

## Animal Welfare Fortnight 2013 - Education Reports

### Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

The Animal Welfare Fortnight programme of Indira Gandhi Zoological Park has been a major activity through which we attempt to bring about positive changes in the attitude of the people towards wild animals living in their native habitats as well as in zoos and captive breeding centres. As a part of this Animal Welfare Fortnightly Programme, this year we organized a half-day awareness programme for school students at the Zoo Education Centre on 12-01-2013. About 50 students of secondary grade from different schools in the city actively participated and thoroughly enjoyed the programme.

The programme was divided into two sessions: the first session was interactive and was meant for giving basic introduction about biodiversity of India in the form of powerpoint presentation and photographs. During this session, the intricate interconnectedness of living organisms in an ecosystem was discussed along with other aspects like importance of biodiversity, threats to the biodiversity, measures to be taken to save biodiversity. The posters designed by Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore on Biodiversity theme were distributed to the participants.

The Chief Guest Mr. G. Ramalingam, Deputy Conservator of Forests and Curator of the zoo, addressed the gathering. He shared many interesting facts on biodiversity with the participants. He emphasized on the fact that such programmes are critical for raising conservation awareness among students since they hold the future of our planet and urged them to actively participate in more such programmes in future. The students as well as teachers interacted with the Chief Guest and clarified their queries pertaining to wildlife and conservation of flora and fauna.

Later, the students were involved in an interactive "Web of Life" activity to make them aware of the complex relationships that exist amongst various living and non-living components in nature. The participants enjoyed the programme as it was very thought provoking and informative as well.



**A talk on biodiversity of India given by the Zoo Biologist**



**Mr. Ramalingam, Curator presenting the certificates and AWF posters**

The second session started with interactive quiz competition on Biodiversity, which was followed, by Elocution competition. The Chief Guest awarded the winners of the competitions with prizes. All participants of the programme were also given participation certificates separately. The programme ended with a vote of thanks.

Acknowledgements: We would like to thank Zoo Outreach Organization for generously sending us very informative education material, which was used, and much appreciated by the participants during this programme.

**Submitted by K.L.N Murthy,  
Biologist, Vizag Zoo. Email:  
klnmurthy25@gmail.com**

### **Veer mata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan- Zoo, Mumbai, Maharashtra**

As a part of various educational activities being conducted at the Zoo, throughout Animal Welfare Fortnight 2013, Zoo Awareness programmes were conducted for municipal school teachers from F-South Ward on 15, 17, 22 and 24 January 2013. The programmes were also conducted for 43 teacher trainees from SIES, Institute of Comprehensive Education, Sion (West), Mumbai on 18 and 19 January 2013 and for 22 college students and 3 accompanying professors from Ramnarayan Ruia College, Matunga Mumbai on 21 January 2013. In all, 79 School Teachers, 65 College Students and 3 Professors participated in these



**The AWF posters used in the zoo awareness programme at Mumbai Zoo**



**Students are going through the AWF posters**



**Children who participated in competitions with the posters**

programmes. The poster entitled "ABC Biodiversity" received from Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore were used in these programmes.

Mr. Anil L. Paranjpe, Education-cum-Public Relations Officer of the zoo conducted various activities. The day's programme opened with an introductory lecture about the Role of Zoos in Wildlife Conservation, Protection and Education as per the National Zoo Policy 1998 given to the participants for creating love, interest and awareness among them. Following the lecture, a guided tour was conducted to meet the wild residents of the zoo. Emphasis was given on how to "observe" the animals in terms of their external characteristics. The participants gained basic information of the various resident animals. Then, ZOO's posters entitled "ABC Biodiversity" were distributed to the participants and they were informed about how to use them for educating other students in their school. An interactive question-answer session was conducted thereafter.

These programmes were a grand success and the participating students and teachers expressed that such programmes helped in creating awareness in their minds about the importance of protection of Wildlife in general and also about the Role of the Zoos in Wildlife Conservation.

**Submitted by: A. M. Anjankar,  
Director. Email:  
vjbudyanzoo@yahoo.co.in.**

**Tata Steel Zoological Park,  
Jamshedpur, Jharkhand**

Animal Welfare Fortnight is celebrated to generate awareness among public about treating animals in a humane manner and for prevention of unnecessary pain and suffering to them. Started in 1964 by Late Mrs. Rukmini Devi Arundale, founder chairperson of Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), Animal Welfare Fortnight is celebrated every year across India from 14-31, January.

In order to promote animal welfare in Jamshedpur and to generate empathy and action for animals through informative and useful programs, Tata Steel Zoological Park in association with Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), Jamshedpur organized events on the fortnight.

Prabhat Pheri, a 2.5 Km walk for creating awareness on animal welfare, nature and wildlife was organized on 16 January, flagged off by Karma Zimpa Bhutia, I.F.S, Divisional Forest Officer, Dhalbhum Forest Division, East Singhbhum. 188 students accompanied by 6 teachers from 4 different schools and 15 zoo officers and staff participated in the long walk with a banner portraying the pledge for animals -"Live and let live". On 18 January, an inter-school quiz competition was organized and total of 44 students in 22 teams from 11 schools participated.

An inter-school debate competition was organized on 21 January. A total of 41 students from 11 schools participated. The topic for the debate was "Is Non-vegetarian food really necessary for us?". An inter-school on-the-spot essay writing competition was organized on 25 January. A total of 108 students from 14 schools participated. The topic for the essay was ---"Importance of Animals in our life" An open for all on-the-spot slogan writing competition was organized on 30 January, on the topic "Animal welfare". There were 192 participants from schools and general public.

AWF concluded on 31 January with a prize distribution ceremony. The guest speakers were Mr. A.K. Dubey, Inspector SPCA, Prof. (Dr.) K.K. Sharma, Head, Department of Zoology, Co-operative College, Jamshedpur and Mr. Kanhaiya Upadhyay, DSP, Law and Order, Jamshedpur, who was also the Chief Guest for the closing ceremony. Vote of thanks was given by Mr. Bipul Chakrabarty, Director, Tata Steel Zoological Park.

Ms. Seema Rani, Biologist cum Education Officer and her team of zoo volunteers led by Ms. Deblina organized the entire fortnight celebrations and ensured participation of more than 550 students from 15 different schools of the city for the programme. **Submitted by: Mr. Bipul Chakrabarty, Director. Email:tatazoo@sify.com.**

**Pilikula Regional Science Centre, Mangalore, Karnataka**  
In collaboration with Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore, we organized a programme to celebrate Animal Welfare Fortnight - 2013 to the students of Govt. High School,



**Ms. Priyanka, Edu. Asst., explains about the ABC Biodiversity poster**

Moodushedde, Mangalore on 24.01.2013.  
The programme was planned to create awareness among the students regarding the conservation of bio-diversity, especially animals – both domestic and wild. About 60 students of the high school participated in the programme. Mr. Jagannath and Ms. Priyanka, Education Assistants of Pilikula Regional Science Centre, Mangalore organized the event.

A brief introduction of What Animal Welfare Fortnight is, Why is it being celebrated? Why are both domestic and wild animals important, and why they need to be treated with kindness, etc., was given by Ms. Priyanka and Mr.

Jagannath. The need to conserve both domestic and wild animals was discussed with questions and answers among the participant students. The Environmental games like Who am I? regarding awareness of animals, their food habits and importance of conserving were played during the day and children enjoyed them. The Posters sponsored by Zoo Outreach Organization were distributed among the students who actively participated in the programme.

Sincere thanks are due to Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore for providing the necessary materials for the program. **Submitted by: Dr. K. V. Rao. Email: kvrao044@gmail.com.**



**Teachers introducing AWF posters to the students at the CEE programme**

**Centre for Environment Education, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**

Animal Welfare Fortnightly 2013 was celebrated by CEE Madhya Pradesh State Office, Bhopal with educational material support from Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore on 30 January 2013. The objective of the event was to highlight the issue of animal welfare and address more and more people to organize such events and encourage motivation to conserve wildlife. The programme was organized at two schools; the first was at Orion International School, Bawadia Kala Bhopal and the second at Government Divisional Residential School Katara Hills, Bhopal for about one and half hours where more than 350 students and 15 teachers took part.

The programme started with the introduction of animal welfare. Zoo Outreach Organization's poster on ABC-"Always Be Caring" of Animals and Plants- was put up on the walls of the school. The programme was focused on the presentation on AWF- based on ZOO's presentation and poster; Wildlife Welfare and why it is important to teach children and wildlife documentary (The Jungle Gang) by Earth Care-WWF India. We also shared with them about how wildlife is important to our survival, even daily life wildlife. It will help to understand – ecology, environment, biodiversity, wildlife trade and threats to biodiversity (*create demand and supply, e.g. Buying of materials made from animals products, ivory, bags, wallets, etc*). Tips given in the poster under all alphabets were read and discussed. Later on in the presentation the human activities affecting the wildlife are also discussed with the participants as follows: Destruction of habitat, Introduction of diseases through domestic animals, Hunting / trapping / poisoning, Disturbance caused by tourism (firing crackers in forest), Introduction of non-native animals, Release of chemical pollutants leads to poisoning, Release of hybrid animals quick-breeding, diseased zoo populations.

Our daily life mistakes also affect the many of the animals (viz., Frogs, snakes, bats that control insect and rodent populations). Majority of insects and many bats are pollinators. Shrews and other small rodents spread seeds and control vegetation that clogs waterways. Worms break down living material for enriching the soil. One



**Young kids of St. Paul's, Lucknow rewarded with ABC posters**



**A presentation on animal welfare and its rights by Dr. Nandkishor More**

major activity that we do knowingly or unknowingly is throwing food remains & vegetable/fruits peels in poly-bags. Large number of animals are die by eating this. The biodiversity of Madhya Pradesh and status of endangered species was shared with the participants.

The outcome of the programme were: an opportunity for students to learn about the importance/need of Animal Welfare; Such programmes will lead to behavioural change, which remain in their minds for long; Teachers are motivated to take up such programmes

in their schools; These programmes are also linked as their part of the course curriculum.

**Submitted by: Mr. Dilip Chakravarty, Prog. Officer. Email: dilip.chakravarty@ceeindia.org.**

**Saint Pauls School, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**

The event was held on 31 January 2013 to popularize and make the school children aware about animal rights and their welfare. The students of 4<sup>th</sup> standard were actively involved in the presentation, question-answer session and telefilm "Lion King" was



**The chief guest delivering a lecture on animal conservation at Jiwaji University AWF programme**

telecasted. 60 students of the school along with their teachers Madhunandan and Priya participated.

The Principal of the school, Fr. Alwin Marta inaugurated the event and an expert lecture was delivered on Animal Welfare by Nandkishor More, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Science of B B A Central University, Lucknow.

M.Sc student volunteers namely Saubhagya Singh and Sarita Singh organized quiz contest in which 4 best students were rewarded with Kits offered by Zoo Outreach Organization. The handouts of A B C of Biodiversity was distributed and was appreciated by everyone. Lastly all the students pledged to work for animal welfare.

**Submitted by: Dr. Nandkishor More. Email: [nkmore2000@yahoo.com](mailto:nkmore2000@yahoo.com).**

#### **Jiwaji University, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh**

AWF was celebrated by the Department of Zoology and Department of Environmental Sciences, Jiwaji University, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh and a seminar on Animal Welfare was organized on 22 January 2013 in association with Zoological Society. The Chief Guest Sri. M.C. Sharma, CCF (R & E), Madhya Pradesh Forest Dept. delivered a lecture on need for conservation of animals and the role of the Government on conservation of animals in India, particularly in Gwalior and Chambal region. He presented a slide show on Kuno-Palpur Sanctuary.

Dr. S.K. Mittal, Veterinarian at Gandhi Zoological Park, Gwalior, gave a slide show on welfare of animals and the actions being taken by the Nagar



**Model Boys School wards who attended AWF programme**

Nigam for protection of wildlife in the zoo and other domesticated animals including maintenance of cows in their goshalas. Prof. R.J. Rao delivered a lecture to students about animal cruelty by humans, like beats, kicks, over-rides, over-drives, over-loads, tortures subjecting them to unnecessary pain and suffering. He also talked about actions which should be taken for the welfare of animals.

An exhibition had been arranged by displaying various photographs of animals in Gwalior-Chambal region. The postal stamp collection by Shri M. C. Sharma on the theme of Animal Protection and Conservation was also displayed in the exhibition. Study materials provided by Zoo Outreach Organization was distributed to the students of Jiwaji University, Gwalior. Students were taken to Gandhi Zoological Park, Gwalior in the evening and explained the conservation programmes for various wild animals

including care of injured and rescued vultures. **Submitted by: Prof. R. J. Rao. Email: [soszool@rediffmail.com](mailto:soszool@rediffmail.com).**

#### **Conservation of Nature Society, Calicut, Kerala**

An education programme was organized for 50 students on 14 January 2013 at Model Boys High School. During inauguration of the programme one of our Executive Committee members handed over the ZOO's ABC poster to the captain of the school. The threat faced by the animals in the poster were the subject of the day. As per the recent findings, increasing cruelties to the wild cats was also discussed with the students. The participants thanked the Zoo Outreach Organization for the well-printed and attractive materials. Another programme was arranged on 27 and 28 January in Wayanad on tiger-human conflict. The photos in the



**ABC posters explained to the NOYES school students**



**Students writing slogans for each alphabet**



**A skit on elephant etiquette being performed**

poster were painted by the society on the wall with the help of one of the NGOs in Wayanad. The public participated with full interest. Peacock welfare was the issue of the programme. The public were concerned about the increasing presence of peacocks on paddy fields, coming from surrounding coffee estates. One of the farmers worried that people might resort to poisoning peacocks in efforts to save their paddy crop. A detailed class was taken by the wildlife expert of our Executive Committee of the society on how to solve this problem.

**Submitted by Mr. Vinod Kumar**

**Damodar. Email:**

**[mSPca5@hotmail.com](mailto:mSPca5@hotmail.com)**

### **Animal Welfare Fortnight celebrations in Madurai, TN Schools**

On 18 January, forty Eco club teacher coordinators of Madurai came to MCC school with enthusiasm to attend the Animal Welfare Fortnight program. Though they observed and celebrated many environmental important days, for all the participants AWF was new. After a brief on domestic and wild animals they listed out few that are causing diseases and menace to the people, starting from the mosquito, cockroach, housefly, monkey, snake, elephant, etc.

The participants were much interested on the AWF posters. After briefing on UN Decade of Biodiversity, ZOO & AWF, silent reading of slogans from A to Z animals were done. They translated the slogans into Tamil and for each alphabet they listed out few more animals. The program was interesting to them. Few teachers drew the animals they liked best from the poster. There were role-play sessions on bat, elephant and monkey. To all the participants it was thought-provoking and informative. Every one appreciated the programme and thanked the Zoo Outreach Organization.

January 28th, 2013 was a day of excitement to nearly hundred students from standard 9 to 11 of NOYES Matric. HS School, Madurai. The day's program began with the talks of Mr.G. Vedapalagan, Correspondent and the introduction by Mrs. S. Nirmala, the Principal. Mrs. Pushpa Suyabhu, teacher coordinator explained about animals and its welfare. Mrs. Jessie



**Students reading the ABC Biodiversity poster**



**A student with the ABC poster**

Jeyakaran distributed the AWF posters and explained about the animals on the poster with special stress on slogans. The students added new slogans to all the alphabets. Few students participated in drawing competitions coined on a number of animals within a limited time (fish, birds, amphibians, mammals). Students in a group dramatized the movement of the animals and Mrs. Jeyakaran took a session on elephant's etiquette. At the end of the day, Vishnu Priya of standard 10 received the prize for on the spot answering. The way with which Mrs. Stalin and Rosy guided the

students proved a success. The day's program came to an end with vote of thanks by Mrs. D. Premila. The follow up was done on the next day by sharing it in the school assembly. **Submitted by: Ms. Jessie Jeyakaran. Email: jessiejey@rediffmail.com.**

**Paribesh Unnayan Parishad, Kolkata, West Bengal**  
PUP arranged two programmes to celebrate Animal Welfare Fortnight, 2013 in Sagar Island. More than 10 teachers, 500 students and 2 dignitaries participated in the

programmes. The first programme was held on 18 January at Dhablat Lakshman Parabesh High School. During school prayer in the morning a lecture was given about animal welfare and how animals are important part of human welfare. Shri. Santanu Gayen, Head Master, other class teachers and students participated. Later on an interaction session on animal welfare was held for VIII and IX students. During school prayer and interaction session, the informative education pack received from Zoo Outreach Organization was discussed.

The second programme was held at Pallisree Study Centre on 25 January. The students from class V to IX participated along with their teachers. Students were explained about the ABC poster and asked to think of similar kind of animals they have seen in their locality. They listed out animals whichever they saw. PUP acknowledges the support of Zoo Outreach Organization, ANSA, SAZARC, Amphibian Ark, UFAW, AWBI and Chester Zoo. **Submitted by: Dr. A. Misra, Secretary. Email: amargram.pupa@gmail.com**

