

Summer course in Hyderabad

Introduction

- Went to Hyderabad last July for a 4 week course in contemporary India
- 27 students from Scandinavian Universities
- Diverse academic backgrounds, mostly social science
- Diverse age group 21-38

Kept us busy

- Had about 18 lectures in 4 weeks
- 4 “my thoughts” assignments
- One book report
- One Exam
- One research essay

3 Field trips included in the course

- Two in Hyderabad sight seeing
- Visit an NGO in an small village to discuss Micro financing with the women who have actually experienced it

Academically

Dealt with many issues that are important to understand today's India such as

- Historical background
- The partition, Gandhi and Nehru
- Nationalism and democracy
- Colonialism
- Caste system
- Demographic diversity
- Poverty
- Women
- Tribes and the challenges they face
- Economy

Both theoretical and empirical lectures with diverse and proficient lecturers

Interesting

- Cultural differences
 - Language/pronunciation
 - Indian professors/Scandinavian students
 - Hierarchy
 - Living in an Indian hostel
 - Wild life
 - Clothing / manners / demeanor

Impediments

- Courses name
 - Not focused on contemporary India
 - I was missing some issues such as Hindutva, Naxilites, today's politics, Mumbai bombings, Opening of China/India border.
 - Hygiene

- Over all a great experience that I can recommend
- Great privilege to be able to experience something so different from “my” world