

US Fish and Wildlife Service sponsored HECx programme participant's report



On 21 June 2013, one day symposium on Human Elephant Conflict HEC and Human Elephant Coexistence was organised for 20 students of Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Devar College students of Usilampatti, Madurai. Mr. Ramesh and his colleagues of Nethaji Snake Trust, Usilampatti lead the sessions. The one day programme was designed based on the elephant teaching guide and ele-kit packets.

The students pre knowledge on elephants and its problems was assessed by both concept map and attitude assessments. After assessment, they were given information about difference between Asian and African elephants. The former and current elephant ranging countries was explained through a map activity to understand the dramatic decrease of Asian elephant population in its range countries. Eighty Seven percentage of Asian Elephants has been reduced in the past 100 years. To understand the people's tolerance level toward problem elephants, 'elephants vs rodents' damages to the food crops were compared. The rodents and other smaller pests damages do not attract much criticism. However, elephants attract much criticism when many other smaller pests actually do far more damage to stored or growing food crops.

Games such as food web, fishing game to explain sustainable consumption, habitat loss and hawk and pigeon game were played. Then we explained about the ele-kit packet items such as rakhi, placard, headband, masks, finger puppets, sticker and booklet. The students went through the packet items one by one. They tied rakhi, headband, mask and put up finger puppets before taking an oath to coexist with elephants. At the end of the day, post assessments were done to see our programme was effective. Thanks to Zoo Outreach Organization for helping to carry out this programme. **Submitted by: Mr. P. Ramesh, NEST.**
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Food web game played to understand the links among organisms



Former and current elephant range countries explained through map activity



PMC students delighted to wear elephant education materials