

ZOO celebrates 59 Wildlife Week with Coimbatore Corporation Schools

ZOO took an initiative to teach wildlife conservation to the Coimbatore Corporation school students to create awareness amongst young minds with the motto involve them in wildlife conservation from a young age as well as inculcate in them a sense of environmental awareness. During wildlife week three programmes were conducted in which two programmes held at VOC Park Mini Zoo and one at other Corporation Higher Secondary School. Each 25 students aged 13-14 from Ranganathapuram Corporation Higher Secondary School and Corporation Higher Secondary School; North Coimbatore attended the first programme on 04 Oct. In the second programme, 41 students aged 14-15 from City Corporation Higher Secondary School and 21 students aged 12-14 from Anupparpalayam Corporation HSS attended on 05 Oct.

On 7 Oct, another programme was held at Selvapuram Corporation HSS for 40 students of 14 years old. After the wildlife week two programmes were conducted, one was held at Corporation Primary School, Trichy Road for 30 students of class 1-V aged 5-10 years on 11 Oct and another one was at Corporation HSS, Peelamedu for 50 class VIII students on 18 October.

At the VOC zoo programme Dr. Asokan, Director taught them about the animal welfare, daily care, animal feeding, veterinary care of the animals and snake awareness and handling. In addition he put up 30 posters stressing the serious effects of climate change, how the 2 degree Celsius increase would be harmful to the wild fauna and flora and human beings as well. He gave tips to students how to beat the heat by cut off their routine usage of resources. At the zoo as well as



Teaching Primate diversity in India through poster



Tying rakhi with the commitment of Coexist with elephants and other wildlife

in other school programmes R. Marimuthu, Senior Education Officer, Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO), conducted an awareness programme on "Human Elephant Coexistence *HECX*".

First of all they were briefed about the history of wildlife week, which

is in existence since 1955 and its importance, the status of wildlife in India and especially in Tamil Nadu. They were also told threats to wildlife and protection measures and what is the responsibility of students to preserve them. Then using the ZOO kit on HECx the students were told about the facts

about elephants, the difference between Asian and African Elephants, the problems faced by elephants, human elephant conflict reasons and tips to coexist with them and do's and don'ts for the people who live in elephant areas to avoid death and injury for them as well as elephants. The students put up the elephant masks, headband, rakhi and hold the placard and took an oath to coexist with them. National Green Corps NGC, Coimbatore district supported the programme. At the Trichy Road Primary School, the students were taught about wildlife, its conservation in India and also about Indian primates by using primate poster and colouring book. Then the students coloured the primate drawings.

We would like to thank the teachers who accompanied the students or arranged the programme at the school. Ms. R. K. Shanmugasundari, PE Director & NGC Coordinator, Ranganathapuram; R. Chinnaraj, Physical Education Director, North Coimbatore; Mr. Uthiravel, BT Science Teacher & Mr. Loganathan, PET, City Corporation HS School.; Mr. Ambrose, Anupparpalayam; Mr. Joseph Premkumar, Selvapuram; Mr. Dhanraj, Trichy Road and Mr. Balusamy, Headmaster, Peelamedu & NGC Coordinator, Coimbatore District.



Very keen in colouring the primate illustration



Taking oath not to buy animal body parts



One of the student with primate drawing



Going through the elekit booklet