



**UNIVERSITY
OF MALAYA**



**REPORT ON OUTBOUND PROGRAMME TO
TAGORE DENTAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL**

**NAME : MARSHAH MOHAMAD BIN SHAHRIZAD [DIA160024]
JASMIN FADHILAH BINTI JAPRI [DIA160017]
YONG MING JUN [DIA170049]**

DATE : 12TH TO 17TH NOVEMBER 2018

LOCATION : TAGORE DENTAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, CHENNAI

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Background	3
Hospitality	3
Accommodation	4
Meals	4
Transportation	4
Learning Experience	5
Activities	6
Conclusion	7
Attachment	8

BACKGROUND

Tagore Dental College is a private teaching college located in the Rathinamalagam province of Chennai, India. The college was officially established in 2005. The college is run by the Tagore Educational Trust under the leadership of its Chairman Prof. M. Mala and the Principal, Prof. Chitra Chandran.

Tagore Dental College has roughly 150 academic staffs in 9 departments. The college has a yearly intake of 100 undergraduate students. The courses on offer are the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) and the Master in Dental Surgery (MDS). I was not informed of the exact number of postgraduate students enrolled.

The College is named after Rabindranath Tagore, a Bengali polymath who had a great thirst for knowledge spanning multiple fields. His exceptional talent in poetry inspired both the national anthems of India and Bangladesh. Until this day, his spirit remains as a source of admiration and inspiration to the students there.

HOSPITALITY

The people of Chennai were very hospitable to us. We owed them a lot for helping us order food or just explaining to us what was going on outside on the streets. They acted as if they were our bodyguards, tour guides as well as translators. Those who were always there by our sides were Dr Bharath, Dr Santosh as well as Dr Bala who were interns of the hospital.

For the academic staff, Prof Jimson and Dr Bala from the department of oral surgery was a great help to us too. Prof Jimson especially, since he helped us with our immigration troubles faced at the airport. Dr Bala was especially friendly and he was the one who assigned interns to look after our wellbeing for the duration of our stay in Tagore.

Many of the lecturers there are ex-colleagues of our very own lecturers in UM. Amongst those mentioned were Assoc. Prof Dr Jacob and Assoc. Prof Dr Thomas, that helped us to break the ice.

Last but not least was the great sincerity seen through Prof Chitra Chandran took great effort to meet us twice during our stay. She expressed her gratitude that we were willing to come all the way from Malaysia to visit their college.

ACCOMMODATION

We were given on-campus accommodation and were assigned the postgraduate suites which were very comfortable. Our rooms were furnished with one single bed, a locker and a study desk. The room also had an en suite bathroom.

The rooms given were spacious and the staff on duty were helpful. They were always ready to offer themselves to help tidy our rooms during the day.

MEALS

We spent most of the time within campus grounds which meant that we mostly ate whatever was available on campus. The canteen beside the college was where we headed to during our mealtimes. The meals that were on offer were very affordable and delicious. As a Muslim, Marshah and Jasmin were given assurance that most of the chicken products served in Chennai are halal.

Thus, we had given our best to try all that Chennai has to offer. The dental students there were so helpful when it comes to helping us order our meals which could have easily got lost in translation. We really appreciate their gesture and was extremely delighted to be able to taste the various dishes such as paneer butter masala with naan, vegetable briyani with raitha and idly with sambar.

TRANSPORTATION

Our transportation to the college from the airport was arranged by the college. Two interns, Dr Mansoor and Dr Santosh greeted us at the arrival hall of the airport. They helped us with our bags and brought us to a nearby stall for refreshments.

During our stay, the interns of the college helped us with arrangements to go out shopping or for off campus meals. This helped us a lot since it removed difficulties in communication due to the language barrier. They took us around mostly by using Uber. Amongst the places we were taken to was T. Nagar for us to shop and see the affluent shopping district of Chennai in action.

Our transportation back to the airport was arranged by the college. A driver who lived nearby the airport took us there. They sent us there on time without any hitches. In terms of transportation, it was all very well taken care of.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

On our first day in Tagore Dental College, we were greeted by two vice principals of the college, Prof Ventaka and Prof Jimson. We were given demonstrations on procedures done by the prosthodontics department such as border moulding of complete denture case and impression taking of implants. We learned quite a lot, especially so in that we managed to compare the techniques employed by lecturers who were trained by different schools of thoughts.

On our second day were posted to the conservative dentistry department in which we had a look of their outpatient clinic. It is physically almost similar to what we have in our faculty only that in this department, we learned of how the students are posted to different clinic on a rotational basis. What we have in UM is the integrated curriculum in which a clinician follows up on a patient from start to finish on whatever treatment they might need.

In Tagore, they use a rotation-based system in which a group of students will be based in one department for around 5 weeks. They are only to conduct procedures pertaining to that discipline for the duration of their posting.

We also had the chance to discuss the most current method of caries detection to our hosts. Most of them have never heard nor utilised the ICDAS caries classification system. They are still using Black's classification. They seemed very interested with what we had to say, it was a great session in which exchanges in ideas were happening both ways.

In the afternoon, we headed to their preclinical lab, the equivalent of our optech lab in Balai Ungku Aziz. Their equipment is not as advanced as ours but that was not an issue since their students are just as able to do work with it.

On the third and fourth day, we attended the 6th Annual Surgical Workshop and Student's Convention organised by the Association of Oral Maxillofacial Surgeons of India (AOMSI). The event was arranged by the head of the oral surgery department of Tagore Dental College, Professor Jimson Samson.

We learned quite a lot from the surgical procedures shown. We witnessed procedures of third molar extraction, arch bar placement on a fractured mandible as well as an incision biopsy case. Apart from that, there were talks on ethics and professionalism pertaining to dentistry. Overall, the topics discussed were relevant for my level of knowledge.

During the last day of our visit, we were posted to the oral surgery department in the morning. We had a look on how their interns handle outpatient cases which needed extraction of teeth.

After lunch, we were guided to all the other departments that we have not visited to have a rough idea of how things are run in Tagore.

We concluded with a visit to their medical hospital and lastly, back to the Principal's office. Prof Chitra Chandran herself presented to us our certificates of attendance and we had a quick word with her soon after. She told me she was pleased to have visitors once in a while in her college and told us that Malaysian students are always welcomed to visit them again in the future.

ACTIVITIES

Apart from observing their classes and conference, we were also taken to the bustling epicentre of Chennai for sightseeing as well as shopping. Our hosts were very gracious to us since they helped us navigate and translate us through such a busy town.

We had the chance to visit T. Nagar, the busiest shopping district in Chennai which holds the biggest textile shops we have ever seen anywhere else. The sight of that busy area was just something that one has to experience firsthand.

We also had planned to visit Marina Beach, a popular stretch of beach in Chennai in which seafood and souvenirs are of abundance, but it was not meant to be. A typhoon paid Chennai a visit that very afternoon in which we all decided to call off that plan.

Nevertheless, we went to Kovalam Beach the next day to see how the locals take their time off and unwind after a long week. The beach had plenty of stalls selling seafood, either cooked or raw for the locals to savour. We went there to buy souvenirs instead.

Before we end our trip, we went for a big farewell dinner at a biryani restaurant just a few kilometres away from the campus. We had a huge feast in which we discussed over non-work-related issues such as their likelihood of having an arranged marriage and Royal Enfield motorcycles of which Ming Jun and Marshah were quite fond of.

On the return trip to the college, we chose to ride on the 'auto', the iconic motorised tricycle seen in movies. It was a great time with all of our Indian friends in Chennai and are grateful we met them.

CONCLUSION

Malaysian students have a lot to gain from visiting Indian dental colleges. Their colleges run on resources which are a lot more basic and a requires greater effort. However, we truly admired their unwavering spirit which is driven by their thirst for knowledge. We are also truly thankful for their hospitality throughout our stay in Chennai.

However, we wish to stress that for future visits to India, participants should be aware that a visa in needed to gain entry into India. In our case, since we are attending a conference, a business visa was required while the visa applied for us by a private agency was a tourist visa. This error nearly caused us to be deported back to Malaysia upon arrival at the airport. Nevertheless, the college managed to convince the immigration authorities to let us pass after much negotiations.

In conclusion, our trip was not always smooth sailing but it was made easier with the help of the staff of University of Malaya as well as the staff of the Tagore Dental College and Hospital. We had enjoyed the trip for the most part and would not hesitate to pay India another visit in the near future.

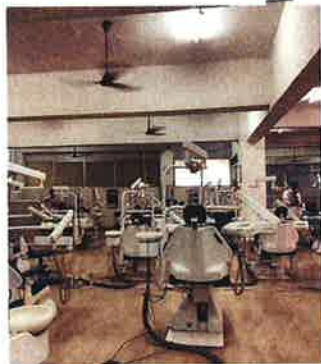
ATTACHMENTS



With Prof Jimson and Dr Bala of the oral surgery department



Typical layout of their clinics



Their oral maxillofacial department



A DPT machine, installed in their radiology department



Photo opportunity after visiting their hospital



Enjoying a typical Tamil breakfast of idly and vada with a cup of filter coffee



After a round of discussion on cavity preparation techniques