



One day Field Exposure on “Biodiversity and Nature walk” under PRAKRITI



One day Field Exposure
for School Students under Prakriti initiative
on
“Biodiversity and Nature walk”

ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore

PRAKRITI – an environmental awareness programme on forests for youth and children aims to connect the school and college students with forest, environment, wildlife and highlight the conservation strategies that are being practiced. Under *Prakriti* initiative, ICFRE-IFGTB, Coimbatore organized one day field exposure on the theme “Biodiversity and Nature walk” for School Student on 22.02.2023 to Anamalai and Parambikulam Tiger Reserves. A total of 24 students and four teachers were participated from three Government schools viz., V.R.T Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Anamalai, Government Higher Secondary School, Vettaikaranpudur and Government Higher Secondary School, Anamalai.

The students travelled to Topslip, Anamalai Tiger Reserve. After a short briefing on *Prakriti* activities initiative, the students were taken to Anamalai Interpretation Centre, Topslip. Shri. Peter Prem Chakravarthi, Wildlife Biologist delivered a lecture on Anamalai Tiger Reserve and explained about common wildlife wealth. He briefed about different types of forests and major tree species and their utilities. The life history of Malabar Giant Hornbill was explained in detail with illustrations. Short films on Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Malasar Tribal life story, etc. were screened for the students.

While travelling, students were exposed to different types of forests viz., Thorny Scrub Jungle, Dry Deciduous Forests, Moist Deciduous Forests, Shola Forests, Monoculture Plantation, etc. The habit and habitat for different wild animals viz., Tiger, Elephant, Bonnet macaque, Common Langur, Nilgiri Langur, Gaur, Wild Boar, Spotted Deer, Sambar Deer, etc. were explained in detail including their foot prints.

To understand the biodiversity, a trekking was arranged for the students and they were taken in to ‘Kariyan Shola’ a world heritage site acknowledged by UNESCO in the year 2012. During the trekking, the students were explained about what is biodiversity, need of its conservation, etc. Also, students were exposed to easy identification of different tree species, climbers, herbs, shrubs, ferns, etc. with their special morphological characteristics. During the nature walk, students were given a feel of the rich flora and the nature at its pure glory in

an undisturbed patch of forest. Lecture on 'Tiger and its conservation' was given to students including establishment of Project Tiger, Tiger Reserves, conservation strategies, etc.

During the program, students visited 'Kannimara Teak' largest living Teak tree (approx. 473 yrs old) found at the Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, with a fantastic height of 39.98 m, and girth of 7.15 m. Tribals worship the tree as 'Kannimara' or 'Virgin Tree'. It has been awarded 'Mahavriksha Puraskar' by the Government of India. Students were exposed to biodiversity and conservation strategies like in-situ and Ex-situ conservation.

One day programme ended with evergreen memories...



Visit to Interpretation Centre @ Anamalai Tiger Reserve



Nature education and screening of films



Nature walk in Kariyan Shola forest



Field lecture cum demonstration



Visit to 'Kanimara Teak', largest living Teak tree in Parambikulam