

Education Reports

Report on HEC & HECx Workshop at Jaigaon, West Bengal

After the educators skill training programme (Nov 2008), We (Dooars Nature & Snake Lovers Organization) positively organized some of the programmes on HEC & HECx, at different places – Gairkata High School, Falakata High School, Raiganj College & School, Islampur College, Kalchini Union Academy. But recently we conducted a workshop on HEC & HECx at SHMD English Medium School – Jaigaon (near Bhutan) about 200 Students, School teachers & officials attended the 2 day long workshop. On the first day, after the breakfast we created a wonderful atmosphere for the discussion near about 10.00 a.m. All the participants & members of our Organization were introduced themselves. At first, we divided the main topic into two parts, HEC & HECx.

The first topic of the first day was HEC, through the discussion of semi-elaborate story of elephant in our art, festival, cultures, mythology; we started our programme at about 10.45 a.m. We discussed the topic for 45 minutes. After that structure of Elephant were described (11.30 a.m to 12.30 p.m) such as their trunk, foot, tallest point, ears, skin, etc. Then the characteristic features were explained (12.30pm to 1.30 pm.) such as their food, life span, pregnancy, maturity, habitat, weight at the times of birth etc. In between the discussion, from 1.30 pm -2.10 pm. We took a lunch break. After the lunch break one of the important topics were described, that was "differences between Asian & African Elephants." The differences between their tallest points shape of the heads, ears, foot, skin, trunk, etc. were also explained. Next, we moved to HEC (2.50 pm -4.40 pm). The main causes behind the HEC, such as change of habitat, over grazing of domestic animals, over exposure of population near the forest area, abnormal sex



Students active interaction in the programme



Students enjoying wearing ele-kit items

ratio, country liquors etc. were elaborately described. Through the enjoyable snack time(at about 4.40 p.m) we finished the first day workshop on HEC & HECx.

On the next day, after the breakfast we restarted our workshop with new energy level. The second day topic was HECx. At about 10.00 am we gave the information (according to the census in Elephant Reserves in India-2005) about the Elephant reserves in India to the participants. Then after one hour we began a new part of our topic- HECx at 11.00 am. Through this

topic we explained some of the important notes, that were "Elle –do's & Elle don'ts". After lunch break we continued the previous topic. Then we moved to the outside of the room for a very meaningful drama which gave a consciousness to the participants. At about 3.30 pm, we took feedback from the participants & share our view about the workshop & through these we closed our 2 day long workshop at SHMD English Medium School, Jaigaon. **Submitted by: Roni Chowdhury, Secretary, Dooars Nature & Snake Lovers Organization, Dhupguri, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal. Email: dnsi.org@gmail.com**

Report of Wildlife Week Celebration from 02-08 October 2009

This year our Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT) celebrated Wildlife Week from 02-10-2009 to 08-10-2009 in association with Rajkot Zoo and, Navrang Nature Club. As per programme, 12 schools & 1 college were selected for Essay Competition & Drawing Competition and Nature camps. Nature Camps were organized at Rajkot Zoo for participating school children. In these Nature Camps more than 200 Students from various schools participated and enjoyed the nature and visited the zoo's animals very closely.

Participating Schools were given following items in advance for celebrating the week. Literature set of wildlife, Birds, Pamphlets, posters etc. One canvas Sign Board for display in the entry gates every school. Achievement certificates. In addition to this trophies and caps were also given to the winners. The students who came to Nature Camp at Rajkot Zoo were



Children attending Nature Camp at Rajkot Zoo

given caps with slogan "Save The Nature", snacks and certificates. The camps were conducted by well-known experience resource persons like Dr. M. G. Maradia, Bhargavbhai (Zoo curator) and Ravi Ardesna from Navrang Club. All schools & college participated with full enthusiasm & took part in the Essay & Drawing competition. Schools also submitted their feedback reports regarding the

celebration after the competition. Apart from above photography competition for Open Public was also organized. In this 43 persons participated. Four rankers were given cash prize of Rs 2500, Rs. 1500, Rs. 1000 and Rs. 500 along with caps, trophies and certificates. **Submitted by: Kishore Kotecha, Rajkot, Gujarat. Email: info@asiaticlion.org**

Animal Welfare Fortnight, 2010-Report

The Conservation of Nature Society and the Dolphin Protection Committee organized the Animal Welfare Fortnight (14th to 28th January 2010). The programme was there on all the days.

The Fortnight programme started on 14-1-2010 at 10.00am in Planetarium in Calicut with the painting competition. The subject was smaller wild animals / Amphibians.

However a poster was arranged on the wild animals for the children to get awareness in general (Photo attached) and explanation given. The display on the effect of waste thrown in the wildlife roaming areas was displayed during the programme.

On the 15th January the programme started along with the Solar Eclipse. The behaviour of the animals during the Eclipse timings was studied during the time. The change in character of butterfly



Children sitting on the model web reading Daily life wildlife packets

was used. The climate change was also studied for the awareness of the students connected with the butterfly programme.

On the day the Amphibian painting books were handed over to the students who won the prizes conducted by the Petroleum Conservation Research Association. The students were

excited with the books and thanked the zoo materials. On 16th Jan a programme was organized especially on the sloth bear and some NGOs role in saving them from the streets of India, the Aletis Sloth Bear teacher guide guidelines were used during the programme. The participants thank the Wild & Zoo for the guide and the materials.

Some participants spoke on the effect of the Athirapally Dam in Trichur Dist. of Kerala and effects the dam is making on the sloth bears in the forests on account of the same and the proposed Parambikulam Tiger Reserve. The programme was in continuation of the programme of 25-12-2009 on sloth bears being the end of the year of the bear (2009).

On 17th, 18th, 19th evening programme were organized on various groups on the effect of felling shade trees and the effect of the same on the small wild animals. Some photos of the shade (attached) tree felling out of many which could have been saved by branch cutting, pruning are seen cutting by the Government and Private parties without any discrimination. The Society and the participants decided to conduct a detailed study on the shade tree felling and the effects on the same especially in the city. A detailed report on the same is likely to be presented on the WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2010 along with the Zoo sponsored programme on the effect. As per the details collected the District of Kozhikode has cut the maximum number of shade trees with prior permission of the Social Forestry wing. The trees felled in the public places alone in the 5 years with permission is 5 in the District while the actual figures is much higher. The number in the private places are much higher and uncalculatable. The society was continuously opposing to the huge number of trees felled in the district and the numbers are very high this year.

A recent bypass development alone saw a felling of 191 trees being felled out of which many could have been saved. The Society's programme was based on the zoos material on smaller wild animals which had great effect by the felling of the trees.

On 20th and 21st the zoo organised programme on the conflict between wild animals & farmers etc. staying close to the Forest area. Recently in Wayanad a Elephant, Gaur, Leopard was killed and one Leopard



Children holding placard on stop dancing bear



Students with amphibian colouring book got as a prize

in Calicut District opinioned the public. Another Leopard was killed in Idukki District between conflict with farmers and the animal said the participants.

Programme on 22nd and 23rd : Programme was organized on the conflict and between the elephants and farmers and the conflict between captive elephants and public. A model of elephant was used for understanding about the elephant behaviour and explanation given by the society. On 23rd and 24th January a programme was organized exclusively on the sea animals especially turtles. The programme was arranged in Kovilipalam in Calicut district where the maximum number of Olive Ridley turtles come for nesting in the season. The problems faced here are mainly the illegal sand mining in the coasts were the turtles come for nesting in the maximum number. The Dolphin protection committee arranged the same.

More than 800 turtles born where released into the sea during the days. The turtles comes here from September to March.

Further Programmes: Now 128 eggs are remaining here to be hatched and to be released. An awareness programme was arranged in the area where there are lot of smaller wild animals see in the mangroves etc. Now the biggest problem here sea sand mining was widely discussed in the programme. This effects the olive ridley nesting.

On 25th and 26th January a programme was held in the Calicut city on climate change also. Students from all the categories of students participated in the discussions. A stamp on polar bear was distributed.

On 27th and 28th January 2010 a programme was arranged regarding the Wild owls which were seen in the city in huge numbers now recently 80 numbers

were caught by the Kerala Forest Department alone. These birds are caught from the Forests of Wayanad and imported to Calicut.

A programme on bats also was arranged in Kovilpalam where the sea-turtle awareness programme was conducted 28.01.2010.

On world wetland day on February 2nd 2010 also the Society decided to organize programme in Kovilpalam where the Olive Ridley turtles faces trouble. The threat faced by the fishes would be the subject. The loss of wetlands in spite of the Ramsar sites etc. would be the main theme on the day.

The 128 turtles would be released during the time to the sea, other society's would also be in wetland rogramme on 2.2.2010. **Submitted by Vinod Kumar Damodar, Conservation of Nature Society, Calicut, Kerala. Email: mspca3@hotmail.com.**

EE programmes at Satya Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Chennai

The following environmental education activities were conducted in our school.

Activity related to Monkey Manners: The students enacted skits to the entire school students and staff members, explaining the Do's & Don'ts when they come across monkeys. Carried placards with slogans on the need to preserve and protect monkey species were prepared and demonstrated by the students of Std IX. Drawings and paintings were done by the students and a part of the activity and prizes were awarded for the best presentation.

Activity related to Frogs Rock:

The following students prepared PowerPoint Presentations and presented valuable information on Frogs & Monkeys: S. Aravind Raj, S. Manish, K. Ranjith & Nirup Stanio The presentation was excellent and everyone applauded and encouraged the students for their sincere efforts.

Album & Poster: The rare pictures of frogs were collected and presented in the form of an album, by a very enthusiastic student called REVANTH. He had painted a lovely poster too.

The Colouring Activity: Students were given outline pictures of various rare species of frogs & toads. They coloured them as per their original colouration and their respective preys were also coloured by the students. This activity was quite interesting to the students.

Activity on Climatic Change: The students of Std IX were taken on a Field Trip to the Meteorological

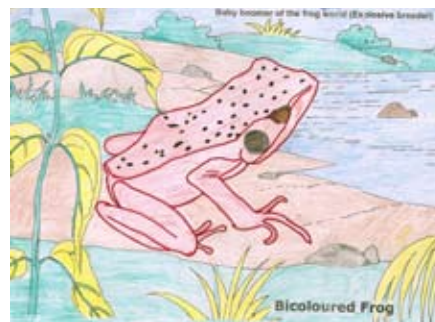


Students looking at weather chart - Meteorological station during field visit

Centre, Nungambakkam, Chennai on 25th November 2009. They had a ½ day seminar and an interactive session with the Higher Officials. Returning back to school, the students indulged in preparing a daily weather chart, with information from paper cuttings from "The Hindu".

Our Outreach programmes:

(Future Activity): There is a proposal of conducting an Inter school environment awareness programme in February 2010, using skits, power point presentations & posters. We have recorded and prepared an audio-CD in order to get the message across to blind students. Visually impaired students throughout the world. The 30 minute Cd was prepared very meticulously by the Science teacher of our school, Mrs. Eban Christinal and four students namely Arshad of Std X, Nirup Stanio of Std IX, Srilekha of std IX & Manisha of Std VIII. We hope that the CD will be of great use to these students. Thread work charts were prepared, exclusively for the visually impaired, so that they could study and understand



Students coloured the amphibian posters

the body shape and structure of Amphibians by touching the thread outline with their fingers.

Conclusion: The entire Bio-Diversity Conservation programme has been taken care of by Mrs. Eban christinal and supported by me, Mrs. Betty Prince, the Principal of the school. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Jessie Jayakaran, Member, International Zoo Educators Association, Chennai, who has been a driving force in bringing out the best out of our students. **Submitted by Ms. Betty Prince, Principal, Satya Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Purasawalkam, Chennai. Email: satyaschools@yahoo.co.in.**

Report of one day training programme 2010 International Year of Bio-Diversity

A one day training programme – 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, the first of its kind to us was conducted at the CSI Bishop Newbigin College of Education, Mylapore, Chennai, on Friday the 12th February 2010. The programme was inaugurated by Rt. Rev. Dr. V. Devasahayam, Bishop in Madras. Dr. Mrs. Kiruba Charles, Principal of the B.Ed. College introduced the guests and welcomed them. Mrs. Jessie Jayakaran, Member, International Zoo Educators Association, Switzerland conducted the programme. Mrs. Florence Christania, Youth Officer, NSS Regional Centre, Shastri Bhavan, Chennai gave the keynote address.

Revered Bishop in his inspiring message mentioned how important it is to preserve God's creation – our planet Earth! He put it across that when God created something he saw to it that it was good. Only then he went on to his next creation. He created man at the end so that he could enjoy all that he had created for him. He expects us to enjoy his creation, take care of it and pass on the pristine glory of the earth to our future generations. Mrs. Christania stressed on the point that man was exploiting nature to such an extent that he needs 1.4th of another planet to support his lifestyle. Studies show that in the year 2009, we have used more than 40% of the resources than the availability causing an ecological overshoot. She impressed upon the teacher trainees that the coming few years are going to be critical because of climate change and global warming.

The members were made to realize the importance of preserving wildlife and spreading the awareness of protecting our environment. She urged everyone to start implementing in our daily life and to contribute actively towards this cause.

Mrs. Jessie Jayakaran conducted the programme in four inspiring sessions. Firstly, she gave us an insight to IUCN. What is IUCN and what does it do. She took us down the memory lane where in 1968, the Swedish Government identified that pollution is going to be "The" cause of concern in the years to come. Between 1992 and 2002, the U.N. ensured that all school going children were sensitized about environmental studies. From 2005 onwards, the awareness about sustainable development through various competitions, essays etc. At college and research level were initiated.

She made us aware of our country's rich bio-diversity and Tamil Nadu in particular. International Year of Biodiversity was explained with the world wide organizations such as WILD, ANSA, SANIZE, IZE which are involved in sponsorship. The effort taken from 2008 to save the frog was clearly explained.

The free educational materials on Frog, Know you Monkey Manners and Elephant Etiquette supplied by the Zoo Outreach Organisation, India were distributed to all. Starting from tying up of rakie every step was taken in depth.

1. 2010 – International Year of Bio-diversity – Frog. Frog plays a vital role in the food chain. It is a good indicator in our eco-system. The size of the frog is said to indicate whether a particular forest is healthy or not. It also serve as water pollution indicator. The extensive usage of frog in scientific studies as a specimen for dissection, usage of frogs as delicacy and pollution has resulted in the break in the linkage of food chain. No frogs means no food grains to mankind. Thus she gave a brief note on the uses, present conditions and the roles to be played by us to protect them.

2. India's Environment: Thanks to the steps taken by various countries through various non-



The Rt. Rev. Dr. Devasahayam Bishop of Madras giving inaugural address



Reading out do's and donot's in HEC area from ele-kit packet



Teacher trainees showing a poster on importance of amphibians

governmental organizations, there is a lot of awareness created and steps taken to ensure that our rich and varied bio-diversity is protected. The Indian Government had taken steps to establish Bio-reserve, National Parks, Birds sanctuary, Zoo and Aquarium. The places rich in Biodiversity in India were also explained.

3. Human-Animal Co-existence: Mind your Monkey Manners:

A list of nearly extinct species of monkeys was listed and their pictures displayed. A lot of information with regard to their habitats, food habits and their similarities to man was shared through the booklet. The do's and don'ts during a monkey attack was discussed. The South Asian Primate Network is a special group which focuses on the 4 primate species which are on the verge of extinction. It has identified the hot spots in India and the neighbouring countries. The packets on this topic were so informative.

4. Human – Animal Co-existence: Elephant Etiquette.

Recent incidents about a spurt of elephants going on a rampage due to man encroaching into their land, depriving them of their food and habitat were discussed. A say "No" to ivory and other animal products



Performing role-play on amphibian conservation

was emphasized.

All the students participated in the role play allotted to the respective group. A list of do's and don'ts during an elephant attack and how to deal with elephants in the zoos, temples and on the city streets were mentioned.

Follow Up: Each teacher trainee was encouraged to spread the awareness of the extinction of frogs to atleast 26 members by educating them, collecting their names, addresses and mail-ids. Planned to have a display of material near the campus. Planned to start

the Eco-garden in the campus. Planned to have newspaper cuttings pertaining to Biodiversity.

The program ended with the staff and students of the college taking a pledge to preserve the biodiversity. The Institution extended sincere thanks to ZOO and all the sponsors.

All the participants left the hall with rich knowledge of Biodiversity especially about 2010-International Year of Biodiversity. **Submitted by Mrs. Kiruba Charles, Principal, CSI Bishop Newbigin College of Education, Mylapore, Chennai.**

Reports on Animal Welfare Fortnight 2010 Celebrations at Adyar Poonga

Report.1: On 27th January, the environment education wing of Pitchandikulam Forest Consultants (PFC), Adyar Poonga celebrated Animal Welfare Fortnight celebrations at Adyar Poonga. The program was organized for 15 students from five schools and the program was held for half a day. At first, the children were briefed about Animal Welfare and details to be borne in mind when handling animals by Mr. K. Cyril Rufus, Environment Education officer of PFC. Following the talk, educational packets "Monkey manners" packets developed by Zoo Outreach were distributed to the students and a dramatic demonstration on "how captive animals are treated" was staged. The students were able understand



Session on "how captive animals are treated" special focus on monkeys

situation captive animals faced. Do's and Don'ts of field behavior was also imparted to the students. There was also an interactive session on how the animals have related to our cultures in the past.

Following this, an interactive quiz was held for the students. The quiz was mainly focussed on animal threats and general animal-related questions. In the end students were taken around for animal interaction walk inside the Poonga and were able to spot a number of butterflies and birds.

Report-2: On 29th January Animal Welfare Fortnight program was organized for 12 students from five schools and the program was held for half a day. At first, the children were briefed about Animal Welfare and details to be borne in mind when handling animals by Mr. K. Cyril Rufus, Environment Education officer of PFC. Following the talk, educational packets "Monkey manners" packets developed by Zoo Outreach were distributed to the students and a dramatic demonstration on "how captive animals are treated" was staged. The students were able understand situation captive animals faced. Do's and Don't of field behavior was also imparted to the students. A follow up write up activity about the traditional link to animals in the past and the role of an individual in animal welfare was held.

Following that, an interactive quiz was held for the students. The quiz was mainly focussed on threats faced by animal from humans and general animal-related questions. A follow up sketching activity was organised to highlight the "animal welfare and animal cruelty". Later, students were taken around for animal interaction walk inside the Poonga where they able to spot a number of butterflies and birds.

On behalf of our environment education team and IZE, I would like to thank Zoo Outreach Organisation for supplying and coordinating the education packets to us. On this occasion, I would like to thank ZOO, WILD, Awley Wildlife and People Apenheul Primate Park, IZE, IUCN/SSC

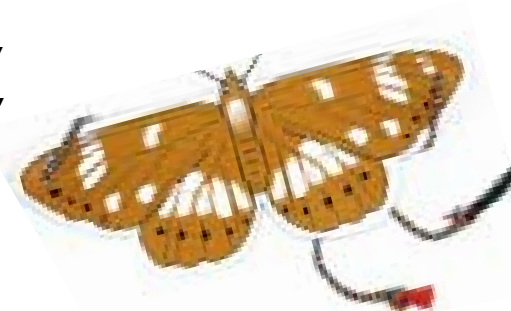


Students are introduced Animal Welfare by talk



Sketching activity to highlight the "animal welfare and animal cruelty"

Primate and South Asian Primate Network. **Submitted by Cyril Rufus, Environment Education Officer, Pitchandikulam Forest Consultants, Adyar Poonga Project, Chennai. Email: cyril14112@yahoo.co.in.**



Programme for the environment inclined students at Arvivu

On 13 November 2009-it was the second visit and the students still remembering the first programme on Amphibians they asked if there were some more colouring books. Few said they had completed the colouring books, while other said they were at it still. They were asked to name birds that flew, they gave a big list from crow, myna to egrets, next they were asked to name animal that flew, they were a little confused and were not sure which was it? One said squirrel, the answer was 'wrong' they were told, Then another one said 'bat', and he went about telling us how he had touched it once, under the supervision of an elder, when it had accidentally entered his house and was tapped inside. He said he had touched its wing which was like a membrane, he said.

The students were told what a bat was and why it was called as a mammal. They were told what it ate and also were told not to trust the myth that was told about them. They were told that the bats were very useful to us and that they were not to be killed or seen as a pest. The terms, megachiroptera and microchiroptera were explained. They were also told where bats are usually found and the how they find their way. With this background they were given the bat colouring book. They were thrilled to see that it was another opportunity to colour. They were told that they could use the instructions given on every page. While many followed the colour coding given, couple of students refused and they insisted on colouring bat pink. Had to give up saying if that what they insist, then the bats would truly be 'in the pink' of health. Unfortunately, couldn't capture the 'pink bat', as the camera batteries died on me!

I would like to thank students, teachers and the trustees of Arvivu school, and all the people of Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore for coming out with the interesting materials. **Submitted by: Tanuja DH, Mysore, Karnataka. Email: tanujadh@gmail.com.**



Children colouring the bats drawing



Children posing with coloured bat drawings

