

School of Human Studies Gender Studies 2024-25 Monsoon Fieldwork

REPORT ON FIELDBASED ACTIVITIES AS PART OF CURRICULAM

Focus Group Discussion Participation for Experiencing the Self (SHS202848) The students of 1st semester, M.A. Gender Studies participated in a focus group discussion on "Anti-Rape Campaigns and Gender Based Justice in India" on 18-9-2025 at Saket, New Delhi. The study is conducted by Texas A & M University, USA and led by Dr. Chaitanya Lakkimsetti. The purpose of this research was to understand the public attitudes towards gender-based violence in India. This was part of the field-based activity for the course "Experiencing the Self." This was deeply connected to the whole course and the students participated actively in the discussion around their ideas around gender-based violence.

At the **ISKCON Temple** (17th August, 2025), students witnessed Bhakti as a sensory and performative practice. Devotional acts such as Kirtan, darshan, and ritual repetition generated knowledge beyond the purely textual, making learning through Bhakti vivid, affective, and intersubjective. This demonstrated how devotion—rather than a passive act—is an active epistemic stance through which practitioners interpret their world



"Field Visits for the course "Being in the World, Knowing the World: Bhakti as Jñāna – Indian Women and their Spiritual Quests (6th–12th Century CE)" (SHS202846_

At **Nizamuddin Dargah** (21st August, 2025), Sufi and Bhakti traditions converged, revealing shared languages of longing, surrender, and divine love. Guided by Syed Bilal Nizami, the visit highlighted how these traditions transcend sectarian divides, reflecting the ganga-jamuni tehzeeb—a historic ethos of coexistence challenging rigid religious and gendered boundaries. For students, the experience blurred the lines between "observer" and "devotee," expanding understandings of spiritual knowledge as relational and collective



The visit to Mata **Amritanandamayi Math** (31st August, 2025) brought these insights into the present. Amma's community blends emotional surrender with active service, redefining spirituality through humanitarian care and education. The experience foregrounded women's agency as spiritual leaders and knowledge bearers, resonating with the course's focus on Indian women's spiritual quests