy Days they Were

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If anyone asks me “which period of your educational life was very happy and pleasant, my obvious answer is my stay at Gangotri during the course of B.Lib.Sc. (1971-72). Late Prof. P K Patil was then the University Librarian and Head of the Dept. of Library Science and was a fatherly figure by age, maturity, and possession of domain knowledge. He has shown affection on all of us. Prof. Khan, Prof. N B Pangannayya and Prof. K S Raghavan were our great *gurus* to whom we are grateful for ever. Ours was a batch of 27 students consisting of twelve boys and seventeen girls. We spent our student life like members of one family. I was staying in Students Village Hostel with my classmates -- Sri P Y Rajendra Kumar, Sri T N Prakash and Sri Chikkaveerappa and had an opportunity to use university library from morning 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

We had a nice local sight-seeing and temple tour to Nanjangud, Paper Mill, Talakadu and Somanathpura. Prof. Raghavan hosted lunch at his ancestral house near Talakadu to all the students and our teachers, Prof. Khan and Prof. Pangannayya, who accompanied us. In the evenings there were running competitions on the banks of river Kavery for men and women, Even Mrs. Khan and Mrs. Pangannayya participated in running race on a sandy shore. All were young in those days and everyone enjoyed the events.

We had an all India educational tour during November, 1971. Professor K S Raghavan was our faculty guide and Sri T N Prakash was the student leader. First, we travelled to Madras. We visited Libraries of British Council and U.S.I.S. and also Connemara Public Library. Prof. Raghavan was as young as 25 years then and some of the students like Sri Gopalaswamy and Sri Eraiah were much older than him. Hence, during our visits to Libraries some Librarians even mistook senior students as faculty guide instead of Prof. Raghavan. We travelled from Madras to New Delhi by Deccan Queen Express and spent our two days in the train by singing and chatting. We visited Libraries in New Delhi, Chandigarh, Mumbai, Pune and Dharwad. Prof. Khan was alumnus of Bombay University and had all the appreciation and high regards for his University. We were surprised to see many soldiers at Chandigarh railways station who were travelling to Punjab border. Later, we came to know that Indo-Pak war took place during December, 1971, and hence the troop movement took place during November, 1971. One may not believe that the cost of the tour was Rs.260/- only per person.



I wish to recall two incidents which took place during our tour. While touring in Bombay, we visited Elephanta caves located in an island of Arabian Sea. We gathered at “Gateway of India” and took a mechanized boat to Elephanta caves island which is ten km from Mumbai harbor. The visit was over at 4 p.m. and we were given the choice by the student leader either go directly to our rooms at Karnataka Bhavan (near King’s Circle) or go for shopping and return to Karnataka Bhavan before 9 p.m. My classmate Sri Eraiah and I opted to return to Karnataka Bhavan immediately. We moved to V T station, bought train tickets and boarded the local train. But, when I got down at King’s circle station I could not find Mr Eraiah. I thought that he can manage at his own and return to Karnataka Bhavan at 6 p.m. Mr.Eraiah returned at 9 p.m. and explained his story. Being ten years elder to me and bit slow, he tried to get down from local train in city bus style. But, local trains wait in each station for just 10 seconds and he could not manage himself in Bombay crowd. Hence, he unknowingly travelled three more stations when he got down from the train. The people around him in the station knew neither Kannada nor English and hence he could not communicate to them his problem. Somehow he managed to catch a train

coming from opposite direction, reach King’s circle station and walk to Karnataka Bhavan by 9 p.m. We had a sigh of relief after seeing him.

The second funny incident took place when we reached Pune station. All of us got down from the train along with luggage in the morning and eager to visit Jayakar Granthalay of Pune University. But, our good friend Sri N V Sathyanaranaya was still

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A great library is one nobody notices because it is always there, and always has what people need.

Vicki Myron