

CONSERVATION THROUGH STORIES

I got an opportunity to conduct a story telling session at Kids Business Expo event in Tirupur on 28 April 2024. It had a mixed crowd of a lot of young children, their parents, local people, nature club members, wildlife photographers and so on. Trained by 'Art for Conservation' (A4C) workshop on storytelling, I chose to narrate the story of 'Saathi - The Street Dog from Dharamsala India' (by Julie Palais).

It was a real-life story of how a stray Indie Dog in Dharamasala suffered cruelty for no fault of her own. However, due to kind hearted souls, Saathi gets adopted (by the author herself, in real life) and gets to live a happy life. It showed the pitiful life of the strays and their longing to have a home and loving family to call their own. I also explained about how each of us (children especially) can do their bit to stand up and care for the voiceless and also the organizations that help them.

Following the story, I conducted a fun game and the first five winners received a copy of the book 'Saathi'.

It is not easy to make children and the common man understand the burning issues of conservation.



Statistics and scientific terminologies will not help. But when told through interesting stories in the mother tongue/native language, they are able to relate and react to it.

I usually combine my sessions with a fun activity related to the conservation issue. This makes it more fun for them. My audience have always been very enthusiastic whenever I narrate stories about conservation. Children specifically felt deeply about the issues and came up with a lot of questions for me. This constantly motivates me to reach out to more children and other audiences whenever I get the chance.

Senbaga Poonguzhali, Storyteller, Thamizh Tutor, Blogger, Bharatanatyam Dancer, Coimbatore.