

Theatrics of Climate Change:

A Youth Workshop

I have always been interested in theatre and arts, so when Dharanidharan shared the theatre workshop details conducted by Zoo Outreach Organisation as part of 'Art for Conservation' (A4C) workshop with me, I was keen to attend especially since I had seen him perform and create magic on stage. When I came to A4C I realised, this is the meeting point for art and nature. Both of these can give immense peace and joy to anyone who is willing to fully immerse themselves into it.

After the three-day workshop, I conducted an outreach program on 10 June 2024 for 10 kids passionate about performing arts.

We started our sessions with warmups and did specific experiential learning session on understanding our body, the space it uses and how we can use our body to communicate the story/subject.

This was followed by using the next tool in the arsenal of a theatre artists which is their voice; we did exercises on resonance (vibration of vocal cords), projection (throwing our voice), and articulation (pronunciation). All of these have the ability to make or break a play, be it an open air street play with audience all around or a perfectly choreographed play for an air-conditioned auditorium.

This discussion led me to teach about use of a given space for a performance to maximise impact and reach. We discussed how to support a co-artist and give appropriate reactions to make sure the story comes to life and is relatable. All of these exercises were done using the examples of climate change, carbon emissions, unpredicted ecological events, vehicular pollution among other things. The program ended with an animated discussion on how it is crucial to keep in touch with our planet Earth and how crucial it is to reconnect with nature. An unforgettable moment is when one little girl said, "We have to heal the world and create a wonderful place to live in".



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