

## Outward Bound Programmes

Education through Travel

*“It is probably true quite generally, that in the history of human thinking, the most fruitful developments take place at those points where two different lines of thought meet. These lines may have their roots in quite different parts of human culture, in different times or different cultural environments or different religious traditions: hence if they actually meet, that is, if they are so much related to each other that a real interaction can take place, then one may hope that new and interesting development may follow.” - Werner Heisenberg*

Human beings are a restless species. Driven by a strong instinctive curiosity, explorers have scoured the earth to discover what lies beyond the far horizon. Overcoming every obstacle to reach their goal, they have conquered the fear of the unknown world...they have travelled from the time when the first people left Africa to settle the globe.

Where does one begin with the Journey of Man and where does one end? What has shaped/is shaping us?

### **Technology and skills?**

Certain skills that now seem primitive to us were initially a breakthrough for the human race.

### **Rise of the major religions?**

They too influenced millions of people.

### **The way in which the Universe was seen?**

The intense power of the moon, the stars and the night sky on human experience.

### **Empires?**

The size of the territory which one leader, or one state, can rule has grown progressively larger.

### **Events?**

The Dolomite shepherd or hunter of 3000 BC, the Bride of the Yellow River, the burials in the Danish bogs, the Roman wine trade, the way of life of the New Zealand Maoris, the 15<sup>th</sup>-century octagonal dome of Florence Cathedral, the first newspaper, the telephone network, the influence of the Indian indigo plant on the colour blue, the death of Tchaikovsky, the tea leaf, weapons of mass destruction, the evening of the peace-signing in Tokyo Harbour in August 1945.....

*Has anything really changed?*

*Can one say that the story of human ingenuity through the ages is different today?*

The answers to the above queries are debatable but the two elements that cannot be alienated from the lives of Man are **History** and **Geography**...and which comes first? It has been said, “In our own beginnings, we are formed out of the body's interior landscape. For a short while our mothers' bodies are the boundaries and personal geography, which are all that we know of the world.”

From these initial boundaries we have travelled out into other geographical landscapes, creating another bit of history, for certainly, **travel is more than the seeing of sights**; it is a change that goes on, deep and permanent, in the ideas of living.

It is of great importance then that Outward Bound Programmes be planned with care so that they do not become the run-of-the-mill 'touristy packages' - a mere mediocre outing! What I am talking about is the undertaking of programmes that lead to the expansion of an individual's perception of the world – where the mirror of the mind becomes a window with ever-growing frames.

Of course, the logistics involved in the organisation of such programmes (in terms of survey, educational output, networking of resources/personnel, needs of the children/parents/traveller, authenticity of the experiential programme) – are phenomenal! However, initiative and open thinking will make the task possible.

At this juncture, I take the liberty of quoting Thomas Fuller:

*“Know most of the rooms of thy native country before thou goest over the threshold thereof.”*

Along with the International Outward Bound Programmes, we must have programmes within the country. Here again, like the international programmes, I am in a position to identify and secure locations that no other 'camp organizer' is even aware of.

Experience in coping with the unfamiliar is a powerful aid for the ability to handle change. These personalised programmes are not used to test physical fitness or expertise.

As an artiste, educator, traveller, writer and wildlife conservationist, I professionally undertake specialised needs of discerning national and international holidaymakers – from planning to implementation to escorting – especially Kachchh (Kutch)/Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Laddakh.

So, take your *Mind for a Walk* – with me!

### **Arun Agnihotri**

*Former Director:*

*The Corbett Foundation*

*& Gujarat Nature Conservation Society*

Mobile: +91-94280 67578

Email: [arunagni@gmail.com](mailto:arunagni@gmail.com)

BlogSpot: [www.bichhubooti.wordpress.com](http://www.bichhubooti.wordpress.com)