



Rukmani Birla Modern High School
collaborated with
Rooftop

PHAD SE PADH PROJECT

"EPIC QUA EDUCATIONAL
SERVICE"



When the idea of this project was pitched to us, our creative streak was instantly activated. This project transforms the orthodox connotations attached to Phad painting and develops a sense of cultural inquiry in the young minds of the country.

To complete the 'Padh' part of the 'Phad se Padh' project, the Economics Department decided to build the story on the subject of welfare economics. The aim was to teach economics in an interesting way by incorporating the two contrasting elements of art and theory. The story revolves around the topic of the government budget. Our journey begins with an intricately painted scene of the royal court where the air is filled with excitement as the budget is being announced. Several commoners come forward with their respective problems such as rising prices, income disparity and other recurring issues faced by farmers. The solution to all of them is proposed in the budget under six chief objectives, namely: reallocation of resources, reducing inequalities, economic stability, economic growth, management of resources, and balanced regional development. They are implemented by promoting small-scale industries, increasing the autonomy of public sector undertakings, and expanding facilities in rural areas.

Moving forward, the Fine Arts Department was responsible for bringing life into the characters of the story. It was a tedious process to visualize the story and convert words into art that speaks for itself. It was indeed a back breaking exercise due to the limited colour scheme and the humongous size of the canvas. However, months of hard work bore fruit and they were able to make Phad their own. With the painting process done and dusted, it was now time to create a musical composition unfolding the story, also known as 'A Song in A Scroll'. The lyrics and the music were composed keeping the traditional Bhopa-Bhopi style in mind with a slight modification to the storytelling technique. Our students were very enthusiastic about the prospect of having their first experience at a recording studio. Albeit getting the clarity of pronunciations was difficult, our Music Department managed it quite well.

This interdisciplinary project managed to provide students and teachers alike with a deep introspection into the ever-changing culture of India. We have immense respect for the Joshi family who have done a great service to mankind by making Phad painting global. Our respected Principal, Dr. Anjana Kumar firmly believes that children 'learn by doing' and this project has served as an eye opener where we have taken a traditional approach to teach something present in the students' syllabi. She also feels that traditions need to be assessed according to the evolving society and therefore appropriate changes have been made to our painting to make it more 'relevant' for the contemporary world. The Phad se Padh project is truly a melange of 'modern' and 'conventional'.