

## Education Reports

### Environmental Education Outreach Programmes for Yamuna Eco-Scholar (YES) Members

Yamuna Eco-Scholar (YES) is a special Eco-Club formed at ten different sites, from Yamunotri to Allahabad, in local schools lying in the vicinity of River Yamuna. In the months of October and November 2012 five environmental education programmes using Zoo Outreach Organisation educational materials were organized on various environmental issues as described under:

YES Katapathar, Dehradun Dist., Uttarakhand-Distribution of Zoo Outreach Organisation Educational Materials: On 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2012, Yamuna Swachata Samiti Katapathar (Friends of River) was given educational materials for distribution to three local schools. This was first time that such issues and literature was reaching to these areas. The Samiti was excited and received the materials with interest.

YES Oba, Mathura Dist., Uttar Pradesh-Ape the Pollinators: On 22 October 2012, material was used to spread awareness on apes working as pollinators, to shed light how human being has threatened the natural life cycle of bears and informative facts on bats. More than 70 YES members from three local schools namely RBS Public School, Man Singh Atar Devi Public School, Sri Dua Ji Maharaj Public School were outreached through these awareness programmes.

YES Kharadi, Uttarkashi Dist., Uttarakhand-Vulture Shock: On 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013, Yamunotri Sewa Samiti, Kharadi (Friends of River) organized an awareness session on vulture. About 80 YES students from Suman Grammer Public School and Yamdagni Rishi Public School, Kharadi were briefed on the importance of vulture. Once commonly seen vultures have gradually disappeared from mountain area. For about two hours students were made aware on the reasons behind their disappearance and the significance of vultures in eco-system by Sri Tilak Chand Ramola a local media reporter and a keen environmental enthusiast.

YES Kanalsi, Yamuna Nagar, Dist., Haryana -Daily Life Wildlife: On 04 November 2012, Sri Sanjay Kumar, a



Yamuna Eco-Scholars Oba, Mathura Dist. with ZOO education materials



Students and teachers attended the vulture shock programme at Kharadi

self-motivated teacher and member of Yamuna Gram Sewa Samiti, a local NGO organized an educational session to impart basic information about animals and birds seen commonly in countryside to the students of YES. They were encouraged not to harm any living being.

About 15 Yamuna Eco-Scholars (YES) from 5-8 standards, Government Middle School, Kanalsi and 15 Yamuna Eco-Scholars from Yamuna Public School participated in this awareness session.

YES Ramra, Muzzafar Nagar Dist., Uttar Pradesh-Save the Bats: On 21 November 2012, about 15 Yamuna Eco-Scholar (YES) from Vidhya Bharti Public School were educated on the importance of bats by Sri Sompal Singh, President of Yamuna Gram Sewa Samiti Ramra (Friends of River).

Bats are grossly mistaken mammals in countryside areas. Valuable information from the material about species, habitats and importance of bats was shared among the students.

*In first of its kind efforts environmental education programmes was introduced to the rural area. Around a dozen schools located in five different districts in three States beside River Yamuna were covered under this drive. More than 300 YES members were outreached and sensitized over different issues impacting wild animals and nature. The material was found to be useful, playful and educative. Friends of river group took great interest throughout the programs.*

**Submitted by: Mr. Bhim Singh Rawat, Project Officer, Peace Institute Charitable Trust, New Delhi. Email: we4earth@gmail.com.**



**Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udayan Zoo, Mumbai conducts Zoo Awareness Programmes for Municipal School teachers**

As per guidelines laid by the Central Zoo Authority under the "National Zoo Policy 1998" the main objectives of the zoo is to protect, conserve & breed the rare and endangered animals and also to conduct various educational activities for creating empathy in the minds of citizens and schools/college students. Accordingly various educational activities are being conducted at V.J.B. Udayan Zoo.

As a part of these educational activities, "Zoo Awareness Programmes" are being conducted for the municipal school teachers because it was felt that if the teachers are made aware about the Dos' and Donts' in the Zoo & New Policy of zoo keeping etc. they can carry and convey this information/message to thousands of students studying under them and indirectly to their parents also very effectively. This will surely make them well equipped with the right knowledge of zoo animals, rules and regulations and also different development works and other activities being taken up by zoo administration.

These programmes are being conducted ward wise in collaboration with the Education department of Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. Two teachers are selected from each school covering 24 Municipal wards for participating in the awareness programmes. These teachers come in a group (maximum number of participants in each group is 24) on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. It has started from 9 August 2012 and so far 17 programmes conducted in which 360 teachers participated representing from the schools of six corporation wards.

Each programme begins with an introductory lecture by the Education-cum-P.R.O to create awareness about the modern concept of zoo keeping as per the National Zoo Policy-1998, which is followed by a guided tour. The interesting and useful information regarding the flora and fauna is imparted during the guided tour. Afterwards, Director and Dy. Supdt. (Vet) are conducting an interactive session to eliminate any misconceptions about the management of the zoo and also giving more information about the role of zoos in protection and conservation of wildlife.

Power point presentations about various Educational activities being conducted at the zoo and on the project undertaken by the M.C.G.M. Administration for further development of V.J.B. Udayan-Zoo are given to the teachers by the senior staff.

Participant's feedback is collected at the end of the programme in the forms. They are awarded with participation certificates. The teachers expressed that they liked the programme very much and they are now well equipped with for giving basic information about the changed concept of zoo keeping to their students.

**Submitted by: Mr. Anil M. Anjankar, Director. Email: [vjbudyanzoo@yahoo.co.in](mailto:vjbudyanzoo@yahoo.co.in).**

**Daily life Wildlife Programme at National Zoological Park, New Delhi**

National Zoo celebrated "The Youth Day" on 5 & 12 January 2013 with students who came from various schools around Delhi. They were selected through written examination conducted by the Vacation Program of Environment Resources (VPER 2012-2013).



**Municipal School Teachers taken around the Mumbai Zoo in a guided tour.**



Aravali Foundation for Education and Department of Environment, Govt. of NCT of Delhi had jointly conducted ten Vacation Program of Environmental Resources (VPER). The ten-day programme attended by 60 participants, who were divided into two separate groups under the Eco Clubs scheme of the Department of Environment, Govt. of NCT of Delhi. These 60 participants were selected through a written test conducted among 1500 applicants.

As a part of the programme the two groups of students visited the National Zoo on 5 and 12 January respectively. During that time we conducted an awareness programme on Daily life Wildlife and Zoo Outreach Organization's education packet was used. The objective of the programme was to generate awareness about urban wildlife, its management and also its importance in our daily life. First of all, the students were taken around the zoo and they were explained all about wildlife at the zoo and role of the zoos in conservation. Then they were supplied with education kits.

They went through the packet items such as the booklet, know your Wildlife Welfare ABCs brochure, headband, rakhi (wrist band), make your insect album etc., they tied the rakhi each other, put the headband and made the insect album. They were told about in detail the wildlife that is found in their



**Wildlife Welfare ABCs filled up by a student**

neighborhood and the importance to save them.

The children enjoyed all the programs and the coordinator appreciated the efforts saying that program was not only interesting but informative also and helped to orient the children in the right direction. The Youth Day programme was celebrated very successfully.

We would like to thank the Zoo Outreach Organization & Wildlife Information Liaison Development and Universities Federation for Animal

Welfare, UK for providing such informative package that are highly applauded by the masses and are proving to be a boon for the wildlife conservation. **Submitted by: Mr. Riaz Ahmad Khan, Curator (Edu) & Mr. Saurabh Vashisth (Edu.Asst.).** Email: [kunwarrakhan@gmail.com](mailto:kunwarrakhan@gmail.com); [vashisth88@gmail.com](mailto:vashisth88@gmail.com)

**One of the student groups with education staff**

