

## Working with Zoo Outreach Organisation

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My native place is Coimbatore which is one of the most peaceful Districts in the State of Tamil Nadu. After my secondary studies in school, I did one year industrial course PPO in ITI and worked in a private industry for 3 months. Afterwards, I studied 6 months CST course in computer while I worked as a Lab Report Trainee in a private hospital for 2 months. Once the training was over, I was looking for a job and family friend and well wisher Mr. Raveendran introduced me to ZOO. ZOO took me on 12 July 1999 due to his recommendation. My first post was Library Assistant. I didn't know any office work when I joined, but I learned things quickly because the other employees taught me and corrected me when I made mistakes. I was encouraged by Ms. Sally Walker, Sanjay Molur and Latha Ravikumar constantly from the initial stage. I did many computer courses and my UG degree after I joined ZOO only. Many organizations will not allow their employees to study but ZOO allowed and encouraged me to study. During the last 11 years of my service, I had fallen two major health problems. One was Appendix operation (2000) and an accident on my jaw (2004). In those times ZOO gave me moral and mental support when it was really needed.

As a Library Assistant, I worked in library database, entering all the books, journals and magazines which we received monthly/quarterly. After six months, the office assistant resigned and I took the charge where I learned posting, purchasing, banking which allowed me to interact with many new people. I accompanied other staff to Tirupur for purchasing and printing T-shirts for our workshops and CAMPs and learned that work. Between 2000-2004 I helped out when ZOO organization many Workshops, Teachers for Tigers, Field Techniques for different taxa, and others conducted by ZOO. I got an opportunity to travel when helping with the workshops which I liked very much as well as visiting forests and other tourist places. After 4 years, I started working as an Editorial Assistant for Zoos' Print Journal from June 2004 to till 2007. When ZOOS' PRINT Journal morphed into the Journal of Threatened Taxa (JoTT), I worked under Sanjay which is quite the difficult task!

I would like to say few words of ZOO employees individually also. **Sally Walker** - I admired her work and dedication to wildlife conservation. She has given her life for ZOO and working without salary for the last two decades. **Sanjay Molur** - a knowledgeable person in all the subjects!! Also very down to earth, funny but very strict guy who encouraged me a lot always. **Latha Ravikumar** - a very hard working and enthusiastic person. She never say 'do not know' what ever doubt we ask,

she will tell or learn and teach all. **B.A. Daniel** and **R. Marimuthu** - Both are friendly and caring persons. When I go for workshops they both had helped me a lot even though my behavior might have hurt them sometimes. **Pravin, Raveendran, Geetha,** and **Radhika**. - All are very friendly and we all work together with fun when we make educational packets. **Manju Siliwal** - A very funny and friendly person with very good behavior who is a very good friend of mine. **Sarojamma** - The office mom, who has been working with Ms. Sally Walker from the beginning. She will take care of us when we are not well and always keep us fresh and healthy with her special tea which she makes daily. Finally **Arul** - Who was working in the screen printing and now doing/working many things in computer. He is one of my best family friends.

I would like to thank all the employees who all worked and currently working of ZOO for their many helps and supports. Finally I would like to thank my father who is behind me in all the time in all my success. Whenever I say I have to go to office early, he wakes around 4 in the morning and prepares food for me, which made me fit mentally and physically strong. If anyone says anything good about me, then all the credit goes to my father only, he is such a great and wonderful man. I am really very proud and honour to work in this organization.

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