

Conservation education during Wildlife Week 2017 in Government Schools, Uttar Pradesh

In India, the first week of October month is celebrated as Wildlife Week since 1952 with the view to preserve the Natural wealth of India. Wildlife Week is an important occasion to involve the younger generation so as to sensitize them towards the natural world. The conservation education is often neglected in the prescribed school setting, particularly with the increasing stress on consistent testing in most of the school systems. With this vision, conservation education was planned for the Wildlife Week (1st -7th October 2017) in Government schools of Uttar Pradesh. Total 50 schools were covered in a week with the help of 7 team leaders and 14 volunteers. The total strength of students that were well-informed during the week varied between 2500-3000.

The surplus of approaches by the team members to wildlife conservation teaching in schools



Students preparing animal masks



Students colouring the animals according to numbers

highlights the significance of perception, and utilizing the school atmosphere in a group of learners to give full advantage of benefits to students and teachers. The first step in celebrating Wildlife Week in schools was to take the time to understand the school environment by interacting with the teachers. The second step was to involve every student present in the school. No competition was organized in any of the schools; the participation of every student was ensured. The two activities were coloring



Students with their prepared animal masks

according to numbers and mask preparation of various animals such as lion, monkey, Langur, elephant, butterfly and owl. The team members shared fascinating facts about these animals and their role in our ecosystem. The students also noted these in their note books. Another interesting activity was learning animal drawings from numbers. The volunteers

also taught the students to draw animals keeping numbers as base such as stork from 2, monkey from 69, owl from 63, rabbit from 3, whale from 22, woodpecker from 12. The connection between teachers and conservation educators' makes conservation edification in schools not only feasible, but also important to one and all. Understanding of the students and their minds helped in linking the Wildlife conservation education program to the local environment. The activities undertaken also addressed serious thoughts, creative ideas, mutual learning, and values explanation related to wildlife. Supplemental materials such as flyers, posters, pamphlets and bookmarks were provided to the schools by IBCS team members. Dissemination of education on wildlife conservation is an influential move towards the involvement of students, teachers, organizations and local people. The one week celebration was possible with the cooperation of teachers, students, School staff and volunteers of Indian Biodiversity Conservation Society and Sarthak Pragati Prayas Sansthan, Jhansi.



Animal drawings from numbers

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