

Report of World Earth Day Celebration 2004

Manish Saxena*

Greeting from WORLD Organization

Wing of Research in Local Development (WORLD) is a premier registered social welfare organization of State. It is secular, non - political, non- profit, non- governmental organization. World is patronized by Justice Rajendra Prasad Saxena, Former Judge, Rajasthan High Court and Shri Mittha Lal Mehta, I.A.S., Former Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan .

Wing of Research In Local Development (WORLD) organization organizes programme on the World Earth Day 2004 with theme "Protect The Earth For The Children". To observe this day World organized a Zoo Outreach educational programme for the underprivileged children of Jodhpur.

In past we have been organized Zoo educational programme with school students in oldest Zoo of Rajasthan i.e. Jaipur Zoo. It was felt that we should associate the children from every section of society. As we feel that everyone of us has memorable memories of childhood enjoying the enquiring about the animal. But there are many children around us who don't even have the opportunity to gather such happy and memorable moments in their life. We thought why not make them a part of earth conservation, keeping this objective in mind, we designed a Zoo educational programme for increasing awareness among underprivileged children.

On 22nd April, we invited underprivileged children from various slum area of Jaipur to participate in the educational at Jaipur Zoo. The earth Day programme started with the visit of children. They were taken around in the zoo by our team headed under the captainship of Manoj Singh, Manager (R.M.) during their visit; our team gave the brief information about the animals present in the zoo to the children. It was first visit for the most of the children. Their parents cannot afford it. Most of the children belong to the labour class which cannot afford to have a day wage earning for their children zoo visit. Even the cost of entrance tickets is unaffordable for them. They were highly excited and motivated to participate in a unique programme on the earth day.

After finishing the visit the children gathered in the central park where our project officers took the small interactive sessions with them they gave information about the importance of wildlife conservation & how they can contribute to the cause. Our project officers took the interactive session on tiger, bear and primate conservation they distributed the activity material provided by Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore, to educate and motivate children participate in the conservation mission. Children were very happy to get such informative material, mask, Rakhi, etc. They asked to give such kits for other animals also. We would like ZOO to provide informative kit about other animals also.

Then our team encouraged the children to participate in the small group activities, one group of children participate in the "Rakhi tying" ceremony, another in the story making on "Ek Sher Ki Khan", in which they describe the feeling of tiger of

losing in habitat, fear from hunters, losing their families and some children even said that zoo is same like living in Prison. Their thoughts were mind blowing. Our project officers pacify their queries and doubts. He explained them that zoo is integral part of wildlife conservation.

After the activity session our Patron, Justice Rajendra Prasad Saxena had a talk with children about their dreams and recited an educational story to them depicting the importance of Wildlife, environment on earth. After that children participated in the Painting competition our guest motivated and helped the students to paint their dream of earth.

Paintings were the fusion of reflection of imagination and reality. They painted the importance of birds and animal on earth. Some of the paintings touch the heart of selectors as it depicts the dream of underprivileged children to have clean, healthy environment full of trees, birds, deer's and monkeys. Some draw the hut with lots of greenery and water around. The children living near the forest reserve areas do realize the need of people participation to safeguard the lives of wild animals.

Dorothy Choudhary, Proprietor Venue Bakery, was one of the judges of the Painting Competition. She encouraged the children towards education and recited a story on the theme of bear conservation. She asked student to inform the forest department to rescue bears from street show vendors (madari). Arvind Knakas, State Coordinator, PCRA, recited the environment educational stories to the children describing the importance of trees for the survival of human beings. He asked the children to save water and grow trees to protect the earth.

Justice Rajendra Prasad Saxena, Patron, gave away the prizes to the winners of Painting competition, to Shri Babu Khan, President, "Hathi Mahavat Sangh" for the exemplary work for conservation of elephant in Rajasthan, mementos to Arvind Kankas, PCRA; Dorothy Choudhary, Venus Bakery; Assam Makhija, Camlin Ltd. Lion Er. S.N. Chauhan gave away the Participation certificate to the children sponsored by Camlin Ltd. In the concluding address Capt. Manish Saxena, Director World, had a talk with children about how they can work for the conservation of Earth. He asked them to plant at least one tree in/around their houses. They should work as informed & alert individual to stop the cruelty against bear, monkeys, etc. If they hear/ come across people who are posing danger to wild life then should immediately inform to the local Police station and Forest chokhi. This can save live of a precious, rare animal of the earth, so far now then they should work as wildlife conservators in their areas. He thanked wildlife warden & expert, Shri Rajpal Singh Shekhawat for guidance & motivation, for outstanding work to volunteer Ramesh Saini & Project Officer Hanuman Jajoria. He thanked all the companies & supporters who made it possible, the free Zoo visit for the slum children. In the end every one took oath to work for conservation of earth.

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This programme was made possible by the support of Shri Y.K. Sahu, Director, Jaipur Zoo, Forest Department, Rajasthan for allowing free entrance to the children, to R.T.O. Jaipur, Shri B.L. Jatawat for free transportation of children, Camlin limited, for prizes, certificate and colour for the children, eatables from Britannia Industries Limited, Venus Bakery; Lessi and water bottles from Jaipur Dairy and Bisleri International, Jaipur.

World is honoured to bring the smiles on the faces of underprivileged children of Jaipur. Children felt proud to be a part of team of wildlife conservation, working for conservation of wildlife in order to save our planet "EARTH". It was the first programme of kits kind, for the poor underprivileged children, in the 127 year old history. WORLD plan to continue organize such educational programme with support of organizations like Zoo Outreach Organization and financial institutions/ companies.



Story Recitation Session-July 04



Painting Competition-July 04



World earth Day- July 04



Rakhi tying-July 04



World earth Day-July 04

An Insect Exhibition at Mysore Zoo, Keeta Prapancha

M.K. Saptha Girish *

Insects make up the largest taxon group on Earth, representing 80% of total faunal diversity of the world. Insects occur deep underground, in caves, in oceans and up to the highest altitude of the Himalayas. A termite was captured in a trap attached to an aeroplane flying at 19,000 ft. Some 40 species of insects live in the bleak Antarctic.

Insects play a major role in the environment, ceaselessly recycling natural elements, enriching the soil, destroying noxious weeds, decimating injurious organisms, pollinating, providing food etc. Thus insects provide an essential contribution to a viable environment for human life and civilisation. On other hand, some insects are harmful or irritating to people by puncturing the skin, spreading dangerous diseases, consuming stored food and clothing, compromising crop harvests, etc.

Ordinarily man treats insects as a nuisance and attempt to eliminate them as soon as they observe their presence. Common insects of this type are mosquitoes, cockroaches, flies etc. Human beings are ignorant of or forget the benefits derived from insects. Few humans are aware of the fact that insects play a major role in maintaining the ecological balance and in keeping our environment clean.

The 'Green Club' a Mysore based Trust dedicated to nature was formed to minimize the misperception and lack of understanding of insects, to create awareness about their diversity and usefulness, and to popularise the subject of Entomology among the common man in Mysore. The Green Club conducted '**Keeta Prapancha**' an insect exhibition, the first of its kind in this Royal City from 18th to 24th April 2004 at the Sri. Chamrajendra Zoological Gardens. Mysore Zoo has always encouraged such programmes.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Shri. Shashidhar Prasad, Vice Chancellor, Mysore University on 18th April 2004. During the week-long exhibition, more than ten thousand people including many forest officials, students from various colleges and schools, researchers and many outstanding personalities of Mysore enriched their knowledge about insect diversity.

The exhibition featured various insect specimens collected by Green Club volunteers during the insect surveys at the Bandipur National Park, by the Entomology Club, GKVK, Bangalore; Forestry College, by Ponnempet; Department of Zoology, Mysore University, ATREE, Bangalore and CSRTI Mysore.

The displayed species included 70 species of Beetles, 22 species of Ants from all parts of India, 30 species of bugs, 15 species of Grasshoppers, 11 species of Preying Mantis, 8

species of Wasps, 15 species of Flies, 7 species of Cockroaches, more than 50 species of Butterflies, 20 species of Moths, 6 species of Dragonflies, 4 species of Damselflies, 3 species of Honeybees, Lac insect, Queen termite and silk worms. The sizes of the insects varied from as small as 2 mm in length to as long as 10 inches long. Four different types of insect nests (ants/wasps) were also displayed along with the immature phases of insects.

For the purpose of the display, insects were classified as Predators (50), Scavengers (18), Pollinators (15), Aquatic insects, Social insects, Food insects, Sound producing insects, Productive insects, Medicinal insects & Fast running insects.

Apart from the insect display, informative posters were also put up. The information provided on these posters received special appreciation and was one of the special features of the exhibition. The details on the posters contained information including peculiar behaviour exhibited by certain insects, information about insect 'homes', details about the longest and the smallest insect, etc. Insects as pests and beneficial insects.

Another attraction at the exhibition was 'Stamps on Insects' collected by Sri. M.N. Lakshminarayana. Eye catching photographs by Shyam Prasad & Amar Singh were also well appreciated by the visitors.

The visitors to the exhibition were amazed to see the wide diversity of insects. Some were captivated by the astonishing colour and size of some insects facts displayed on posters. Children were the most enthusiastic viewers were eager to know more. The exhibition on the whole was a great success in creating awareness among the visiting public, which has encouraged us to organize more such exhibitions.

We sincerely thank Entomology Club, GKVK, Bangalore; Department of Zoology, Mysore University; Forestry College, Ponnempet; Central Silk Research and Training Institute, Mysore; and ATREE, Bangalore for lending us various specimens and Sri Chamrajendra Zoological Gardens who have helped us in successfully conducting this exhibition.

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