

Changing perspectives through outreach

Voices from Schools and Villages

Mystic Village Outreach

Hope for Restoration and Future Generations

The outreach at Pukhari village was conducted on 16 April with local people who run activities in the village, including ziplining, trampolines, and other tourism-related work. At first, we assumed that people there would only be money-oriented and might not show much interest in conservation or wildlife. However, that turned out to be our wrong judgment.

Around 15+ people attended the outreach, and we truly appreciated the way they listened carefully and observed our skit and posters with great interest. They were very optimistic about restoration and its future impacts. One person said, “We may not do this for ourselves, but we will do it for our future generations. We know restoration takes time”. Hearing this was very motivating for us. They even agreed to provide their land for restoration activities, which

showed their trust and willingness to support conservation efforts.

Randoh School Outreach

Teaching the Importance of Native Species

The outreach at Randoh School was conducted on 21 April. We visit this school every year, but this time we included a skit to demonstrate the impacts of deforestation and the importance of planting native species.

This year, the crowd was much larger, with more than 240 students and 15+ teachers present. Explaining the importance of native plantation to such a large audience was challenging, but the students listened very quietly and attentively. Since the classes were small and the number of students was high, we had to take four separate interaction sessions throughout the day. It was a hectic day, but we believe the students understood the project and the



HRP team performing skit. © L.R.S. Rathore.



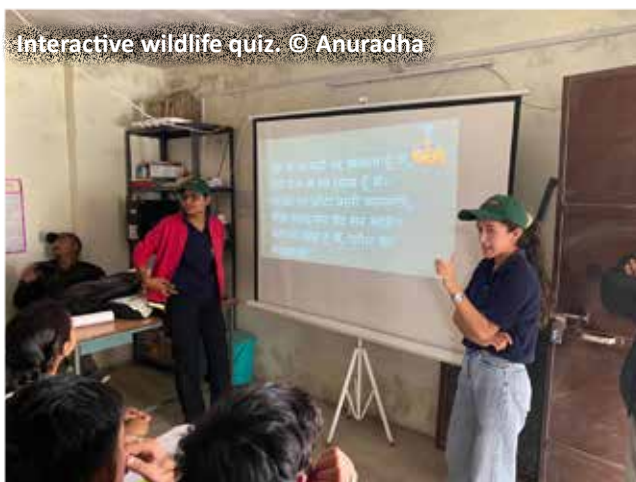
Wildlife outreach stickers. © L.R.S. Rathore.



HRP team addressing the students. © Payal Chaman.



Interaction with students. © Jayoti Bardhan.



Interactive wildlife quiz. © Anuradha



Poster explanation session. © Sherya Yadav.

importance of native species conservation. In the end, all the efforts felt valuable.

Khajjiar School Outreach

Understanding Perceptions Towards Wildlife

On 8 May, an outreach program was conducted at Khajjiar Senior Secondary School. This school was new to us, and due to accommodation, we were only able to take lectures for Classes 11 and 12, with around 50+ students attending. Whenever we ask students what black bears eat, the most common answer is always “corn,” just like we observed in Odda School and Randoh School. Even though this school was new to us, the response remained the same. During a quiz session, the students solved a wildlife riddle, and the answer was “porcupine”. When we asked if they had seen one, many students said yes, but some students sitting

at the back added that its meat is very tasty. This response was quite shocking to me and made me realize that people’s perception and understanding of wildlife are still very limited in some areas.

The outreach went well, but it also gave us an important lesson, awareness and understanding towards wildlife conservation are still lacking. we hope the HRP team can gradually help change this perception, and that the project will continue to bring positive lessons, awareness, and long-term conservation results to the local communities.

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