

Report: Advanced Technique Refresher Course for the participants of TFT Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve

A refresher courses was organized for KMTR-Teachers for Tigers participants at Tilak Vidyalaya Higher Secondary School, Kallidaikurichi, Ambasamudram from 02-03 September 2006 organized by ZOO in collaboration with WCS. The Eco Club of Sri Paramakalyani College coordinated the course and hosted by Tilak Vidyalaya HS School.

This two day programme was attended by 20 people out of which 11 were the participants of the TFT workshop that we organized in 2003. The school Head Master Mr. P. Subbaiah inaugurated this course while Dr. K. R. Narayanan, Eco Club Coordinator, and S. Viswanathan, Lecturer, Sri Paramakalyani College, Alwarkurichi addressed during the inaugural. The authors being the resource person of this programme gave the back ground of the event and welcomed all.



Participants in "Sorting out" species game



Create your own critter-presentation

As an introduction and to know each other a game named "Sound off" was played. As a recap of the previous workshop, a power point presentation of the photographs from the last workshop was screened to refresh their memories. Evaluation results from different region of India and Bangladesh was presented for them to understand TFT programme happening in the region.

In this two-day workshop, selected activities from "How Nature Works" - Habitat Ecology Learning Program was introduced. To introduce classification the activity named Sort out the species was tried. This helped them to understand the basics of taxonomy.



SWOT Analysis in progress



Designing an education programme on special days

The intention of the refresher course is also to know from them about their issues and problems while using TFT manual. They were asked to write their problems in a piece of paper and to drop it in a "Problem hat". The solutions for their problems were discussed on the following day.

To demonstrate the basic elements of survival ie, food, water and shelter, "Oh Deer" game was conducted. To demonstrate the habitat destruction "Dancing Bear" game was conducted. To understand how animals are adapted for their survival "Finger Challenge" from the HELP manual was tried. They were asked to tie their thumb with other finger. Using the tied fingers they were asked to pick coins or button and un-button their shirts and tie the shoe lashes. In order to generate creativity and to understand more on adaptations an activity from HELP manual "Create your Own Critter" was conducted.

On the second day, some of them volunteered to present what they had done after they attended "Teachers for Tigers" workshop in 2003. Though TFT manual was not tried at full level it is learned that teachers utilized portions from the manual where ever possible linking their curriculum. The major problem they faced was on planning a programme and also finding recourses for their programmes. It was felt that SWOT analysis will help them to understand their strengths and weakness and also to opportunities and threats for them in organizing a programme.

They also did an activity to learn "How to design an education programme". Participants were divided into three groups. Each group was requested to design a programme of their own for different target group. They developed short time programme for a period of two-hour, another group designed a half-day a programme while the other did a six month programme. They were asked to present their programme details to others and a discussion was held.

Towards the end each participant was issued a set of education material on "Just bat about bats" developed by Zoo Outreach Organization. There were also explained ways to obtain these education materials in bulk.

At the end members made their commitments to do some activities in the next six months. Along with the certificates the participants were given Zoo's primate poster, vulture and bear posters with the certificate.

We like to thank Mr. Karuppasamy, Chief Education Officer, Tirunelveli, Mr. Ram Kumar IFS, Conservator of Forests and Field Director, KMTR, Mr. Raghavan, Secretary, Tilak Vidyalaya Higher Secondary School, Kallidaikurichi, Mr. S.Viswanathan, Lecturer, Dr. K. R. Narayanan, Eco Club Coordinator, Sri Paramakalyani College for their cooperation. **Submitted by: R. Marimuthu and B.A. Daniel**