

Education Reports

Nature Awareness programme conducted at Science Center, Pilikula Mangalore

Pilikula Regional Science Center Society, Mangalore organized a two-day Nature Awareness program on 28-29 April, 2011, for student teachers with the financial support of Karnataka State Pollution Control Board. Mr Jagannath, Education Officer, PRSC, coordinated the programme.

The inauguration ceremony was held at the auditorium of the Science Center Building at 09:30 am. Prof. Kurian, Principal, ALVA'S College; Moodbedri; inaugurated the programme. Dr. K V Rao, Director, Pilikula Regional Science Center Society, Mangalore presided over the function. The inaugurator discussed the "Significance of biodiversity preservation for sustainable outlook". The address outlined the role of laypersons in various kinds of conservation efforts. This was followed by a speech by the president who took on the obligation of such trainings for enhancing Nature consciousness.

The first session with a lecture on "Biodiversity Conservation" by Shri Ramakrishna Marati, Scientific Officer, Pilikula Nisargadhama Society, followed by a lecture of Prof. Shruta Keertiraj who spoke on "Renewable source of Energy". The second session featured a lecture on "Genetically Modified Food" by Prof. Venkatkrishna Rao, ALVA'S College followed by the visit to Arboretum. In the evening session, nature movies were run to spotlight present environmental concerns. Second day of the camp started with Nature Walk, a trekking activity conducted under the supervision of Sri Ramakrishna Marati. This was followed by excursion to Dr. Shivaram Karanth Biological Park, Pilikula.

The educational resources, provided by Zoo Outreach organization, were immeasurably supportive in the subsequent session of the camp consisting of Biodiversity Quiz and Theme based street play. The participants were categorized into three groups and each group consisted of twenty students. Groups were named amphibian, mammals and biodiversity. Mr. K. K. Singh, Curator, PRSC along with Mr Jagannath, Educational Officer and Mr. Victor,



Student who took part in the street play



Performing the street play about biodiversity

Technical Assistant solicited Biodiversity quiz to the participants. It was followed by theme based unspoken play in which each group was given a biodiversity theme and they were invited to enact the same on stage, while the other groups had to divulge the whole subject of the play. Participants were delighted to engage in recreation as animals on a stage show. Afterwards each set of the educational resources were given to them.

Pilikula Regional Science Center Society is extremely thankful for these educational supports provided by Zoo

Outreach organization. **Submitted by Dr. K. V. Rao, Director, Pilikula Regional Science Center Society, Mangalore, Karnataka. Email: kvrao_44@yahoo.com**

Climate change programme at Government High school, Bamboo Bazaar

About 25 students from 9th standard participated in the programme. The students were told what is ailing the planet namely Climate Change as a result of Greenhouse gases and how we, as individuals, are contributing to it. The students were given, the 'Living



Tying rakhi and pledging to mitigate climate change



Children with masks



Students hopped like frogs

with Climate Change', 'The Greenhouse Gas Guardian and the Greenhouse Gas Ghost' was used. They were asked to list different pollutants and they replied the factories, vehicle and burning of plastics and leaves in winters.

Greenhouse gases are useful, but we are producing them at an astonishing rate so how are they affecting the present climate. They were requested to monitor the temperature for a year and they themselves could figure out the rise in temperature. They were told, that it was every individual's responsibility rather than asking Government to bring with polices for betterment of climate change and how each of us could contribute in reducing the Greenhouse gases and encouraged to grow trees in their school campus. Children wore masks and identified themselves with the masks they got, while they enjoyed tying rakhis to each other, but not before taking an oath to learn more about the Climate Change.

I thank the Headmistress and the students of the Government High School, Bamboo bazaar, Mysore, Zoo Outreach Organisation, and Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore.

Submitted by: Tanuja DH, Assistant Programme Manager, Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore, Karnataka. Email: tanujadh@gmail.com

Amphibian awareness programme at Viveka Tribal Centre for Learning, Hosahalli

At about 50 kms, from Mysore, is the beautiful village called Hosahalli in Heggadevanakote taluk of Mysore. This village has a special school, called Vivek Tribal Centre for Learning, run by Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM), Mysore. As the name suggests, this school is for the tribal children. The school is set right besides forest and is very, very well designed.

The audience was 7 grade students on 7 August 2010. The students were asked what they thought about frogs and what was the first things that comes to their mind, when the word 'frog ' was mentioned. Girls, reacted in revulsion and said, they were slimy and not pleasant, while boys thought frogs were ok and they could live with them. When they were asked if they had caught any few of the boys hands went up, while girls looked at each other and giggled and said 'no' in unison. While few of the boys had killed a few, when asked ' why?', they

said that frogs coming inside a house is a sign of bad omen, because snakes follow them, although this might sound logic, but they were told that frogs need not be killed, but could always be driven out. Just then we heard a toad croak, and all the students got excited and brought the toad inside the class. This was a nice opportunity to show the skin, the fore and hind legs, and best of all to tell the difference between a toad and a frog. The students were given amphibian education packets, while many wore mask and croaked and hopped like frogs, they ended with tying rakhi and taking a pledge that would not kill amphibians. Thanks to Headmaster and students of Vivek Tribal Centre for Learning, Hosahalli, Mysore, Mr.Ramesh Kikkeri, Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement, for introducing me to this beautiful learning place, Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore for materials and Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore. **Submitted by: Tanuja DH, Assistant Programme Manager, Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysore, Karnataka. Email: tanujadh@gmail.com.**

Nature Awareness programme in Coimbatore

We successfully conducted a nature awareness program at Vivekalaya Matriculation School, Trichy Road, Coimbatore on 22.01.2011. A total of 53 students and 3 teachers participated in this program. The students belonged to the 8th and 9th Standards. We had a presentation on the Western Ghats followed by a short wildlife movie, Save our Sholas, after which we had a discussion session. The students were completely engrossed in the program and were also informed of the work done by Zoo Outreach Organization. The students were told about human elephant coexistence, the need to save amphibians and also the invertebrate species tarantula. Students were provided with elephant and amphibian kits from Zoo Outreach organisation along with the tarantula posters and the amphibian art book. The students look forward to more such programs in future and have taken a decision to support the cause for wildlife. **Submitted by: S. Suraj Kumar, The DiscoverWild Foundation, Coimbatore. Email: discoverwild@gmail.com**



Students are committing themselves for Amphibian conservation



Coimbatore students enjoying wearing masks and holding placards

Tirupur hosts a Nature Awareness programme

A nature awareness program was conducted at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Devanurpudur, near Udumalpet, Tirupur District on 31 January 2011. Seventy three girl students and 2 teachers participated in this program. The students belonged to the 11th Standard. We had a short wildlife movie, save our Sholas by Mr.

Shekar Dattatri in Tamil, after which we had a discussion session. The students were also informed of the work done by Zoo Outreach Organization and conducted education programme with the material from Zoo Outreach Organisation. **Submitted by: Mr. Murugesan, Conservation photographer, Coimbatore. Email: murugeskovai@gmail.com**



Tirupur students holding 'don't feed monkeys' placard



Karuna club members insisting animal welfare through street play

APOWA's Animal Welfare Fortnight celebration in Odisha

This year APOWA conducted four programmes: Mega animal treatment camp, Students and Teacher's orientation programme, Street play, Educational competitions among school students.

A mega animal treatment camp was organized at Hatapatana on 15-16 January 2011. In total 468 animals (both stray and domestic) were treated for veterinary problems and 342 animals were vaccinated. All the team members however worked very hard to keep up with the large numbers of animals presented at the camp. Vaccination of village dogs against rabies was an additional goal of the camp. In total 64 stray dogs were vaccinated against Anti Rabies. The junior group and Karuna club members of APOWA performed street play and took up the challenge of getting the message of animal welfare. The play attracted participation of many people, school and college students who enthralled the audience with their performances. As the teams were entertaining the audience with their performances, in the process they were also effectively putting across the various factors of animal issues and to protest against cruelty towards animals, especially strays.

On 25th January teachers & students orientation programme was organized at Ucha Siksha Srama Arua Kadaliban High School. Animal welfare was the main subjects discussed. The session was more interactive with the students

giving their inputs throughout the programme. Students took oath to save animals and rescue animals in distress and also promised that they will never torture an animal. An essay competition was held among different groups of school students where different themes were given like 'role of students on animal welfare, compassion to animal, save birds and its habitat etc. More than 200 students from different schools & classes were participated. The programme was conducted at Panchayat High School, Gogua on 28th January. In the afternoon session, an educational programme was organized at the school premises. The programme was attended by a wide range of resource persons such as school teachers, forest and animal welfare personnel, and

members of APOWA. **Submitted by Bijaya Kumar Kabi, APOWA, Hatapatana, Odisha. Email: mail@apowa.org**

TATA Zoological Park celebrates Wildlife Week

The wildlife week 2010 has been celebrated by the Zoo from 05-10 October, 2010. Tata Steel Zoological Park, Jamshedpur celebrates Wildlife Week, every year, this year it has also celebrated with the same enthusiasm. The Celebration was inaugurated on 05 October, 2010. About 910 students from 35 Schools have participated in different programme during the celebrations. (Essay Writing Competition-135 from 21 Schools, Best Eco Club Teacher Award- 14 from 14 Schools, Debate-30 from 15 Schools, Fancy dress- about 150 and Drawing Competition). The entire Prize winner has been honored by Case, trophy or moments and given Certificate to the winners. A great support was received from Zoo Outreach Organization, SMV Beverages PEPSI, Chhaganlal Dayaljee, Mr. K. N. Venkat, Mr. Lions Club of Jamshedpur, Rotary Club of Jamshedpur Steel City, Inner Wheel Club of Jamshedpur and many more other Social Organizations of the city. The Tata Steel Zoological Park thankful to all the sponsor, donors and all other supporters for the join hand directly or indirectly for the celebration.

Submitted by Mr. S. K. Mahato, Curator, TATA Zoological Park, Jharkhand. Email: skmahato196@rediffmail.com



A creative young participant keen in drawing

Hoolock Gibbon awareness programme at Madurai

Hoolock Gibbon Awareness programme was organised by SAM school on 21.2.11, sponsored by Zoo Outreach Organization. The chief guest Mr. S. Kannan, sub-postmaster palanganatham, Madurai, inaugurated the function. The programme was carried out in two sessions. The first session was an introductory talk by the resource person, Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran, member, ZOO's Educator Network (ZEN), and a member of World Biodiversity Club. The main aim of the programme was to give awareness to the world in order to protect the Western Hoolock Gibbon which is declared as one of the world's 25 most Endangered Primate species 2006 – 2008 and 2008 -2010, and to release the special cover on Hoolock Gibbon by the chief guest.

Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran related that the gibbons play an important role in dispersing seeds to propagate fruit trees flowers and other plants, but these animals as they are facing a serious threats and will not survive as species unless human beings help them. Threats of habitat decline for human development, forest destruction for human commerce, intensive and insensitive cultivation and loss of quality of habitat all hurt their homes, potential food supply and survival. When these Gibbons live in small numbers close to human habitation they are often persecuted by local people, dogs, capture for food or pets. On the basis of these facts immediate measures such as updated and detailed studies, intensive habitat protection, movement of isolated population and other dramatic steps, are required of governments forest agencies local communities and NGOs in order to curb decline. The programme was supported by technical session where in the Gibbon pictured Rakhies, head band and the mask were given to the students to inform the public about the awareness of the decline rate of Gibbons.

Zoo Outreach Organisation was explained to students for the world. In India – Wildlife Areas Development and Wildlife Trust, Guwahati, Gibbon conservation Centre, Guwahati Assam, Primate Research Centre, Jodhpur, Rajasthan. Information was collected by the press reporter along with the photos and has been published on the next day's daily news paper dated 22.2.11.



Ms. Jessie Jayakaran explaining about climate change

Climate Change and Bio Diversity programme at New Life Development Community College

New Life Development Community College, Chennai is conducting skill development training such as DTP, DHA, fashion design and garment making for the unprivileged youths. Rev. D. Mohan, the founder, Rev. Pursothaman, Director SWD and Mrs. Mary Revathi Jesaudoss, Principal encouraged the students in community participation. In this regard one day program on climate change and bio diversity was conducted to nearly seventy students with lecture, interactive and audio visual sessions. Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran, Member CCN introduced and elucidated the topic climate change. The first session on climate change was interesting and the participants viewed the PPT prepared by Dr. B. A. Daniel ZOO Outreach Organization. The definitions for weather, climate, and temperature were clearly explained. They were thrilled to hear the various unfavorable conditions which are going to be happened especially around India.

The free educational packets received from ZOO Outreach Organization on living with climate change and amphibians were explained and given to the students. They tied the rakhi with one another, holding the placard with wearing the mask. Students came to know more from the information booklet and enacted short play as green house gas guardian and frog's

guardian. With the knowledge gained, the second CD on species and climate change dragged them to know more about the effects of climate change to certain species around the world. The next power point presentation was on India's environment issues and approaches revealed about the richness of natural resources in India.

The students commented about the programme that the PPT on climate change was educative, systematic, informative, interesting and clearly stated. Hats off to ZOO as this PPT was viewed by the deserving students who will spread the message to the community. The following were committed as their future follow up to mitigate Climate Change. WEHAB; Water - save water, Energy - shift to CFL, save energy practices; Health - behavioral shift to consume vegetables and fruits; Agriculture - developing bio manure pit and eco garden; Biodiversity - creating awareness about frog.

For spontaneous answers Jason, Packiaraj and Kalaiarasi received greeting cards printed by ZOO, along with amphibian pamphlets. All the participants' whole heartedly thanked Ms. Sally Walker, Dr. B. A. Daniel and Mr. Marimuthu for the wonderful effort they have taken. The day's program came to an end with vote of thanks proposed by the Principal. **Submitted by: Ms. Jessie Jeyakaran, Chennai. Email: jessyjey@rediffmail.com**