

Human Elephant Coexistence: Teaching Trainers for Asian Elephant Conservation in Erode Dt. of Tamil Nadu, India

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The International Elephant Foundation **IEF** funded a project this year on “Fostering Human Elephant Coexistence (HECx) awareness in Erode, Tamil Nadu, India”.

The main objective of the project is to conduct a teacher training workshop on human elephant coexistence for 25 teachers and 25 mass awareness programmes for students and through this reaching out 2500 students who live in human elephant conflict areas.

Zoo Outreach Organization has developed a methodology to introduce and teach about Human Elephant Coexistence by



Mrs. T. Geetha, Eco-club Coordinator welcoming the participants during inaugural

active learning / teaching tool. This aims at reaching out a wide range of audience from children to adult of both literate and non-literate audience. Hence this has been proved to be very effective especially in the rural areas. ZOO translated the teaching guide “Getting along with Elephants” and the “Ele-kit” packets in local language. These materials are used in this project.

The elephant teaching guide consists of five units having activities on different assessment methods, kinds of elephants, elephant facts, drama with themes on elephant biology and threats, systematic position of Asian elephants in animal kingdom, comparing elephants with that of



Participant's knowledge on elephants evaluated through attitude assessment

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A scene from Mini drama

other pests, elephant role in human culture, elephant behaviour, past and present Asian elephant distribution – Map activity, illustrated history of elephant, peoples perception of elephants - Role play, village committee and debate. This teaching guide can be used as a medium for conveying a wide range of active learning techniques for both experienced and casual educators. This also provides education about Asian elephants generally and creates interest among

students and other target groups to contribute at individual level to help



In between the sessions various energizer games were also taught

mitigate HEC. This can be used as a comprehensive volume to run a course

depending on the group and the time availability. The complicated scientific facts can be delivered through indoor or outdoor activities.

This module help the educators to conduct programme in a very interesting and make the audience understand the concept in a playful method. The approach in the teaching guide is “first and foremost” that

individuals and families who live in elephant areas, take responsibility for themselves which includes learning ways to avoid confrontation and promoting self- protection, become willing to exchange some old habits and beliefs for survival and thus reduces the incidence of injury and death due to HEC. At the same time they may also learn other techniques which may help them both “Get Along with Elephants” and salvage property,



Understanding elephants past and present distribution through a map activity

ZOOREACH Activities



An activity to understand how elephants communicate using sense organs

crops, etc., but our primary purpose is mitigation... reduction of incidence of death and injury, both to humans and animals.

The teacher training was held on 16-17 November 2017 at Bharathi Vidhyalaya Matriculation Higher Secondary School. Twenty-five teachers from Sathyamangalam, Bargur, Anthiyur and Thalavadi areas participated. Assistant Education Officer, Andhiyur, inaugurated this and coordinated by Mrs. T.

Geetha, District Eco-Club Coordinator from o/o Chief Education Officer, Erode and



One of the teachers explaining about her illustrations drawn for timeline activity

Mr. L. Vijeyendran, District National Green Corps Coordinator, Gobi.

In two days training most of the contents from the teaching guide was covered. The teachers learnt new teaching tools, which can be applied for any species or issues. They were also taught about how to plan an education programme by using ele-kit packets. They actively involved in all the activity with great zeal. As a follow up of this, in the coming months all 25 schools will be visited

to meet the teachers for evaluation and to conduct mass awareness programmes at their schools for the students.



Exhibition of elephant timeline drawings done by participants

Our sincere thanks to International Elephant Foundation for the funding support, Chief Education Officer Erode for the coordination and Mr. P.R. Velumani, Correspondent, Bharathi Vidhyalaya MHSS for the venue and other support.

ZOOREACH Activities



Presentation on Do's and don'ts in elephant range areas



Practical demonstration on how to plan an education programme by using ele-kit packets



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Participants List

Human Elephant Coexistence HECx - Educators Skills Training Workshop Bharathi Vidhyalaya MHSS, Gobi, Erode Dt. 16-17 November 2017

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