

## Exploring the Urban Woods - Summer Nature Camp



**Plant Anatomy: Students are looking at stem specimens**

The University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology and The Centre for Environment Education, Bangalore has conducted a summer Nature Camp from 16 to 22 May 2018 for 8-10th standard students. This camp provided quality science education in an outdoor, hands-on setting. It emphasized on experiential learning. Campers spend most of their time outdoor, observing nature.

The following sessions were conducted during the camp. Some highlights of the programmes are given below:

- Life skills: This session enabled students to adapt and has positive behaviour to deal challenges of everyday life.
- Life around us: Through this interactive session students were introduced to experiential learning to their surrounding living-world.
- Introduction to Plants: Students appreciated the different parts of the plant morphology and habitat.
- Plant Anatomy and Herbarium: In this session students took sections and observed live tissues of xylem, phloem, stomata and arrangement vascular bundle. Herbarium techniques were introduced to the students.
- Visit to Ethno-Medicinal garden: Spent time in ethno medicinal garden. The students were taught how to identify some common medicinal plants. A demonstration on how to prepare vermicomposting pit was demonstrated.
- Primary Health Care: Students observed preparation of two simple home remedies for cuts, wounds, common cough and cold with the help of Aloe vera gel and golden milk.

- Short play on curing illness: Students enacted on assigned topics like cold, cough, hair fall, acidity and suggested herbal remedies with the help of medicinal plants which they had learnt in primary health care session.



**The importance of medicinal plants and preparation of medicines was introduced**

- Flip the circle: An activity: 'Flip the Circle' give them an understanding that any situation will have a solvable solution if we think out of the box.
- Who am I?: This Activity enhanced the questioning skills and focused on detailed observations of various components of nature.
- World of insects: This even focused on identification, key features and documenting procedures of insects. Students

were also thought various insights of technologies that we have copied from butterflies and adapted in our lives.

- The Big Miracle: Short movie on community that are dependent on whales for their survival.
- Nature walk: Students observed the diversity of insects, birds, frogs and reptiles.
- Introduction on Birds: Introduction to key characters of the birds and their names.
- Night walk- Students explored the biodiversity at night and to observe bugs, beetles, reptiles.
- 'Colours of Nature': This session was conducted to educate students to see that there are many things right in front of them which they fail to observe and assured to be keen in observing their surroundings.
- Fish in the Pond- This activity portrayed how is management of resources happens.



**Learning about insects during the nature trail**

## Conclusion

Seven-day programme concluded by positive feedback from the students and a certificate of participation was given to all the participants. Students not only experienced the dynamics of forests, biological diversity but were explained the importance and services that these wooded areas provide. Further, students could explore the world of plants especially medicinal plants through micro lenses and nursery practices. Students were able to identify minimum 20 medicinal plants with their uses, they were able to identify at least 15 to 20 birds, reptiles, insects.

## Acknowledgement

On this note we would like to thank the entire team to FRLHT-TDU, CEE south and all the resource persons who shared knowledge to the students. We also thank Helpline Charitable Trust Bangalore, for facilitating students to this programme and also iSambhav, through its CSR initiatives which came forward to reimburse a part of expenditure incurred towards the summer camp.

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