

Animal Welfare Fortnight 2015-Reports

Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

AWF 2015 was celebrated on 29 January in a grand way at the zoo. It was aimed to bring positive changes in visitors and school children attitudinal towards wild animals living in their native habitats as well as in captivity through the material supplied by the Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore. A full day awareness programme was organized for school students at the Zoo Education Centre – BIOSCOPE. The programme started with a rally by the Pollock's High School students. They were calling out slogans such as "Save plants" "Save Animals" "Save Biodiversity" and "Save Environment" with the help of placards. Then the programme was divided into two sessions.

In the first session the students performed a thought-provoking skit on "Animal Welfare and Biodiversity Conservation" and later they played an interesting act with the "cross word puzzle" from the ZOO's education kit. Zoo visitors were the audience and they appreciated both. The children were really involved in the programme and they understood the importance of saving biodiversity and up keeping animal welfare, which is very importance task in future for the conservation of biodiversity.

In the second session students interacted with the chief guest Sri. G. Ramalingam, DCF and Curator, Zoo Biologist and Education Officer. Later the chief guest addressed the participants on the importance of Animal Welfare and their role in welfare activities. He also explained the importance of biodiversity and role of flora and fauna in various ecosystems. He emphasized how human beings are destroying and over exploiting natural resources and how best we conserve our natural resources for the future generations. He shared many interesting facts on



Performing a skit on Animal Welfare and Biodiversity Conservation



Bookmarks made into placards



Students with the masks



An activity based on Crossword puzzle

biodiversity with the students and the students were also enthusiastically participated in the whole programme. At the end the Chief Guest distributed prizes and participation certificates to the children and the programme was ended with vote thanks

proposed by the Zoo Education Officer.
 Acknowledgements: We would like to thank Zoo Outreach Organization for generously sending us very informative education material, which was used, and much appreciated by the participants during this programme. **Submitted by M. Murtuza, Education Officer & Katta Srinu, Biologist, IGZP.**
Email: kattas.srinivasarao20@gmail.com.

Pondicherry University - Dept. of Ecology & Env. Sciences, Puducherry (UT)

Conservation education is the process of influencing people's attitudes, emotions, knowledge, and behaviours and perceptions and concern about wildlife and its welfare. These goals can be done through the effective education, well prepared educational materials and efforts of skilled educators and interpreters, who use a variety of techniques, methods, and assessments to reconnect people with the natural world.

Zoo Outreach Organisation's awareness materials were used to create awareness and motivation on wildlife conservation education and welfare. The



Students removing the garbage along the lake riparian zone



Solving Crossword puzzle

materials were designed to create knowledge on basic understanding on wildlife, address people's attitude toward wildlife and conservation action. As part of the AWF 2015, approximately 120 nursing graduate students from Sabari Nursing College and Sri Venkateswara Nursing college in Puducherry participated in short term wildlife conservation and welfare programme. As an outcome of this programme, on 14 Feb. 120 students 60 each from Sabari College of Nursing and Kasthuribai Government Girls Higher Secondary School students participated in cleaning of garbage along the lake riparian areas and inside corner of lake which is endangering animal life in that area. Over 700 kg of plastic waste was removed from the lake. This is the first effort done by students which received much appreciation by government authorities, local community and residents around the lake. **Submitted by: R. Alexandar, Post-Doctoral Fellow. Email: enviroalexandar@gmail.com.**

University of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation Lab, Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow celebrated Animal Welfare Fortnight from 27-31 January 2015, in collaboration with Regional Science City, Aliganj and Zoo Outreach Organisation ZOO, Tamilnadu. On this occasion awareness was created



Drawing competition on Animal Welfare

among the students and public through an awareness car on Animal Welfare. For the same Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. S.B. Nimse and Mrs. Sulabha Nimse started the Awareness Car with Flag off the on 27 January 2015 from the residence of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor at 10:30 am. Prof. Madhu Tripathi, Head of the Department, Prof. A.K. Sharma Senior Professor Department of Zoology were also present during the event. The car moved around in the city for 4 days i.e 27-30 January 2015 and covered more than 200 schools. The programme aimed to raise awareness regarding kindness towards animals among the students through Awareness car as well as various competitions at Regional Science City. There was quiz and Art competition on 31 January



Students with their Animal Welfare drawings

2015 at Regional Science City for students of class 6-12 Standard on the topics of Animal Welfare and Daily Life mistakes towards animals in and around us. Example: hitting dogs, caging birds etc. for quiz and art competition.

During the car rally and at the education programmes we addressed the daily life wildlife's contribution to the ecosystem, list of daily life mistakes we do and urged them not to do these mistakes ever and other human immoral behavior towards animals such as torture them for own pleasure and at last what we can do for animal welfare.

Daily Life Mistakes: People kill or shoo away animals that play a beneficial role in our lives; Frogs, snakes, bats control insect and rodent populations; Many insects and some bats are pollinators and they are responsible for one-thirds of the food we eat; Shrews and other small rodents spread seeds and also eat up grasses that clog waterways. Worms break down living material for enriching the soil. "Daily Life Wildlife" is a name intended to draw attention to animals that live close to us that we all take for granted. They are so common that human beings treat them like objects, as if they didn't feel pain. Life without this daily life wildlife and their useful contribution would be far less comfortable. Let's conserve them! This is also Animal Welfare.

The immoral behaviour towards Animals: Human beings watch the performance of various animals such as monkeys, bears, snakes etc. for their entertainment; In circus also various animals are used, they are ill-treated and the behaviour is unethical towards them; On various festivals like *Makar Sankranti* and other occasions kite flying is common as a part of celebrations. But this results in injuring and killing of many free flying birds; Due to various myths the snake charmers take the snakes on *Nag Panchami* to the houses and people even make them drink milk that is harmful to them. The snakes are not kept in hygienic conditions; People also ill-treat their pet animals; They do not provide

them food, water and medicine on time; They go out of station and leave their pets alone at home; The owners also disown their sick and injured pets.

What we can do for Animal welfare: Treat the animals with love and care; Encourage domestication of animals; Admit the injured and sick animals on road to Government Gaushalas or Animal care centres; Keep water and food for birds and animals particularly during the hot summer months when they die due to dehydration; Avoid the illegal buying of animals that are declining or threatened and this will help in stopping illegal trade; If any wild animal such as snake enters your house, do not kill it and inform the Forest Department; Do not capture and kill butterflies for mere enjoyment and pleasure; Do not cage the birds unnecessarily and do not sacrifice them for any ritual such as owl. **Submitted by: Dr. Amita Kanaujia, Associate Professor. Email: kanaujia.amita@gmail.com**

WWF-India-M.P & Chhattisgarh

During Animal Welfare Fortnight a bird watching camp was organized on 14 January 2015 at Kerwa Nursery, Bhopal as Bhopal witnessed lots of migratory birds during this season and to raise



Zoo's AWF materials given to the participants

awareness on avifauna. About 35 people attended the camp who were briefed about the role of birds in nature and how to protect them. The participants observed 30 species in the first camp and around 36 species in the second camp of wetland birds both migratory and residential. All of them enjoyed bird watching. Caps, cloth bag, materials from Zoo Outreach Organization, pad and pens were given to all the participants. **Submitted by: Ms. Sangita Saxena, State Director. Email: ssaxena@wwfindia.net**

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