

First time alone in an HECx workshop!

S. Mamatha*

The three days HECx workshops organised by myself and funded by Chester Zoo went on very well. When ZOO initially asked me to do it by myself I was shocked, but gained confidence as I began to plan. Also as I received all support from ZOO in terms of materials, it gave me confidence and impetus to march ahead.

There were a total of 27 educators in this three days workshop at Nagerhole National Park. The teachers were really receptive and interactive with great interest to learn. About 80 % them were from elephant areas. I took help of one of the earlier Teachers for Tigers trainers

Mr. Mohan for this workshop. Everything worked out well as per the agenda.

This was the first time I coordinated a full fledged education training programme by myself. Organising education training programme is not that easy since one has to be prepared for all three days well before the workshop. To remain along with the members of ZOO team while running an education programme is completely different from organising a full fledged education programme.

Since this was organised in Nagerhole NP I got plenty of time to do all the activities leisurely. I

also organised to use their time usefully in late hours of the day by showing some slide shows and videos. To do the behaviour i was lucky that I could get a live tame elephant that was brought to the venue. I utilized that time to teach the taxonomy of elephants. The RFO was there for the inaugural and for valedictory too and was very cooperative.

***Faculty, De Paul International Residential School, Mysore, Karnataka.**

Email: mamtamys@gmail.com



Participants at the workshop



Role play to understand HECx issue



Demonstration on how to utilise the ele-kit packets in awareness programme



Learning elephant history through drawings



One of the group learning about elephant past and present distribution through maps



Outdoor sessions