



World Elephant Day at Tribal village in Coimbatore, TN

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World Elephant Day, which started in Thailand on 12 August 2012 and since it has been observed throughout the world with the motto of bringing the world together to help conserve and protect elephants from the numerous threats they face. To commemorate the day, Zoo Outreach Organization conducted a short awareness programme on Human Elephant Coexistence HECx for 40 tribal people representing the tribal hamlets of Vellaipathi, Pottapathi, Sarkar Porathi and Zaheer Porathi located near Siruvani dam of Coimbatore district. Two of the participants were victims of human elephant conflict. One lady lost her husband due to elephant attack and another man's hand was severely injured by elephant attack.

They were imparted about elephant facts, elephant distribution in India and other Asian countries, the treats faced by elephants, human elephant conflict, mitigation methods employed by forest department and others, human elephant coexistence and do's and don'ts in elephant areas to avoid injury and death for both human and elephants. ZOO's Ele-kit packet was used. They enjoyed very much in tying the elephant 'rakhi' (wristband) each other, wearing the mask, headband and holding the placard. They paid special attention to the do's and don'ts in elephant range areas and they agreed to follow the tips and said that would follow these tips very strictly in day to day life, and inform others too to save themselves from problem elephants. At the end they took an oath to coexist with elephants.

Thanks to Mr. N. Thiyagarajan, Project Officer, The Tulsi Trust and Mrs. V. Girija Sivakami, Education Officer, Central Board for Workers Education, Ministry of Labour & Employment, GOI for giving me a slot during their 2 days rural awareness programme on socio-economic issues.



Mr. N. Thiyagarajan briefing about the event



Taking pledge to coexist with Elephants



Participants with Ele head band



Eldest participant with Ele mask

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