

## Workshop on “Wildlife Conservation and Awareness and Teachers for Tigers” During Wildlife Week

G.K. Dubey\* and T. Kalaichelvan\*\*

Maitri Baag Zoo is famous for Royal Bengal Tiger both normal and white (8 Nos. and 10 Nos. respectively) in Chhattisgarh State and border Towns and villages of adjoining State namely Maharastra, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. Chhattisgarh has suitable habitat for wild population of tigers in some forest area.

So, we organised a workshop on “Wild Conservation and Teachers for Tigers” on 04/10/03 at Maitri Baag Zoo, Bhilai for the members of “Bhilai Jeevan Vidhya Samiti”, Bhilai, the cross section of the Bhilai community. The participants belong to the Bhilai Steel plant's officers and others from various professions living in and around Bhilai.

During this programme the participants visited the zoo along with zoo education unit and got information about zoo animals, importance of habitat and feeding of wild animals. They also enriched with the information regarding “increasing the activities of Zoo animals by providing environmental enrichment in the zoo.

Dr. G.K. Dubey gave lectures on wild birds and bats, which come for breeding and roosting at Maitri Baag Zoo.

The workshop was organised mainly to know about tigers. We told the participants how the stud book is used to avoid inbreeding of tigers. We also discussed about habitat, feeding behaviour, cub rearing, parental care, hunting behaviour of tigers, old age care and treatment. We expect that the participants do not buy any body parts of tigers and a message was given to them that – If we don't care about tigers and their habitat, the tiger population may decline in near future and have an impact on the “ecological balance”. The role of zoo in conserving tiger population was also discussed.

During the workshop, Dr. K.K. Verma, President, “We care Society”, Bhilai and well-known entomologist, as a special guest, delivered a lecture about bio-diversity, species extinction in the past and today in detailed manner. He also emphasized the role of Zoo in protecting species from extinction. He also added that “thousands of species are becoming extinct every year mainly due to human disturbance which will affect our future”.

Dr. S.P. Sharma, AGM, Ph.D. and Harti, B.S.P. as a chief guest gave a message to utilize the zoo as a tool for zoo education effectively for well being of wildlife. Mr. T. Kalaichelvan gave a lecture on the behaviour and habitat of wildlife. Dr. N.K. Jain answered the participants' queries.

The participants took an oath by tying rakhi that “they will never involve in wildlife trade in their life time and will help conserving and protecting wildlife; create awareness among the people about tiger habitat and their conservation”.

The packets containing “Tiger tool kit”, Stickers, Mask, Rakhi, study material were distributed to the participants provided by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore. The programme was organized by Dr.G.K. Dubey and T. Kalaichelvan of Zoo Education Unit, Maitri Baag Zoo, Bhilai



Teachers stand in front of the tiger enclosure.



Teachers tying Rakhis.



Teachers give an overview of the Programme.

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