

# Theatre Outreach Workshop

I had an opportunity to attend a workshop on theatre skills conducted by Dharanidharan organised Zoo Outreach Organisation supported by US Consulate General, Chennai. Post the workshop, I led a theatre outreach workshop for a group of children from Government Primary School, Ramaswamy Nagar, Koundampalayam.

The workshop was conducted for a duration of one week with eight children from fourth standard and one child from fifth standard participated. The main objective was to raise awareness about wildlife-human interactions, wildlife conservation, importance of preserving forests, and dispel myths about snakes. After days of practice and lot of efforts from the students, teachers, and your truly, we have the final Rehearsal on 3 September 2024 and a performance for the school assembly on 4 September 2024.

My role in this outreach workshop was that of a trainer and facilitator of the theatre workshop, preparation of props from scratch, and helping children overcome stage fear, develop voice modulation, and presentation skills.

And during the one week I realised that the children gained confidence and stage presence, developed an understanding of important environmental and conservation issues, and learned to express themselves creatively through theatre. On the whole, it was an extremely rewarding experience!



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