World Environment Day 2015 - Reports

World Environment Day celebration at CSI Bishop Newbigin College of Education

As the part of the World Environment Day celebrations, the college went one-step forward by inaugurating green club and plantation of saplings at the college campus in Mylapore, Chennai. Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran, Chief Guest, inaugurated the club and informed and explained about this year’s WED 2015 theme “Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care”. She asked the students to plant saplings at their homes and also to start roof gardening, she added “despite nearly 800 million people still going hungry, we throw away food during lunch time, it must be slowly reduced and also water and energy to be conserved for future generation. Humanity is using more than the Earth can provide. Many of our planet’s ecosystems are reaching critical point of depletion or nearing irreversible change, pushed by economic development and population growth.

According to the United Nations, if current consumptions and production patterns remain the same and the population grows to its expected figure of 9.6 billion, three planets will be needed to sustain our ways of living and consumption by 2050. She emphasized that through world education day, the UN Environment programme is able to personalize environmental issue and enable everyone to realize not only their responsibilities, but also their power to become agents for change in support of sustainable and equitable development. The growing population leads to over-exploitation of this essential resource-water, which has led to an unbalanced ecosystem. It has been recently established that we utilize 50% more than what our planet is able to provide, and that by 2030, even two planets will not be enough to provide us with the required resources.

Agriculture uses 70% of the worlds accessible freshwater, but most of it gets wasted due to leaky irrigation systems and inefficient application methods. This wasteful use of water is drying out rivers, lakes and underground aquifers. “Humanity continues to consume far more natural resources than the planet can sustainably provide. Many of the Earth’s ecosystems are nearing critical tipping points. It is time for us to change,”

At the end of the session Chief Guest played an Eco song, pathiramey...pathiramey...achaiyapathiramey... in Tamil to emphasize the value on one planet and celebrated the green day. Reporting Secretary said, “The plantation drive was not only one day affair for us, in fact we keep planting saplings around the year in our college to maintain the green cover of the campus. This drive was done on the day dedicated to the Environment to bring students together for a noble cause”. The point presentation on India’s Environment’ the matter related to water, energy and food and the conservation and consumption with care, sensitized the participants.

The celebration came to an end with the discussion of the posters, which displayed in the campus and with the feedback.

A video song on “Think, Eat, Save, was shown to the students. Please click to watch https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r3kml4tkwew

This programme motivated teacher trainees to safeguard our planet and consume the resources with utmost care. As a follow up activity, a plantation drive will go from August 2015 to 5 June 2016 ie next World Environment Day. Spread the awareness on food, water and energy and organizing workshops/seminars on the WED theme once in three months.

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Madurai, American college’s Green club and NSS celebrated WED 2015

World Environment Day was celebrated on 05 June with the UNEP theme of Seven Billion Dreams; One Planet; Consume with Care. Dr. M. Davamani
Christober, Principal, Dr. G.C. Abraham, Vice Principal and Dr. J. Helen Retna Monica Bursar planted saplings and inaugurated the day. Then, Principal spoke about the well being of humanity, the environment, and the functioning of the economy; ultimately depend upon the responsible management of the planet’s natural resources. Evidence is building that people are consuming far more natural resources than what the planet can sustainably provide. We utilize many of our earth’s resources without thinking about its availability for our future generation. Therefore, we have to consume it with care not to exploit the resources. He also pointed out that let us become better stewards of our planet. As a part of the day, saplings were distributed to the public and students. NSS programme Coordinator Dr. S.C.B. Samuel Anbuselvan & Green Club Secretary M. Rajesh coordinated the programme. More than 100 students and staff actively participated and took the pledge to save the environment by planting more trees. Submitted by: Mr. M. Rajesh, Asst. Professor, Dept of Zoology. Email: lillyrajesh@gmail.com

Other Reports

World Ocean Day-Students exploring Kovalam sea shore
Murray Rabindra School is located in Dare Amma Thotam, Pudupakkam Village near the Kovalam beach. World Oceans Day was celebrated at the beach with Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran. At first, Mrs. Jeyakaran visited our school briefed and instructed the children about how to interact and interview the fisherman, observe the wind and living organisms found on the seashore.

Interview with fisherman

Forty-seven students of class VI-VIII participated in the exploration. On the way they noticed that the sea had come into the land. Half of the tar road leading to the fishing village was eaten away. Huge granite rocks were placed near the road to avoid further erosion. After reaching the seashore, with the help of their teachers and Mrs. Jeyakaran they started to record whatever sea animals they observed on the beach. They observed the movement of the coconut trees and assessed the wind force.

Students drawing sea creatures during orientation
They then met and interviewed two fishermen Mr. K. Jeyakaran and Mr. Palani and raised many questions which they prepared already in a chart such as: how long they been living there, what are the fishes they catch, how they know the places where they can get good catch, whether they collect corals, if they catch sea-horse what they will do with and their willingness to come to the school to talk about seas and their life with the sea.

Then the children observed small corals, seaweeds, a dead snake, and many different types of shells on the beach. Dead fishes were also washed ashore. The children observing the trees recorded that the wind was varying from light to strong breeze. The sessions finished with the children and summing up as to what activities took place this World Ocean Day 2015. These programs and trips made the students to be aware of how to save oceans by reducing pollution and learn more about sea and its life forms. They also shown a video on “Raise your voice not sea level”. Please click to watch https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekA9OE45DmY.

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Chambal Rescue Force, Kota, Rajasthan- Environmental activities

The CRF, Kota conducted series of awareness activities in the month of April and May. The first activity was social cleaning in Mukandara Hills Tiger Reserve on World Earth Day 2015 with the theme Water Wonderful World”. The volunteer campaign was held at Naharsingh Mata temple located in Core area of MHTR, and thousands of pilgrims visit the temple every year. This Tiger Reserve has a perennial water reservoir that is the only water source for surrounding area. This reservoir also attracts many animals from the forest.

When local people and visitors congregate for worshiping at the temple they throw the garbage all over the place including the reservoir and forest areas. Wild animals are attracted to the waste food and garbage and consume the plastic, which covered the food and other snacks, which is harmful to animals and lethal for their health. And these polybags are the main cause of imbalance to ecosystem, which ultimately affects environment of whole forest area. So we decided to clean up the...
area on that day with the volunteers. We collected around 20kg of poly bags, 76 glass bottles, 82 plastic bottles, 10 kg rubber items, 8 kg fabric items & 3 kg miscellaneous objects. We segregated them and disposed in an eco-friendly way. Participation certificate also distributed to the volunteers.

The second social cleaning campaign to conserve nature was held on 13 May 2015 at Nav Gaht, Jawahar Sagar Forest Range of Mukandara Hills National Park. This park has blessed with amazing natural treasures. This is also a spiritual place for local people and in monsoon Sundays approximately 8,000 to 10,000 tourist visits this place and return abandoning all kinds of wastes mainly plastic bags, water bottles, food waste and glass bottles. So we decided to the mass clean the place and the volunteers from life science department, University of Kota, other NGO’s & Forest Dept. joined in this divine work. Volunteers got their participation certificates from Dr. L.K. Dadhich, Environmentalist, Mr. Rajeev Kapoor, A.C.F. Mukandara Hills Tiger Reserve and Mr. Yagya Datt Hada, Social Worker.

The third activity was Conservation Walk during International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May 2015. So as to make the youth of the city to aware the biodiversity around them, we arranged a trip to Shaljhar Area of Jawahar Range, Mukandara Hills Tiger Reserve to explore the biodiversity found in this area. Here 500 species of plants, 30 species of animals and 200 species of avian fauna are reported. Around 50 students of RSLSC, Life Science Dept. of Kota University & Om Kothari Institute took part in this walk. The walk started with taking pledge on biodiversity conservation. Dr. Krishnendra Singh Nama, Research Supervisor Career Point University, Dr. Kiran Choudhary, HOD, M.B. PG College, Pankaj Khandelwal, Lecturer of Zoology, Zebra Girls College and Mr. Hari Mohan Meena, Research Scholar, Career Point University provided information about fauna & flora of the park and they very much excited to see the nature very close to them and understanding biodiversity of the park. We hope they all become a volunteer in our next campaigns and also spread the information they learned to others in order help biodiversity conservation.

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