

Students for Tiger

Tanuja

A workshop on tiger was conducted in October, during Dasara holidays. The workshop was organised on 16, 17 and 18 of October 2008

We started on a very informal note where the Zoo volunteers introduced themselves followed by the participants and their interests. Interestingly many said their interest was drawing and painting, which was good as their skill would be put to use in the course of the three days. Tanuja asked the participants to write their expectations from the work-



shop and tally this sheet on the last day to note whether the workshop met their expectation. Tanuja, started the workshop with Concept map. The example given was, Mysore as tourist spot; participants were asked replicate with Tiger as core. Following this Somasehkar, talked about differences between big cats and the domestic cat. He also brought the importance of call, different calls, whiskers, territory, necessity of spots, stripes and colour in big cats.

Suma, carried out an Attitude Survey. Participants were asked to take different corner of the room, marked as happy, sad or neutral, they had to choose the position as their answer for the various questions posed. As an energiser the participants were asked to stretch, roar and walk like tiger. This was followed by Content Survey- pictorial and written. In both the survey the participants were given photocopies of questions and were asked to circle the appropriate answer. After this came story telling. The participants were asked to narrate stories or make their own or recite poetry or even mime, but the crux had to be tiger. The participants were divided into teams of two and given time to narrate or recite. The participants made a good effort and of the



6 teams, one group recited a poetry, while the rest narrated storied of which two group made up stories of their own, while the four narrated stories including the famous Puniyakoti, a very famous folk story also a poem for 7th grade (A story of tiger and cow, the tiger waylay a cow in the evening, the cow pleads the tiger to let her go feed her little one and promised to be meal for the tiger later, the tiger reluctantly lets her go, the tiger waits and is surprised to see the cow, tiger impressed commits suicide).

After lunch participants were taken to the leopard and small cat enclosure and were asked to study the cats, following this they were taken to the tiger enclosure to compare and to observe. Students watched the tiger sniff its den for a very long time and mark its territory, all the while they were given information about how the tiger hunts, importance of stripes which helps in camouflage, food in the wild, the capacity of the tiger to jump, ambush and the failure involved while hunting in the wild. The participants were taken to the holding area where they met the animal care taker Govind and shredded him to pieces with questions about food



in captivity, cleaning of cages and enclosure, Govinda's work and his relationship with the tigers, they wanted to know how they reacted to his presence, how they react when he feeds them, he cleans the cage, etc,. Govinda too on his part answered everyone's queries with equal enthusiasm. By this time the food arrived for the tiger and the participants saw the tigers feed, they watched each tiger's preferences in feeding either on chicken or beef.

Zoo Volunteer, Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysore

On the second day an activity called "time line" was conducted. The students were given paper slip with year and an incident. They were asked to illustrate the incident, they were called chrono-logical, read the incident and paste their illustration, it formed an illustrated time line. The participants got pictorial graph in the decline of tigers. Later, participants were divided into three groups and each group were given ready stories for the mini-drama. Photocopies of mask were given to go with the story. One of the participants was made leader, the group then read the stories and distributed the characters and went about rehearsing.

The students were given the game of Spots and Stripes, the students were divided into four groups and were asked to make list of spots and stripes they saw on leaves, birds, insects or animals, basically on any living organism, they were sent with time limit, they came back and read the list. This was done as competition. The group with highest number were declared as winners.

Next, the students continued in the same group and were asked to list Tiger being used either as promotional symbol, in art and culture, movies, in all covering every aspect of our life. Once again they came in groups and presented their list. The students rehearsed for the last time and presented mini-dramas.

The participants were once again asked to draw concept map and compare the present with the first day map, they participants expressed their concept map had grown since two days. Finally, to the wrap the workshop, the participants made a pledge to share their knowledge and learning about tiger with relatives, friends and family. And finally they were given their Certificate of participation.

Thanks everyone involved in this programme, participants, volunteer friends, Zoo Education officer, Mysore Zoo Director and the zoo staff and well as Zoo Outreach Organisation.

