

### **WED with IABWS, Andhra Pradesh**

With the collaboration of SEVEN networks, we celebrated World Environment Day on 5 June at Pragathi School, Penukonda, using of Zoo Outreach Organisation education packets, which were very useful to us. In this celebration, Project Director Manjunath explained the importance of WED and the role of students to protect environment. Every student should take responsibility to protect the environment and practice wise use of natural resources like water, electricity, gas, petrol, etc. and reuse of products. He also suggested that every student should plant at least 2 trees a year and protect them.

As per "Article 51(g) it shall be the fundamental duty of every citizen to protect environment. So every student can follow this and do their part to save the world. School Principal Mr. Srinivasulu said that it is a great opportunity to our students to know the importance of environmental protection, and



*Students wearing ZOO's plant masks*

and public about this movement to make more people aware.

Education officer, Chenna Reddy said that in the past every village had thick forests and wildlife. Now those have been lost. Our national animal tiger and national bird peacock are now

the future generations could enjoy the nature. At the end by using ZOO material students played drama and also a video was shown on the important of environmental protection.

**Submitted by**  
**G. Manjunath, Founder Pres.,**  
**Intl Animal & Birds Welfare**  
**Society, AP. Email.**  
**iaabws@yahoo.com**



*Students with International Year of Biodiversity masks*

participate in this program. Everyone today onwards should start protecting natural resources and communicate with parents

endangered. These are all happened because of people's selfishness. So he asked students start to protect the environment from today so that

### **Education Reports from India**

#### **Snake conservation education programmes in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**

ZOOWATCH conducted 2 environment education programmes which was an educational seminar on the importance of snakes in our environment. Our seminar was conducted at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan school, Trivandrum on 18 February. Members present were A Gopinathan, P Babu, D Joshi, Madhu, Prasanth, V.Suresh and Prof. Valsala Kumari, retd Prof, Womens College in Trivandrum. School Principal and staff provided the venue and ensured we had all the basic facilities required.

ZOOWATCH chose deliberately to focus on the topic of snakes. Very few international zoo education organizations concern themselves entirely with the fate of snakes, yet, the snake crisis is a paradigm of man's destructive relationship with Nature.

For many zoo educators it is difficult to obtain snakes for education programmes. This is not a problem for us as we do snake rescue and rehabilitation! ZOOWATCH started by bringing in very colourful and fascinating boards with all necessary facts on snakes. The programme was introduced interactively by A. Gopinath who involved students asking how they felt about snakes, their beliefs, etc. We also use this handout to ask

are necessary for us? Can you guess why snakes are called the farmers best friends? Is it all right for you to kill a tiger and sell its skin, claws, etc.? Is it all right for you to kill a snake? Would you want to help snakes? What could you as an individual do to help snakes?

Following this V Suresh, a most famous snake expert in Kerala asked the students to identify common snakes in Trivandrum, a city infested with venomous and non-venomous reptiles. Even non-venomous snakes are killed in Trivandrum and it is therefore very useful for children to learn to identify snakes. For this we used two sets of flex sheets with pictures, one with names and one without. After this Ms. D.

displayed. After this we proceeded to the live demonstration in which Vava Suresh taught the pupils that even venomous snakes should not be killed and are indeed very easily rescued and removed. The second last stage was the one in which we reinforced and tested what had been learnt by asking the students to repeat the questionnaire and to try and identify the same snakes. By doing this the children themselves can assess how much they have actually learnt from our programme.

The workshop concluded with a talk by V. Kumari, our patron, who encouraged the students to do their best for their environment and to respect snakes and all wildlife. Our snake work is relevant because snakes are being killed today wherever and whenever possible, and this is in spite of legislation that strictly forbids the killing of any snake. The indifference of the authorities is partly to blame for this sad state of affairs, but it is also due to ignorance and the numerous foolish superstitions about snakes. Most people do not know that the vast majority of snakes are quite harmless. The objectives of this workshop were to decisively alter public misconceptions about snakes in general, to instill respect for them and to create an understanding of the essential role they play.

Some important suggestion for all animal welfare NGOs who would like to plan similar seminars on snakes :

1. Planning to be meticulous to avoid problems.
2. Different presenters for variety.
3. All precautions should be taken.
4. Parents and teachers should be involved
5. The session should be concluded with a short talk by someone senior.

All zoo educators should learn from our audiences as much as we teach. What have we learnt?



*Snake expert teaching safe handling of snakes*

questions on how they usually react to snakes.

#### ZOOWATCH Snake

Questionnaire: How would you answer these questions? How would you feel if you suddenly saw a snake? What would you do if you suddenly saw a snake in your house or garden? Which are the most common stories you have heard about snakes? What do you think a snake would feel like to touch? What do you generally know about snakes? Do you think all snakes are dangerous? Do you think snakes

Joshi came on the stage to speak about the objective Learning To Appreciate Snakes. We stress that snakes are only one example of our wildlife crisis and we explain why snakes are so important for human beings / why we should never kill snakes.

Mr. Palayalam Babu then introduced the scientific facts on snakes by using our boards. He then got one student to teach the facts which got a round of applause. The next stage was the touch table session where snake eggs, snake skins were



That children are the best possible target for zoo education! Their infectious enthusiasm and their love for learning and for Nature gave us all a much needed boost of morale. We have also learnt that this type of zoo education is of a truly permanent nature, because in the long run, our children will be a far more persuasive and convincing medium of environmental change than any adult. **Submitted by: Dr. Latha Tampi, Email: lathatampi@yahoo.com.**

### **Amphibian education programme at Praythna Free School, Mysore**

'Praythna', runs a free school in Mysore for children of the low-income families. They are from

the neighbouring areas. They have children between three and five years of age. Praythna runs skill learning programmes for the mothers of these children, while the older siblings are given extra learning, post-school. Had an opportunity to meet the children of Praythna, on 25th February 2010.

There were 19 students of 1-4 grade and 4 teachers. Students were made to sit in a circle, and were asked what they remember about water, if they had drenched in rain. Students were ecstatic to narrate how they got drenched in rain. They were asked what accompanied rain, they said thunder and lightening and asked about sounds during rain they said 'frog'. They learned what made it an 'amphibian' and

life cycle. Children were given Amphibian colouring books, and asked to refer to the cover pages and use it as a reference, and to colour all the amphibians in the book. They croaked like a frog, and a few even hopped like frog. They were asked to tell stories, songs about frogs. Some made up stories and others sang the popular school song which mentions 'frog'.

I thank the students of Praythna, Kanchan Kathiresan, the founder and one of the Trustees of Praythna, for giving a chance to interact with the kids, the teachers and the mothers. Thank you Zoo Outreach Organisation and its people. **Submitted by: Tanuja DH, Email: tanudh@yahoo.co.in**



*A happy child with her finished assignment*