

TRAINING REPORT ON  
“ JUNIOR RANGERS- CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH NATURE ”

SPONSORED BY  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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INSTITUTE OF FOREST GENETICS & TREE BREEDING, COIMBATORE

*“What we are doing to the forest of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and one another”*. This valuable thought of Mahatma Gandhi gives us a great opportunity to steer our minds in conserving our mother earth. Every industry, from manufacturing to information technology requires environment thought leaders at their helm to steer for environment friendly development. Environmental Education is one way of accomplishing the goal of creating *Environment Champions*. Environmental education provides exciting opportunities for students to become engaged in real world issues that transcend classroom walls. They can see the relevance of their classroom studies to the complex environmental issues confronting our planet and they can acquire the skills they'll need as a creative problem solvers and powerful advocates. Environmental education is hands-on, interactive learning that sparks the imagination and unlocks creativity.

In this background, IFGTB imparted 3 day training on the theme “**Junior Ranger - Connecting Students with Nature**” to the three Government school students viz., S.F.V.Govt.Higher Secondary School, Seeranaickenpalayam, Govt. Higher Secondary School, Kalveerampalayam & Panchayat Union Middle School, Vadavalli of Coimbatore district. The training was imparted to the government school students to encourage students to research, understand the complex nature of the natural and the built environments, to help the students see the interconnectedness of social, ecological, economic, and cultural issues, develop creative thinking skills and hands on activities and exposure visits. **The training was sponsored by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India under the Umbrella Scheme of “Forestry Training & Capacity Building- Training of other Stakeholders”**.

This training programme was exclusively organized for students of 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> classes. The three day module attended by 30 students included inputs on role of Trees, forests and Carbon cycle, Birds & butterflies, Impacts of pollution and activity based learning. The participants visited Anamalai Tiger Reserve & Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary, Topslip to study protected area and landscape management. The participants also visited Gass Forest Museum in IFGTB and Insect museum of TNAU, Coimbatore to learn importance of Natural History as education tool. Interactive films and videos based on Climate Change formed a key module in this training programme.

Dr. S. Murugesan, Director IFGTB interacted with students and emphasized that technological advancement and progress in every field has helped mankind but at the same time it has caused irreversible damage to the planet. He said we are alarmed with issues like increase in pollution levels, global warming, deforestation, wild fires, floods and draughts, paucity of food, etc. Immediate and urgent steps have to be taken by every individual in order to save what is left and work towards building a sustainable future for all. He also narrated the importance of being a Junior Ranger and the role they can play for the society and to the fellow students in raising awareness on nature education.

The students had a chance to interact with Shri. Rajesh Gopalan, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests on the importance of the *Junior Rangers programme and necessity as to why the programme was exclusively arranged for the government school students*. The students also interacted with Dr. C. Buvaneshwaran, Scientist of IFGTB on the role of Trees, forests & Carbon cycle. Dr. Mohan Prashanth, Expert on butterflies spoke on the butterflies-their importance and conservation. The "Junior Rangers" also released a "*Butterflies- Calendar 2020*" designed by Dr. Mohan Prashanth during the occasion. Students were also taken a walk through in the Forest Campus to identify different types of Butterflies in the forest campus. Smt. Uma Devi, Forest Range Officer, Tamil Nadu Forest Academy, Coimbatore delivered a lecture on Environmental impacts of pollution - Role of Forests.

An exclusive field trip to Anamalai Tiger Reserve & Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary, Top slip was organized as part of training to impart study on protected area and its pivotal role in landscape ecosystem. The Forest Ranger, Anamalai Tiger Reserve took the students on a nature trek for 8.00 km nature trail to observe the biodiversity and learn as part of their nature education strategy. The students were explained on the wide variety of herbs, shrubs, Trees, climbers and medicinal plants in the Top slip during their trekking. Students were also taken to Elephant Camp, Kozhikamuthi and tribal settlement area in Top slip.

The training also included a group activity, wherein five groups were formed to work on themes viz., Importance of Mangrove, Pitcher Irrigation, Green Manure, Seed Art & Wealth out of Waste for activity based learning outcome. Students were exposed to collection methods, preservation techniques and trained for creating small projects on nature conservation. Students presented their group activity explaining the theme, methods used, experiences and actions they would initiate in future. "Nature Quiz" was organized for the students on the lessons learnt and prizes were given to the winners.

A certificate, T-shirt, Caps, Eco-friendly Jute bag, Identity card and booklets on birds and mammals published by IFGTB was distributed to the students. In addition to that, 3 sets of the following books - 365 facts on animals & Birds, Animal Kingdom -As you have never seen it before, The magic and mystery of trees , Tell me Why and Facts about earth were distributed to the three school library for the benefit of the other eco club students of the school.

**Director  
IFGTB**



Dr. S. Murugesan, Director, IFGTB during his address to the students



Junior Rangers at the time of Registration



Dr. S. Buvaneshwaran, Scientist ,IFGTB during his session on "*Trees, Forests & Carbon cycle*"



Students visiting Gass Forest Museum, IFGTB

Students at Insect Museum, TamilNadu Agricultural University(TNAU), Coimbatore



Juiner Rangers in the Butterfly class with Dr.Mohan Prashanth, Member, Tamil Nadu Butterfly Society



Walk through in Forest Campus - Butterfly watching



Trekking inside the Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Topslip



Forester addressing the students



Smt. Umadevi, Forest Range Officer during her address on *Environmental Pollution*



Activity based learning on Mangrove Importance



Activity based learning



Students explaining about their project



*Mono-Act play on Save Trees by a Junior Ranger*



Certificate Distribution