

Animal Welfare Fortnightly 2005 : An activity Report from Conservation Himalayas, Shimla

Santosh Kumar Sahoo*

Activities for Students -- The Animal Welfare Fortnight programme of the Conservation Himalayas (CH) has been a major activity through which we attempt to touch the heart of the people and bring changes in the attitude of the people in positive direction towards wild animals living in zoo and under natural condition. As a part of this Animal Welfare Fortnightly Programme this year we organised two different activities in Bilaspur district of Himachal Pradesh: First activity focused on the daily life wildlife and its conservation significance. Students (6-9 grades) of Khansara Public school at Parnal, Ghumarwin, Himachal Pradesh participated in this half-day programme.

The programme was divided into two sessions: the first session was interactive and was meant for giving basic introduction about the concept map of the biodiversity through which the students were made familiar with various dimensions of biodiversity, like what is biodiversity, how the interconnectedness of various forms of living organisms is accomplished, why biodiversity is important, how the daily life wildlife is important in the ecosystem, threats to the biodiversity, what types of solutions are required to save biodiversity. A copy of the biodiversity concept map was given to each participating student. In the second session of this programme, the theme was on the role of FROGS in maintaining natural harmony in the ecology. The students

were taken close to a local water stream and were explained about the life history of frogs and the role they play to maintain harmony in the ecology of the local biodiversity, threats frogs face due to their habitat loss, demand of frogs for the biology laboratory in schools and colleges. Based on this theme, one action group consisting of 10 students was made. The work of this action group would be to keep a record of all types of living animals found in their local ecosystem, assess the possible threats to the daily life wildlife and educate the local people about the daily life wildlife and about how they should protect small wildlife in their local ecology for the welfare of the local people. The students were given the Zoo Outreach Organisation's special educational kit on the Daily Life Wildlife.

From such community based wildlife education programme, Conservation Himalayas received positive response from the local students who took initiatives to work hand in hand with the CH to protect the fragile local ecosystem from going bad, as it is today, to worse as may be imminent if local villagers remain ignorant about the use of the wild resources and continue to exploit the local natural resources for their selfish desires.



Dr. Sahu giving informations about various animals and their role in biodiversity to the women groups

Activity for Community Women -- In most cultures, women's direct association with the local natural ecology is more visible, it can be truly said that for the success of the best solution to the ecological problems, village women communities must be involved through community participatory conservation programme. It is in this line of approach, Conservation Himalayas organised the Animal Welfare Fortnightly Programme at Bilaspur for three *Mahila Mandals* (Village Women's groups at the Panchayat level). Thirty five village women representing three panchayats under Ghumarwin Block in Bilaspur district, Himachal Pradesh participated in this half-day programme.

The objective of this programme was three fold: first to interact with these community women's group on various issues pertaining to the level of the use of biological resources by the village community, and human-wildlife conflict in the local area; secondly to assess the level of awareness among the community women about the local area wildlife through an interactive oral question-answer session; and thirdly to disseminate basic information about the concept of biodiversity including the daily life wildlife and its conservation in the perspective of the community women's role for a sustainable use and preservation of the biological resources in the local ecosystem.

The participating women's groups took interest to share their experience with the local wildlife from the perspective of their little understanding of how they have become dependent with the local forest resources to support their livelihood. They even come to a point to admit that because of their lack of awareness about the importance of wildlife and natural environment, they hardly find any reason to assimilate the increasing level degradation to their environment, particularly the emerging threats to the local wildlife and natural habitats. They, however, understandably feel that a **"Save Rural Biodiversity"** education campaign for all section of the village community is the best way out left today if the remaining biological resources are to be saved. The most encouraging part of this programme was that 10 out of the 35 participants voluntarily came up with a decision to join CH's Biodiversity Protection squad to work as a local action group under the leadership of one Ms.Sunita Chandel in coordination with the CH for the welfare of the wildlife and forest resources in the local ecosystem.

During the Wildlife education dissemination session, Dr. Sahoo apprised the women about how the preservation of the local area biodiversity has linkages with the balancing harmony of the global ecosystems. Besides, Dr. Sahoo gave a precise information about Bats, Indian Primates, Big Cats (tigers, leopards), Himalayan Black Bears, Daily Life Wildlife (Rats, frogs, Butterflies, various insects and rodents, etc.) highlighting their population, habitats, feeding ecology, ecological role for the benefits of human beings, ecological threats, and conservation needs.

At the end of this programme, ZOO Outreach Organisation's educational materials on Bats, Daily Life Wildlife, Asian Bears and Indian Vulture and Conservation Himalayas' educational materials on Tigers, Leopards and Primates were distributed to the participants.



The women groups keenly watching on Sahu's talk



Programme for Women groups "Save rural biodiversity"



Programme on "Young children's role in Daily life Wildlife conservation"

The programme ended with a note of appreciation to the three participating *Mahila Mandals* and the local *Mahila Mandal's* coordinating leader Mrs. Sunita Chandel.

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Ahmedabad's Kamla Nehru Zoo

Mr. R.K. Sahu*

The zoo celebrated Animal Welfare Fortnightly from 15-30th January 2005. This time we invited many schools during this fortnight celebration. About 5279 students alongwith their teachers visited our zoo. Education Inspectors took them round the zoo and gave talk alongwith Zoo Outreach Organization materials. They used the masks provided in the kit for different educational activities.

Teachers have also learned many new things and happy to know about animal behaviour and modern Zoo concepts.

We are thankful to you for sending very useful materials.

** Zoo Superintendent, Kamala Nehru Zoological Gardens, Ahmedabad*



Students tying rakhi



Explaining "Zoo Patrol Kit"



Students with masks



Explaining "ABC's brochure"

Report on 50th Wildlife Week celebration at Pilikula Biological Park, Mangalore, Karnataka

H.J. Bhandary*

50th Wildlife Week was celebrated in the Pilikula Biological Park of Pilikul Nisarga Dhama by organizing drawing and quiz competition to school children on "Nature and wildlife". Sri Aravinda Shrivasthava I.A.S. Deputy commissioner D.K. district Mangalore inaugurated the drawing competition by drawing a picture on wildlife. Sri H.J. Bhandary, Director, Pilikula Biological Park welcomed the gathering. More than 200 school children participated in the drawing and quiz competition.

Audiovisual program on "Wildlife and Nature" was also held in the Biological Park auditorium for children. Later children were taken around the Biological Park and demonstration of snakes and other animal was conducted in order to make the children aware of the life of the wild animals.



WLW 2004 Badge

Mrs. Mamatha A. Acharya, President, Mudushedde Grama Panchayat presided over the valedictory program held in the evening. Sri. Kishor Singh Sugar I.F.S., Conservator of Forests, Mangalore circle, Mangalore was the chief guest and distributed the prizes to the winners. Sri H.J. Bhandary, Director, Pilikula Biological Park proposed the vote of thanks.

The kits received from the Zoo Outreach Organization were distributed to the participants and other school children that visited the biological park during the Wildlife Week celebration.

I would like to thank the Zoo Outreach Organization for the kind cooperation extended to Pilikula Biological Park.

****Director, Pilikula Biological Park, Mudushedde, Mangalore 575 028***



Inauguration of drawing Competition by Sri Arvind Shrivasthava

World of birds ... Birds of prey ... the Last Dance of Vultures

Dr. Puja Vijay Sukhija*

On 8th of January 2005, Children's eco carnival, "Birds of Paradise" was organised by OASIA. The programme started with a concept of "Biodiversity on earth". There are about 8000 species of birds on earth. Among those a group of birds that prey on other living things was of our interest. Every year 14th January is 'Makarasankranti' - a celebration of kite. During this festival many birds get entangled and get hurt. This educational programme was exclusively organised to educate children about this. To teach about various habitats a game called "Where do I belong" was played. Vulture was focused upon roleplay and another game "Do you know ?" - all about facts.

In the month of March in "Deep woods Delight" a stall was totally setup for the wildlife. Children visiting the stall were given live demonstration with the help of zoo patrol folder and the issues of animal cruelty were taken up.

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"Deep woods delight" - A stall of live demonstration of saving wildlife



Eco Carnival "Birds of Paradise"



Puzzle making activities to sensitize on diversity of species



Game activity - "Where do I belong"



If a lion shoots the human how would we feel



Role play on Vultures

Wildlife Welfare Workshop for Principals of R West Ward, Mumbai

Amit Chavan*

A workshop on wildlife welfare was held at the Nature Information Centre, Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivali East, Mumbai 400 066 on Wednesday, January 12, 2004. The goal of the workshop was to spread awareness about the non-formal methods in Environmental Education among the Principals and thereby teachers of the Higher Secondary Schools in and around the SGNP.

Objectives of the Workshop were : 1. To reinforce the importance of the EE in formal sector, 2. To give an exposure to the 'living laboratory' i.e. SGNP, 3. To offer the schools the facilities at the SGNP and NIC activities as an instrument in assisting the students in EE, 4. To give an exposure to different kinds of educational materials in EE

5. To keep schools apprised of the techniques in EE.

Usage of the packets: -- One packet per participant i.e. school was distributed and then the following activities were conducted. The contents of the packet and its multiple purposes in teaching Environmental Science were explained to the participants in an elaborate manner. The participants were then asked to go through the contents and brainstorm on the different possibilities & ways in which the material could be used. As we began the discussion, immediately ideas started to spring up, regarding various materials in the packet.

Masks: Participants suggested that they could use newspaper, used paper and colours instead of using chart paper. This would help children understand about different recycling techniques also. One of the participant came up and introduced himself as the animal on the mask (Langur) and then suggested that this can be used as a way of teaching young children about the animals. It will also give students the confidence to speak up on stage.

Frog Talk: Few participants mentioned that some of their teachers were already using the method of the 'Frog Talk' to keep children abreast with the current environmental issues.

Know Your Wildlife Welfare ABC's: The participants were then asked to attempt filling in up the blanks with names of different wildlife. The end result of this was that some of the teachers came up with the ideas of attempting to fill in the blanks with the names of endangered and extinct wildlife that will end up bringing about awareness among the children, they also suggested that it could be used to teach student the difficult terms & concepts that arise in the subject of environment science.

Stamp Album: The participants were split up into groups rather making each individual play. Each group prepared their own album. This activity was much appreciated.

Poster: The participants were amused at the depiction of the animal welfare day on the posters. This motivated the participants to celebrate all the eco-days and that too by developing more posters on the similar lines and carry out campaigns in their areas using the posters. They also requested for the list of all the eco-days, which was then circulated along with other material.

Educational packets with ZOO: The participants were informed about the work done by ZOO and other packets available with the ZOO. They were requested to forward their needs to the NIC who can assist them in getting the required material.

The participants feedback about the material: On seeing the contents of the packet the participants were amused at the variety of material available. The participants were absolutely flabbergasted by the simplicity in these activities that in reality can teach volumes. The participants expressed that the packets will help them to encourage their teachers in conducting innovative activities while teaching the environmental science.

Future plans of NIC: BNHS plans to conduct a series of workshops for principals followed by workshops for the teachers who will actually implement the activities. The remaining 140 packets will be soon used during next workshops.

Acknowledgements: In the concluding session BNHS acknowledged Zoo Outreach Organisation for providing the wonderful tools of education. BNHS also mentioned its gratefulness to the funding agency for providing these packets free of cost.

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Teachers understanding ethics of Animal welfare



Teachers playing "Web of Life" activity



Inaguration of Wildlife welfare workshop



Teachers learning more about the Education Packets produced by Zoo Outreach Organisation



Teachers playing "Web of Life" activity



Teachers giving feedback

Plants for Life -- yours for the asking

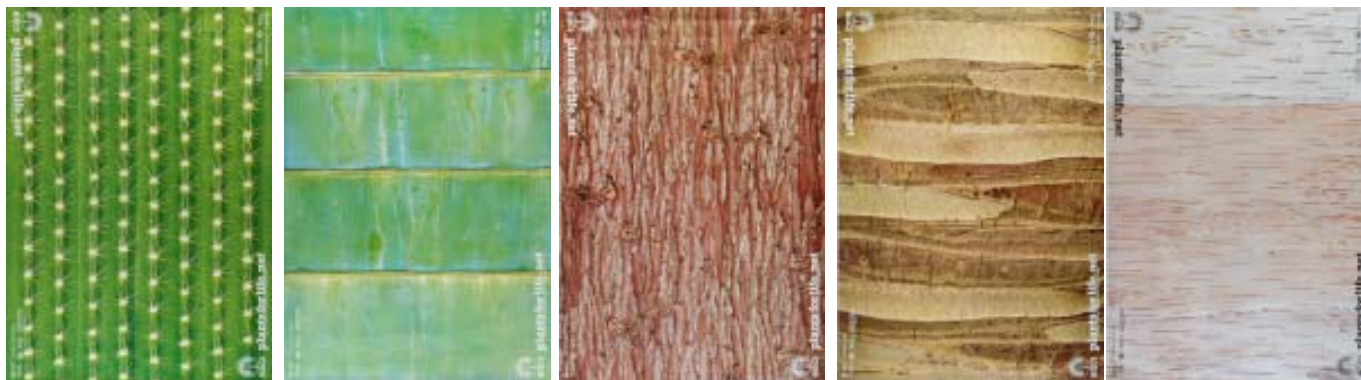
World Environment Day may have come and gone by the time you see this notice, but not Vanamahotsava ! We have thousands of large posters, stickers, rakhi's and packets to give away to people who want to teach people (preferably little people but not necessarily) about the beauty, beneficence and benefits of plants for life.

We also have a few hundred t-shirts to die for that you can use as prizes in contests and games or to identify your volunteer educations, or whatever.

You should have read about the Botanic Gardens Conservation International BGCI Plants for Life programme and the Chester Zoological and Botanical Gardens generous donation of funds to implement it in India in previous issues of ZOOS' PRINT. Many of you will have received a letter of invitation to participate in the programme by the time you see this.

Therefore, before sending you these valuable materials we request you to agree to follow our guidelines for use. We don't want these materials simply passed out at a function, as people often take things they don't want and throw them away later. We want you to organise a Plants for Life programme with the target audience of your choice in a group, not too large to work with, and not too small to be fun. We want you to lead your audience through a series of activities designed to make them have a nice time, to associate plants with pleasure, and to make personal commitments to pay more attention to plants ! Like animals, plants are declining in nature and need protection as much as the fauna they feed. We hope the programmes that you organise will serve the conservation needs of the plant life in your area.

You can email, write or fax us your request for an invitation. All materials are free but we require you to pay postage and packing, limit your programmes to two for the time being, follow



The illustrations printed here of the trees and stems can't do justice to the lovely colour posters of the trunks of plants which you can use either rolled up as in a tree or stem trunk or plastered on your wall, dias or almira.

If you have never participated in a ZOO/WILD education programme before, please write to us and introduce yourself and tell why we should invite you to join us. We want to be convinced so its easy. But we also want to use the funds

and materials which have been sent to us in wise ways -- that is why we are involving you, so that we can spread these material as far as possible. We could never do this alone ... we need you ... but you might need us to help you achieve this objective also.



BGCI



plants for life.net

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