

Conservation Education at Sakkarbaugh Zoo, Junagadh

R.D. Katara *

Sakkarbaugh Zoo is a very specialized Zoo mainly focusing on the fauna of Gir National Park & Sanctuary. Zoo has a long history of conservation education and it regularly conducts different activities like Nature Education Camps for School/ colleges, celebration of special events like Wildlife Week, World Environment Day, Earth Day, etc.

On behalf of conservation education programme, the Zoo carried out 3 different activities.

a) A Snake Show was organized on 23rd May 2004 for the students of 'Adventure Course' in Rock Climbing from the State Mountaineering Institute, Junagadh. The State Mountaineering Institute together with its regular syllabus of mountaineering deeply concentrates on nature education and contributes the Zoo in its Conservation Education Programme.



Snake show at Sakkarbaugh Zoo

80 students from all over Gujarat State from the age group between 8-13 years participated in the camp and were present during the snake show. They were made aware of the importance and role of reptiles in our environment and the need for their conservation. They also came to know about various misbeliefs related to snakes prevailing in the society.

The students were very excited to see different venomous and non-venomous snakes and even had a chance to touch these magnificent and valuable creatures. They were also scientifically educated by making them explain the first aid techniques for precaution from snake bite.

Along with this, the student were also exposed to the facts and issues related to conservation of bears, bats and tigers with the help of professionally designed attractive education kits on three themes "Just Bats about Bats", "Dare to Care for Bears" and "Tiger Tool Kit" prepared by Zoo Outreach Organization. The students were provided information on the ecological importance of such animals from resource person Mr. Punil Gajjar at the Zoo. The kits provided very informative and a sensible media to educate the students. The students wore the masks and visited the Zoo together



Nature education camp at Bordevi

with their mountaineering instructors. The instructors too had a very good experience at this occasion.

b) A similar kind of programme in form of NEC on 2 successive days in the forest of Gimar was organized by the Zoo and 'Kadvi Bai Virani Kanya Vidhyalaya', Rajkot. 110 students from 8th standard participated in the camps on 3rd and 4th July, 2004. Resource persons Mr. Rasik Bhatt (Scientist – Medicinal plants), Mr. Punil Gajjar, Mr. Bhavesh Trivedi (Education Officer – WWF – Rajkot) and Mr. Rajan Jadhav accompanied the students during this camp. They were taken through a beautiful trek experiencing the dry deciduous forests and its faunal- floral diversity. They walked through lush green forests and reached a place called 'Bordevi' of Dungen South Range, Gimar Forests. During the post lunch session resource persons discussed various aspects of tigers, bats & bears i.e. distribution of these animals in the World and Gujarat, habit and habitat, feeding behavior, status of the species in wild and captivity, threats, how this species breeds in zoos, etc.

Mr. Rajan explained the students keenly with the help of education kits giving examples of habitats and the fauna found in the forests of Gir and Gimar. Education kits were distributed and the students also filled up the pledge cards.

The students pledged to collect information regarding the amazing but endangered lesser- known fauna and circulate it to their friends, neighbor and parents. They also pledged to protect the natural habitats and faunal diversity existing in the domestic areas of their city. After the session the students were taken to a different trek route to reach the destination.

Acknowledgment

We are thankful to Zoo Outreach Organization, ZOO/ ALERTIS, USFWS Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society (W.C.S.), Chester Zoological Gardens, Bats Conservation International (BCI), Fauna and Flora International (FFI) and Riverbanks Zoological Park and Botanical Garden for providing very attractive and informative education tool kits. It proved to be very sensible media for educating the school students.

* Zoo Officer, Sakkarbaugh Zoo, Junagadh

Wildlife Week Celebrations at Department of Zoology, Bharathiyar University, T.N.

Ms. Suganya Devi*

The wildlife week celebration was conducted at the Department of Zoology on 18th October 2003. Various posters and pamphlets (received from Zoo Outreach Organisation) on endangered species were displayed on the pillars to emphasize the need to conserve them. Students and staff from various department had assembled and our chief guests Dr. (Prof.) S. Sivasubramanian, Vice-chancellor, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore and Shri. K. Ramakantha, IFS, Principal, SFS College, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, Coimbatore were present to grace the occasion.

The day begun with a warm welcome address by Dr. K. Sasikala, Professor, Department of Zoology, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore who gave a brief account on the purpose of this gathering. Then our Vice-chancellor delivered the presidential address, and captured the attention of the audience. He spoke on "self control" which is the key to make this world a heaven. He also spoke on the need to protect wildlife.

The highlight of the day was Shri. Ramakantha, IFS, a very energetic person, who gave a lecture on Indian Biodiversity, how rich we are in biological aspect. He also gave a detailed account on the rare and endangered animals at the edge of going extinct due to human ignorance. He also described the studies of very beautiful animals with special powers had gone extinct such as the gastric brooding frog. He also specified the importance of the interconnection between various species. We are a web in which each species either minor or major play a very important role and the collapse of a single species may lead to the break down of the entire web. This was explained by the Dodo story. The extinction of this bird lead to the decline of a particular tree, which was dependent on their birds for softening the seed coat for its propagation. He also explained about various other animals, which are at the verge of extinction.

This function was organized with the help and support of Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore and ENVAN- India who is the local organiser of the programme. The ENVAN – India , is one of the Environmental Awareness project of "The Vedha Trust" , Coimbatore-31 , and every year the organization identifies a person interested in Environmental and Wildlife conservation , and this year Mr. M. Saravanan of M.Sc. first year, Animal Science student received the award from the Vice chancellor.

Finally, Dr. K. Murugan, Reader of the Department of Zoology gave a vote of thanks and emphasized the need for conservation and also said that nature is our mother and we are children in her lap. Our mother is very important for our survival and she has to be protected for the betterment of human beings and without wildlife, we are nothing, we humans have the power to change this condition and make our earth a heaven to all its inmates.

* II M.Sc., Animal Science, Department of Zoology, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore- 641 046



Part of Audience listening the talk



Talk given by our Hon. Vice- Chancellor



Students tie raki to our Chief Guest Shri. K.Ramakantha, IFS



Students tie raki to our Hon. Vice Chancellor

Corporation Middle School, Pappanaikkan Palayam, Coimbatore, T.N. Joseph Prem Kumar*

Date: 9.10.2004 (Saturday)
Duration: 1 Hour 15 Minute
No. of Participants: 50

The programme commenced at about 11.45 AM. Teachers from the following schools took part in the programme.

1. Corporation Middle School, P.N. Palayam
2. Mani Higher Secondary School, P.N. Palayam
3. R.K.S. Rangammal Higher Secondary School
4. St. Antony's Middle School, Adis Street
5. C.S.I. Primary School, P.N. Palayam
6. C.S.I. Higher Secondary School, Avinashi Road
7. Suburban Higher Secondary School, Ram Nagar

While introducing them to the Wildlife Week celebration, I dealt on the 'Why?'s of knowing tigers now. It is our national animal is endangered cat, and Co-existent

With the aid of pictures (xerox copies from Teachers for Tigers Manual) of various types of tigers and the maps of Asia, I was able to describe how these tigers could be differentiated and about their major habits of Asia.

Next I discussed with the participants about its body size and weight and compared with that of the house cat. About its jumping ability, hunting techniques- use of camouflage and climbing ability many participants were not aware that tigers do climb trees.

Comparing the tiger's mouth with that of a human, I described how the tigers teeth were designed to pierce and tear its prey. Participants were made aware of how the tail plays a pivotal role in enhancing the "balance" in the tiger

We also compared the speed of the tiger with that of a cheetah and a human: How the tiger mark their territory and how they communicate with one another.

I divided the participants into five groups and gave them copy of several tigers (p: 155 of the Teachers for Tigers Manual) and asked them to identify the different tigers in it. Participants from the Suburban School did the assignment correctly within 5 minutes.

After interactive questions from participants about the tiger Time-line that I have displayed, I spoke about the wonderful work of Dr. Ullas Karanth, at Nagarhole and his ideas about censusing tigers.

I then dealt on poaching and how tiger body parts are used as medicine.

To conclude I conducted an attitudinal assignment (p: 14 of Teachers for Tigers Manual). Although the participants viewed the tiger with fear and respect, they unanimously

grieved at the declining number of tigers and the extinction of some species. They felt assured about the laws protecting tigers and that various people were doing something to save the tigers from extinction. They were also very optimistic that they could do something to the save the tiger. The programme came to an end with the national anthem.

* Sec. Gr. Asst., Corporation Middle School, Pappanaikkan Palayam, Coimbatore - 641 037, T.N.



J. Prem Kumar conducting T4T programme



J. Prem Kumar distributing tiger materials

B.C. Pranisangrahalay Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, Pune

Anil Khaire*

Celebration of Wildlife Week 2004

On 7th October 2004, the lawns of the zoo looked so colorful early in the morning due to the varied schemes of school uniforms. Around 200 plus children from two private and two municipal schools gathered to celebrate the 50th Wildlife Week. Subodh Vidyalay, SPM School and Municipal Schools at Keshavnagar and Kalbhornagar were the participants this year.

By 9.30 a.m. volunteers arrived. The children were divided in four groups. They were asked to go around all the sections of the zoo and have a clean and through look towards all the cages & enclosures. After about half an hour later, they assembled back for the quiz. Volunteers conducted very interesting Q & A.

Ms. Sanskriti Menon, head of Centre for Environment Education- Central Regional Office, along with Mr. Amarnath, project associate and Mr. Kapil Shastrabhdhe, Ms. Savita Bharati & Ms. Ashwini Vyas volunteered themselves. They explained the students all about do's & don'ts in the zoo. Children were very much excited to play various interpretive and interactive games along with volunteers.

The participants were assembled again for the next event. The information packets, procured from the Zoo Outreach Organization, were distributed to the students. This year's theme was Reptiles in total. Therefore Turtle and Gharial Kits



Anil Khaire, Mayuri & Daizy Khan



Anil Khaire Distributes Turtle & Gharial Kits

were requested from the Z.O.O. Ms. Daizy Nilofer Khan, Wildlife Biologist took charge of all the kids. She explained the status of the Reptiles in Indian Wildlife and importance of their conservation using Self-explanatory Charts prepared by her. After that, all the students were taken to the Interpretation Centre for the new event. Dr. Mayuri Panse a dentist by profession and amateur herpetologist was ready with her computer presentation. She and Daizy had prepared two separate Power Point Presentations on Turtles and Gharials. Children were stunned to understand that if we do not act today, their own children will have to see these animals in pictures only. Various problems, such as Species Population, Conservation Breeding, Dentition and general Anatomy, Food & Feeding, Threats to the Species, etc. were discussed.

After about one hour later, an ambassador car with an amber lamp on top, rushed into the zoo premises. Municipal Commissioner Mr. Dilip Band and Additional Commissioner Mr. Dilip Gawade had arrived to join the children. They also wanted to celebrate the Wildlife Week. They attended all the undergoing programmes. Soon, all the children were assembled back on the lawns behind interpretation Centre. Anil Khaire spoke on the Role of Zoos in Species' Conservation. Mr. Commissioner released the Marathi Book '*Chala Pranisangrahalay at*' which is a translation of CEE's original book, '*Wild at the Zoo*'. He advised the children to always be on alert and be attentive and observant about the environment and wildlife around us. Additional Commissioner thanked all the participants, teachers, volunteers, ZOO, Chester Zoo, ANSA, SARN, WILD and the zoo-staff for conducting this programme so successfully.

Mr. Milind Kulkarni a nature photographer by hobby was running about to capture the memorable moments. By 1.00 pm the programme had come to an end. All the students admired the informative kits received from the Zoo Outreach Organisation. CEE offered Book-labels with beautiful animal pictures. The students of Subodh and SPM schools wrote excellent descriptive essays on the event when they went back.

We are extremely thankful to ZOO, WILD, ANSA, SARN and also to Chester Zoo for everything.

* Director, Sambhaji Nagar, Chinchwad, Pune 411 019



Children of SPM school

Zoo Education Programme On “Bats Conservation” during Wildlife Week at Maitri Baag Zoo

Dr. G.K. Dubey*, T. Kalaichelvan**

The M.B. Zoo Celebrated Wildlife Week from 1st - 7th Oct 04. During this week different programmes were organized to create awareness to school, college students, teachers and public.

On 2nd October, during Gandhi Jayanti, about 130 students and 20 teachers from Science Centre Gwalior, (M.P) Science and Technology Communication Council, Government of India, New Delhi and Chhattisgarh Science Forum, Bhilai Unit participated “Bats conservation programme” with an objective to create awareness about nature and its conservation, as a part of Zoo Education Programme at M.B. Zoo. These students came for Bhilai on Nature camp study 2004 for 4 days.

The participants were given information about various species of zoo animals and their feeding, life span, behaviour, etc.

Participants visited the “Natural Habitat of Bats” which are roosted inside the Zoo for many years. They had been given detailed information on Bat habit and habitat, status, impact of human population, species identification, roosting behaviour, choosing of trees for roosting, importance of their population for maintaining ecological balance, myth about bats, how the M.B. Zoo management gives protection to this species etc., the bats help in balancing the population of insects. Both students and teachers had taken much interest on this species.

The participants came from various places of Chhattisgarh State belonging to the different districts i.e., Rajnandgaon, Durg, Bhilai, Mahasamund, Bagtabra etc and various villages and adjoining areas of forests. This state is rich of flora and fauna.

During the programme, the students and teachers were given Zoo education materials on Bats conservation i.e., “Just Bats About Bats” contains masks, stickers, placards, information booklets, certificates etc., provided by Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore.

The lectures were given on wildlife bat conservation and general awareness by Dr. G.K. Dubey, Dr. N.K. Jain and T. Kalaichelvan of M.B. Zoo.

The participants had taken oath by tying rakhi to conserve bats and other wild animals and plants. The teachers participated were :

N.D. Maski, Lecturer BSP H.S.S. (2) – VI, Sector - 6
Ram Kumar Verma, Govt. Lecturer H.S.S. Khursipar
P.K. Shrivastav, Lecturer B.S.P. H.S.S. -VI
S.B. Panday, Lecturer, B.S.P. H.S.S. - VI
M. Singh, Lecturer, B.S.P. H.S.S. - VI
R.K. Shrivastava, Govt. H.S.S., Mahasamund
Ku. Dr. V. Chandrakar Govt. H.S.S. Mahasamund
D.H. Chandrakar, Govt., H.S.S. Mahasamund
K.P. Sahu, Girls H.S.S. Mahasamund
Manoj Jain Lecturer Mahshri DAV – VI, Bhilai
Vikas Shankar Mahalwar Rajnandgaon
Ku. Meena Sheel, Saraswati H.S.S. – VI,
Miss. S.V. Vijayalakshmi, Lecturer Mam – VI

During this programme, an “NGO” group “Nav Yuvak Mandal” of Uttai also participated to see the educational activities for conducting and involving themselves belong with Zoo education unit, M.B. Zoo in future programmes.

At the end of the Programme, the participants were given certificate and teachers by Dr. G.K. Dubey.

To conclude, the teachers of Nature Camp 2004 expressed their thanks to Zoo Outreach Organization, Zoological Garden Chester Zoo, CCINSA, IZE-Asia, Fauna and Flora International, River Bank WILD for providing valuable information kit and Maitri Baag Zoo for conducting this exclusive Programme.

* Sr. Vety. Officer, Maitri Baag Zoo, Sector- 9, Bhilai- 490 006 (C.G.)

** Zoo Supervisor, Maitri Baag Zoo, B.S.P. Maroda, Bhilai- 490 006 (C.G.)



Students of Nature camp - 2004 belong to different district of Chhattisgarh State for special zoo education programme on Bats



Telling about myths about bats



Distribution of bats kit packet to participants and explaining about packet



Students visiting various elements of the Zoo



Teachers had taken oath to educate the students about bats



Students got information about bats programme.



Students visited the natural habitat of the bats inside the zoo



End of the programme. The participants, NGO group, Teachers with a task to do something for betterment of bats population. NGO of around village of surrounding area present as observer for future planning to organise zoo education programme with Z.E. unit, M.B. Zoo.



Banner



Discussion about threat to habitat of bats due to human impact



Participants taken oath when they go back to home, they protect the bats and its habitat

Wildlife Week at Mysore Zoo

Mr. Manoj Kumar*

This year Mysore Zoo had no intention to observe Wildlife week, on account of three sudden unnatural deaths, which was a great shock to the Zoo community. But as a symbolic, it was planned to celebrate, besides the Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi, had called the Zoo to organize programmes, focusing on the generation of awareness about nature and Wildlife and its significance for human survival.

Since October 1991, the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 is yet again amended by the Amendment Act no.44 of 1991, w.e.f., 2nd October 1991, this is the most historical amendment in the history of Wildlife laws as the Parliament inserted yet another new chapter-III A to provide protection to specified plants. The Wildlife week also coincides with the World Habitat Day on 3rd October and Animal Welfare Day on 4th October. Incidentally this week also coincides the Mahatma Gandhi birthday on October 2nd, and it would be in the fitness of things, if the teachings of the Mahatma on ahimsa are extended to our dumb denizens.

Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysore celebrated 50 years of Indian Wildlife week by conducting several programmes on this occasion.

On the occasion, Wildlife Photography Exhibition and competition was conducted, exhibited more than 250 wildlife photographs of 17 members of leading photographers in the Zoo auditorium. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Honorable Mayor of Mysore City Corporation, Sri Dakhshinamurthy, Smt. Susheela Keshavamurthy, Chairperson, Zoo Authority of Karnataka and Sri. RS. Suresh I.F.S., Member Secretary, Zoo Authority of Karnataka, were also present during the occasion. More than eight Amateur photographers exhibited their photographs for this competition.

The Zoo had provided free entrance to 10 members to celebrate Birthday of those whose Birthday falls between October 1st to 7th and a special gift was given to them. The celebrity had to adopt a Zoo animal under Animal Adoption scheme. Though the response was not so much encouraged, but this programme received good publicity.

School children studying in class 1st to 7th had provided free entrance from October 1st to 7th. More than 2200 students from 22 different Schools used this facility. They enjoyed these days very differently, Teachers collected information and guidelines about Wildlife Conservation, importance of Zoo, and Zoo animals, impact of plastics on animals from our Zoo education unit, and they conveyed this information to their children.

In addition to the above Middle and High School authorities sent 50 students from one School accompanied by Zoo education members. More than 1900 students of 17 different Schools of Mysore District participated in this programme. They were informed the importance of animals and the Zoo, Wildlife and their Conservation, their habitat, habit, breeding, feeding, behaviors, etc. They had experienced that this programme has taught them the

difference between watching animals without information and with information by Zoo guide and Zoo volunteers. They got thorough knowledge about endemic, endanger, exotic animals, their importance in the ecological balance of the forest and also necessity of conservation of wildlife. They had written that every year Zoo authority has to arrange this type of informative programme for students and publics.

The youth club students were provided a Zoo Patrol Kit, provided by the Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore. Kit contain tiger mask, stickers, a handout on the Wildlife Protection Act, rakhi on wildlife, hand out that carry special messages like 'Do not Harass Zoo animals', 'Do not buy wild animal product'. The students were taken around the Zoo to interact with visitors. The students went around telling visitors don't tease animals, not to feed animals, not to make noise and keep the Zoo clean.

On this occasion Mysore Zoo invited animal lovers to suggest names for the young ones, and the best-selected name will be given prizes. Names can be suggested for, three Lion cubs, two Hippopotamus, one female Tapir, one female Indian gaur, two male Swamp Deer, one female Baboon and two female and two male Leopard cubs. Very good response we got from the public for this programme

Zoo authority also arranged Day-to-Day Questions competition for public to give awareness about Zoo and Wildlife. In this competition daily five questions from 1st to 7th October were displayed and end of the day, answers were displayed. Though this was not so encouraged by the public but it gave publicity.

The DCF, Bandipur Wildlife Sanctuary has hosted a trip to the winner in the various competitions organized by Mysore Zoo during 2004, as a gesture, on the eve of Wildlife Week celebration. More than 25 students attended the trip along with Zoo education unit and Zoo volunteers, and they were provided free conveyance, meals, besides arrangements for rounds, trekking and also briefing about the importance of sanctuary.

* Executive Director, Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, Mysore - 570 010.



Manoj Kumar, Director with the chief guests on the occasion Wildlife Photography Exhibition



Wildlife Week - Director explaining



Manoj Kumar distributing education packets to students



Wildlife Week - Group Photo



A trip to Bandipur Wildlife Sanctuary



Wildlife Week - Zoo visit



Teacher introducing Wildlife Week



Wildlife Week - Showing placard



School children enjoying free entrance to the zoo from 1st to 7th October during Wildlife Week

50th Wildlife Week Celebration - 2004 at Nandankanan

Manoj Mahapatra*

The golden Jubile year of celebration for Wildlife Week was in a different note. The weekdays were celebrated for different species. This time the lesser-known species like Vulture, Turtle and Bats formed the major species for conservation education. Fact sheets on these animals and Zoo Ethics are given to each participants. Two hundred and eighty five school children from 9 schools, 10 graduate students from Department of Forestry and 20 teachers were participated in the endeavour. The artist of the Zoo drew drawings of animals in front of enclosure and taught them how to draw animal sketches. The masks, placards, rakhi tying was enjoyed and appreciated by all. The T-shirt provided by Zoo Outreach Organization was awarded to winners of Quiz competition and naming competition. What steal the show was naming of tiger cub and leopard cub. The Zoo had 4 tiger cub and one rescued Leopard cub. Students were asked to provide names to the cub, the winner was to be photograph with the cub. What was most revealing is that two of the names selected was the name of the boys themselves. It was touching that they identify themselves with the cubs. Rhishi was given by Rishipal Singh while Sitesh was given by Sitesh Kumar Behera for naming the cubs.



Puchika School on naming leopard cub

The students were educated about the conservation efforts taken for the endangered species by the State. The status of various schedule animals as per classification of IUCN in our country was explained to the participants. The role of zoos for housing and captive breeding for critically endangered species was given due thrust. "Extinction was forever" was explained by citing example of three species of tigers from the earth in the last century. The paucity in sighting Vultures in and around in the recent past is a glaring example how common species can become critically endangered in a short time which the students realize on their own.

The endeavour for showing students about Bats has resulted in identification of cave dwellings for insectivorous Bats in the Zoo. One at Bear enclosure and other at entrance of Lion Safari. Similarly during explaining about turtles and tortoises it was found two are actually Elongated tortoise which is a different species altogether from that of Star Tortoise. The ecological role of scavengers was

highlighted, which are thought provoking for students. The very purpose of sensitizing students was fruitful through animal exhibits, interactions, educative kits by Zoo Outreach Organisation.



Ruehika School winner on Oral Quiz test



DAV School- a Tiger

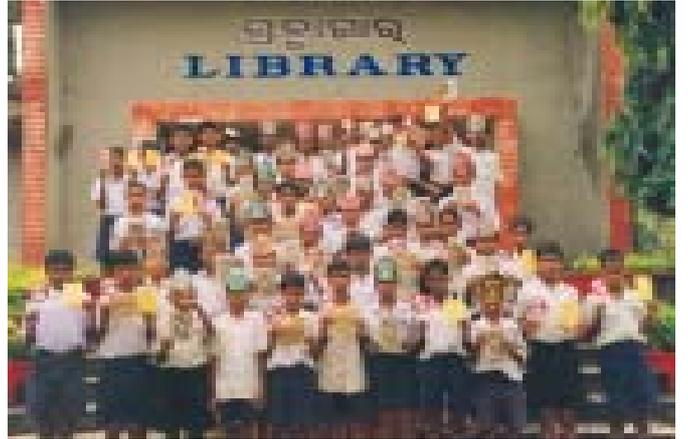


Renhika Group

* Assistant Director, Nandankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar - 751 007, Orissa



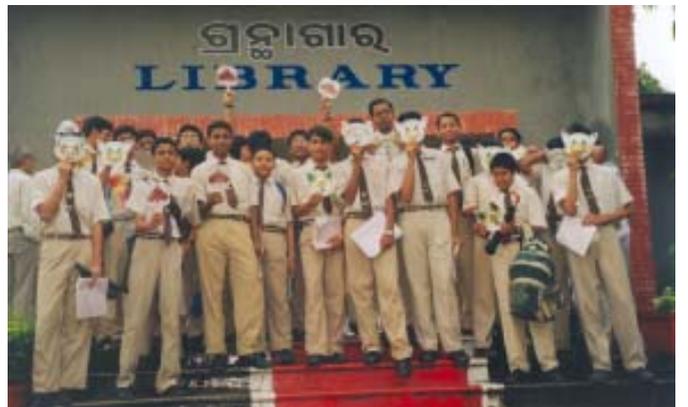
Entrance for Nandankanan Zoo



Daruthenya School on Zoo Patrol & Primate Primer



DAV. School on Tiger Winner of naming tiger cub & written Quiz in English



St. Xavier on Bats



Rinehika School on Primate

50th Vanya Prani Saptah Celebrations

B. Vijaya kumar, S.F.S.*

The 50th Vanya prani Saptah was celebrated in Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam during the 1st week of October 2004, in this connection various competitions like painting, Essay writing, Quiz and Elocution were conducted to the students of various schools and colleges in Visakhapatnam city. A press note was also issued to all the leading daily newspapers for wide publicity. The news was also broad casted in All India Radio, Visakhapatnam which helped in participation of large number of students and public in the Wildlife Week Celebrations.

In view of the Quarterly Examination during the 1st week of October, 2004. the competitions were conducted from 27-09-2004 to 30-09-2004. As per the schedule the following competitions were conducted from 27-09-2004 to 30-09-2004 in the premises of Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam.

Students from 25 Schools and colleges participated in the above competitions. The competitions were conducted on Wildlife themes to create awareness among the public especially among the students community with regard to the importance of forests, wildlife and environment etc., where the "Conservation Education" is one of the prime objective.

Date.	Name of Competition.	No. of students participated.
27.09.2004	Painting	273
28.09.2004	Essay Writing	162
29.09.2004	Quiz	275
30.09.2004	Elocution	91
	Total	765

Further, it is submitted that during the 50th Wildlife Week Celebrations, various Educational and Awareness Programs like Plastic Awareness Programs, Importance of Wildlife Conservation and Environment, Importance of Vultures, Dare to Care bears etc., were also conducted in Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam with the co-operation of N.G.Os. Like Green Mercy, Dolphin Nature Conservation Society, Visakha Society for prevention of cruelty to animals, Natural Green Core, Visakhapatnam. This year educational kits viz. Dare to Care bears, Vultures, Tiger tool kits etc., were procured from Zoo Outreach Organization which helped the authorities to conduct the theme based educational programmes in more meaningful way. In addition to the above, the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam has also conducted the Nature Photography Competition among the Press Photographers during the 5th Wildlife week celebrations. In this connection the Photographers of The Hindu, the New Indian Express, Andra Bhoomi, Vaartha, Andhra Jyothi, Prajasakthi, Visakhasamacharam and Surya Prabha have participated in the competition and they took Photographs in Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam and kambalakonda Nature park, Visakhapatnam. The photographs on Nature and Wildlife themes in Indira Gandhi Zoological Park and kambalakonda Nature Park, Visakhapatnam were displayed on 6th and 7th October 2004

in Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam and the Prizes for the best Photographs were given on the final day celebrations.

During the 50th Wildlife Week Celebrations, Children below 12 years were given free entry into Zoo Park from 01-10-2004 to 07-10-2004 and about 4000 Children availed this facility.

On the final day of celebration of 50th Vanya Prani Saptah was celebrated on 08-10-2004 from 9.00 A.M. onwards in the premises of Zoo Park for which Sri S. Vijaya Rama Raju, Hon'ble Minister of Environmental, Forests, Science & Technology was invited as the Chief Guest presides by Sri P. Siva Sankara Reddy, Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (production), Government of Andra Pradesh, Sri P.V. Padmanabham, I.F.S., Conservator of Forests (T), Visakhapatnam was invited as special Invitee. Prize distribution to the winners of various competitions held in Indira Gandhi Zoological park, Visakhapatnam was done by the Chief Guest, Sri S. Vijaya Rama Raju, Hon'ble Minister of Forests, Environmental, Science & Technology, Government of Andra Pradesh. The Press Note Invitation and Winners List are enclosed.

* Curator, Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam





Wildlife Week Celebrations at Corporation Middle School, Neelikonampalayam, Coimbatore, T.N.

Mrs.V.P.Selvi*

On 7th October at 3.00 pm the wildlife week was celebrated in a grand manner at the Corporation Middle school campus, Neelikonampalayam. Smt. B. Velumani, the Headmistress presided over the function. It started with prayer. Smt. V.P.Selvi welcomed all and gave welcome address.

In her inaugural address the headmistress gave an introduction about the wildlife week, depletion of wild animals & forests. She also gave tips to the students how we have to protect them.

Next, a 6th Std student (11 years old) talked about wild animals depletion and how to protect them. Then the students put on the mask and danced for the song "Wildlife Festival".

Then the students one by one described the sub species of tigers in a pleasant way to other students ie -Bengal tiger, South China tiger, Sumatran Tiger, Siberian tiger, Indo-chinese tiger and their habitat, food, their numbers and etc.,

After that, the fourth standard students performed a drama "Won by Shrewdness". In this they acted how the goat by its cleverness won over the tiger.

In continuation to this, Smt. D. Logeswari, explained about the problems of wild animals are facing today.

Next, all students pledged, "We do not kill the wild animals and we conserve them".

Mr. Arumugam, Teacher in his Valedictory address praised the children for all their activities and gave vote of thanks. The celebration came to an end with "National Anthem".

Wildlife Week song written by two teachers and enacted by the students

A fatty tiger came..came...roaring...roaring
Saw the little rabbit hopping... hopping...
Asked - Why are you so happy today?
You are all singing.. singing...dancing...dancing

Hopping...hopping...hopping...
the rabbit saw the roaring tiger... said
Human beings have turned over a new leaf...
and have made a resolution
they won't let kill or hunt instead they will protect us.
From October 1-7 they celebrate wildlife week
Humans are no more our enemies. They are our good friends
Hence we are singing and dancing.
Hopping...hopping...
Roaring....roaring...

*** Teacher, Corporation Middle School, Neelikonampalayam, Coimbatore- 641 033**

Programme on "Wildlife Trade" at Maharaj Bagh Zoo, Nagpur

Dr. Dilip B. Sawarkar*

About 40 students and 18 teachers and head mistress, Mrs. Mamata P. Gawali, of Shri Niketan Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Vishwakarma Nagar, Nagpur, were taken for a 'Zoo-Walk' in the local Maharaj Bagh Zoo, on 18th April 2004. The programme started with an introduction and interaction with each other. Dr. Kishore Nene, of VNHS (Vidarbha Nature and Human Sciences) delivered an interesting talk about the various aspects of plants present in the Zoo. Mr. Lakmikant Harkare, an amateur herpetologist described about, identification of the poisonous & non poisonous snakes, and displayed cobra, krait, viper, etc. He explained about the importance of snake in the food-chain of the ecosystem. Author explained about wildlife trade, its adverse effect on the wildlife, how their number is going down and why their conservation is must.

Many teachers and students asked questions. The booklet of the wild life-trade was distributed. They were given participation certificates by the hands of Dr. Sawarkar. All of them appreciated the material preparation by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore.



Group Photo

* Maharaj Bagh Zoo, Nagpur

Govt. Girls H.S. School, Berkheri, Bhopal, M.P.

Khalida Sultana*

I conducted a seminar for the people who were really interested for saving tigers. In the seminar I tried to enable the people to play a more effective role as a citizen for saving tigers. I also tried to widen the range of knowledge and understanding of wildlife system in order to create a awareness about tigers.

* Teacher, Govt. Girls H.S. School, Berkheri, Bhopal, M.P.



REPORT OF THE WILDLIFE WEEK CELEBRATION

A Brief Report from Shimla

Santosh Kumar Sahoo*

Conservation Himalayas, Shimla celebrated the 50th anniversary of the "Wildlife Week in India" on October 1, 2004 jointly with Shimla Y.M.C.A. The programme was held in the programme hall of the Y.M.C.A at Shimla. Forty students of 9-12 standard class and six school teachers representing six different schools in Shimla (GSSS, Tutu; GSSS, Mashobra; D.A.V. Sr. Sec. Public School, Lakkar Bazar; Laureate Public School, Bharari; J.C.B. Sr. Sec. Public School, New Shimla; and Kendriya Vidyalaya) participated in this three-hours programme. Prof. S.P. Bhardwaj, Associate Director (Res. & Ext), Regional Horticulture Research Station at Mashobra, was the Chief Guest for this programme. The theme of this indoor workshop was "Endangered Wildlife (Bats, Tigers and Primates) & Community Role."

The programme was divided in three parts: LCD Presentation on bats, tigers and primates by Dr. Santosh Kumar Sahoo; Interactive question-answer session with the students; and workshop group activities on tigers. Before starting the programme the students were asked to make five animal groups (Jackal, Wolf, Hen, Crow and Tiger) by choosing their group members through the corresponding animal vocalization. Each group had eight members. Students remained in the same group throughout the programme session. Since altogether it was a novel type of exposure for the participating students to know about bats, tigers and primates. Everybody participated with keen interest to know about the bats, tigers and primates. During the workshop session, our attempt was to convey the message to the students that they should not only accelerate their knowledge about the endangered wildlife, but they should also be involved in the wildlife conservation programme directly or indirectly in one context or another. The LCD Presentation on bats attracted many participants who vowed to do their best to protect the existing habitats of bats. The LCD presentation on tigers surprised everybody as all of them admitted that they had never imagined that the

about 95% of the tiger population had disappeared from the tiger range habitats and the remaining 5% population lives under threatened conditioned. As the presentation highlighted about the tiger body part trade as "Number-one threat" to the remaining tiger population, the students reacted emotionally and pledged that they will spread this message to everybody they meet, discourage any one who uses or is trying to use any product made from tiger body parts.

The students participated in "Fix the Tiger Range Map" workshop activity. At the end of the programme each participant was given three sets of Educational kits (Primates, Tigers and bats) of the Zoo Outreach Organization along with the certificates, ZOO posters on Bats 'n' Rats ZOO calendar and LTM poster of the Conservation Himalayas.

*** Chairman, Conservation Himalayas, Verma Niwas, New Mashobra, Shimla 171 007, Himachal Pradesh**