



Harimohan Ghose College

Department of Mathematics

Report on Educational Excursion

Venue: Zero Gallery, Ramakrishna Mission Residential College (Autonomous), Narendrapur, Kolkata-700103

Date: June 06, 2022

Objective: From our school days, we are familiar with the term “zero”. Zero, a seemingly simple number representing an empty quantity, has played an indispensable role in the realm of Mathematics and Science. But most of us are not fully aware of the history behind the genesis of this universally adopted notion. The “Zero Gallery” at Ramakrishna Mission Residential College, Narendrapur, Kolkata depicts the origin of zero throughout the history of several civilizations. This gallery is the result of continuous efforts of Prof. Parthasarathi Mukhopadhyay, a renowned researcher on ancient history of Mathematics, and his team. The main objective of the visit was to give the students a glimpse of the history related to this concept.

Learning Outcome: The educational tour was a wonderful learning experience for all the students as well as for all the faculty members. Before the tour inside the gallery a documentary film by Prof. Mukhopadhyay was shown, which delves into the intriguing history of the invention of zero. During the visit inside the gallery, Prof. Mukhopadhyay helps everyone to look into the pages of history behind the origin of zero. As a result, the students came to know about several civilizations and their numeral systems, for example, Egyptian Numeral System, Babylonian Numeral System, Inca Numeral System, Greek Numeral System, Roman Numeral System, Chinese Numeral System, Indian Numeral System etc. and how the history of enumeration system evolves from ancient civilization to our present day. This gives them a complete story of not only the origin zero but also the origin of the world wide used numeral system, the Hindu-Arabic Numeral System or the Indo-Arabic Numeral System.



