Animal Welfare Fortnightly Celebrations at National Zoological Park

Shikha Nalin *

Animal Welfare Fortnight was celebrated from 14th to 31st January 2002 at the National Zoological Park. The following programmes were planned for the fortnight.

Nature Trail

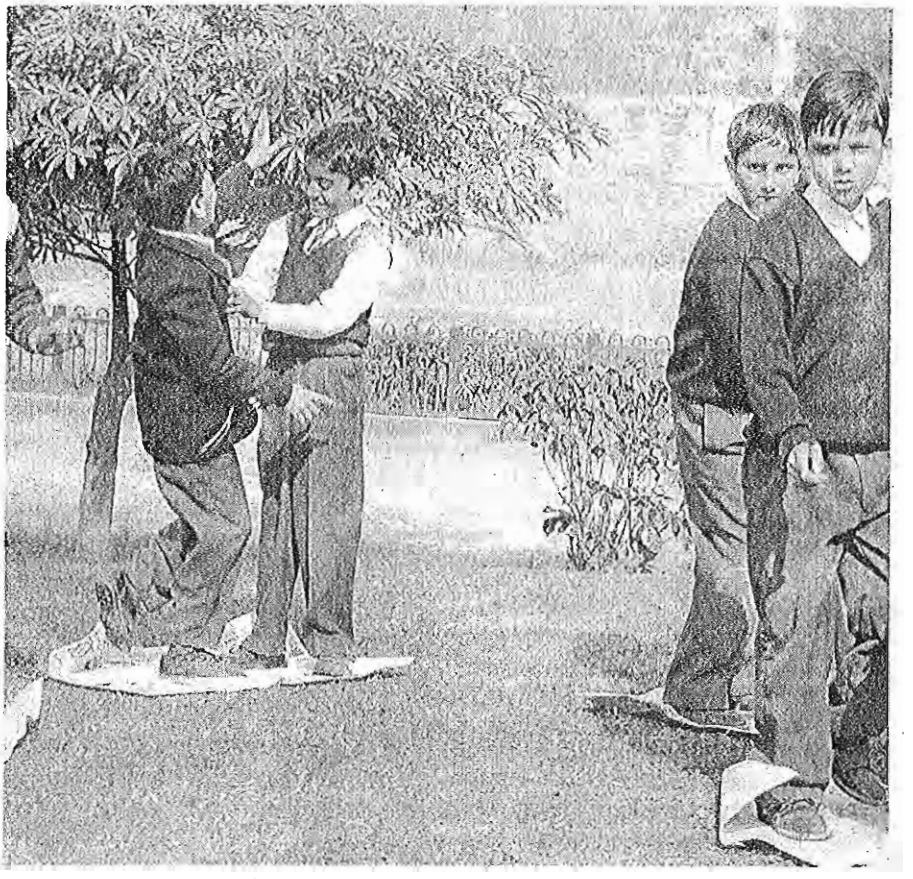
From September to February, many migratory birds visit the National Zoological Park. We have four ponds in which migratory as well resident species of birds can be seen. Besides this, there are several free ranging birds that one encounters while going from one pond to another like kingfishers, stone curlew, red wattled lapwing, mynah, and parakeets etc.

In order to encourage the children to watch the birds, an activity was planned for the children of the Zoo Club. On 19th and 21st January, the students came to zoo. They were given materials and asked to identify the birds and then some time was given to count and record observations. Then the children moved to the second pond and this way counted bird species in all the four ponds.

Against Wildlife Trade

Two programmes related to this theme were organised on 28th and 29th January. The materials were obtained from the Zoo Outreach Organisation. A specific route was selected with six trade related animals viz. Hoolock Gibbon, Leopard, Rhinoceros, Sangai and Tiger. The children of both age groups were taken on this route and explained the nature of trade and its consequences.

The programme on 28th January was for younger age group of children. Children from 2nd and 3rd class of Kendriya Vidhyalayas, Sector-III, Rohini, participated in it. The children first went to the endangered animal enclosures and then settled down in a lawn. First of all they were asked to put on the mask given in the packets provided by Zoo Outreach Organisation. Then they were asked to find a mask partner and to tie rakhi to their partner. Then the children sat in a big circle and played secret – secret. The first children had to speak about the animal whose mask was in their packet. Then the children became traders and played the game – chain:



Dancing Bears -- Trade Programme

Rakhi tying and identifying game partner -- Trade Programme

Government of India, National Zoological Park, Mathura Road, New Delhi 110 003

wherein the trader catches other traders and they join hands to catch yet another trader.

In the next game, the children became animals and their blindfolded teachers became traders. The traders moved in a circle to catch animals. The last child who could not be caught, received a prize.

The same circle was divided into 8 sections and children started moving in it. Music was played and every time, the music was stopped, the children of one section, announced by the conductor, Ms. Shikha Nalin, were ousted from the game. The last child who could not be ousted received prize.

Once again, the music was played for the children to dance on the newspaper which was folded each time, the music stopped. The winning pair received a prize.

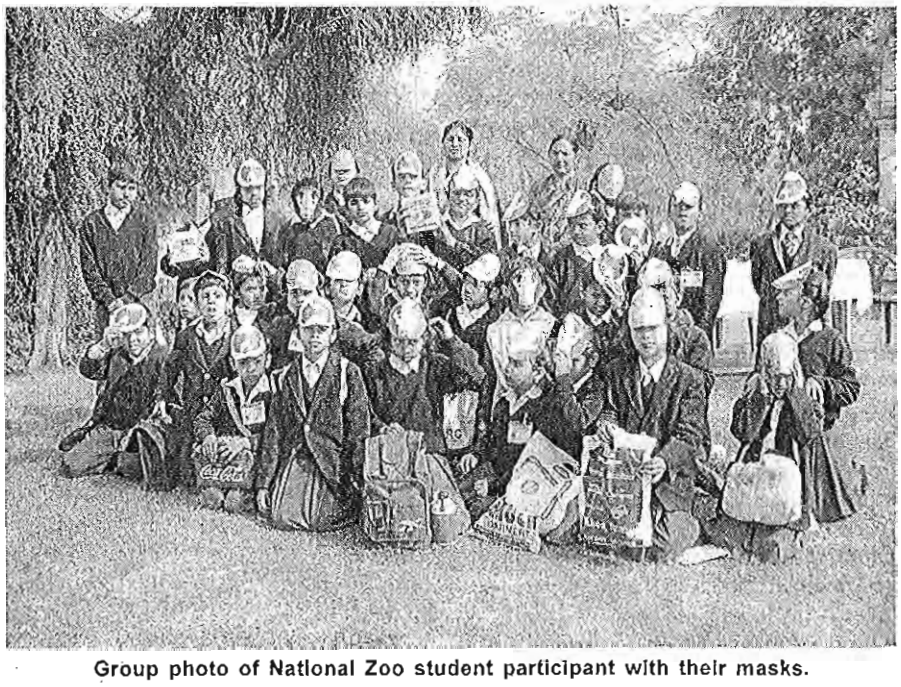
The children were then invited to join hands in stopping Wildlife Trade by squeezing into T-Shirts. Six children could fit into a T-shirt at one time.

On 29 January 2002, children from class VIII of Apeejay School, Pitampura, New Delhi came to participate in the same programme. They were first taken on the round of six enclosures and then taken to the lawn. There they first wore the masks and tied rakhi to their partners. The children were then given a worksheets based on trade and the child with maximum marks got prize. Some items related to trade were kept on a patch of ground. The students studied them for 3 minutes and then sat down to recollect them and write from their memory. The child who remembered maximum number of objects received prize.

The children then played "Wildlife Kho" by classifying themselves as traders and protectors. After this, the children participated in two competitions – slogan writing and paper reading.

The children enjoyed all the programmes and the teachers appreciated the efforts saying that the programmes were not only interesting but informative also and helped in orienting the children to the right direction.

Entrance to National Zoo - decorated for Animal Welfare Fortnightly



Group photo of National Zoo student participant with their masks.

SLOGANS ON WILD LIFE

Save Animal ! Save Earth !
Conserve Wild Life ! Help Mankind !
Be Eco-Logical ! Protect Environment !
Be Human ! Stop Trading Wild Life !
Be Natural ! Prevent destruction !
Befriend Animals ! Get returns !
Cruelity against Animals is sin !

Essays on Wildlife Trade by the student participants

Are Animals the Only Source of Medicines ?

The pre-historic times were marked by as an interdependent relationship between humans and animals. Food and later clothing were the chief requirements of man for which, he was completely dependent on animals. An animal, besides being the provider of the food, clothing and the means of transport, was very often a companion to man. The gradual progress of mankind in various fields relegated man as adjuncts to the human race. Though modernization did not completely break the bonds between animals and the humans it somehow made man indifferent to animals. This indifferent attitude worsened with time, with hardly any consideration for animals.

But don't you think that animals too have the right to live? And this needs to be realized especially in the light of the fact that humans' existence is a part and parcel of nature, which is the ultimate controlling force. Humans may have gained independence to support themselves but ecology still demands a harmonious between the Animal kingdom and the human existence to sustain its balance. The treatment meted out to animals raises concern over their posterity. Their plight is evident in the way man uses them for his own interests. Animals are mercilessly killed to obtain medicines from them. Tell me, are animals the only source to get the same medicines?

Not only this, animals are subjected to painful medical and technological research experiments, in an attempt to create better species, to make animals yield to maximal levels in minimal times through medication. Poaching of animals for their body parts is another example of human selfishness. What is most tragic is the fact that the animals have to bear the brunt of problems triggered by the humans. Population explosion in the wake of medical and technological advances food storage, deforestation, and environmental pollution etc.

These problems have resulted in the annexation of the basic necessities of animals crucial for their survival and in doing so man is doing nothing less than robbing the animal kingdom of its basic right of existence. Man the sole advocate of rights himself has become the violator.
Well I tell recent interesting news about a cave love,
Published in *The Hindu* on 26 January. A lioness in central Kenya baffled experts when it adopted oryx calf recently, reports say the lioness came across antelope in the Samburu gaming reserve after scaring off the calf the cat adopted the baby, protecting it from the predators, including a leopard. Well if these animals can, why not we, the super social animal. Of course we need animals for research etc, but lets make it the that both are benefited. Let it be a symbiotic relationship so that every creature, which god has sent into this world, sees the bright light of this beautiful world everyday.

Let's make our today better so that our tomorrow is perfect.

My Own Views

From the childhood I have been fascinated by the nature and nature and more so by the way the birds fly and chirp and the wild animals operate in the nature. Every species have its own typical behavior, which is integrated with the survival of mankind through appreciation of the environmental balance. In order to satisfy my fascination with the wildlife with the wildlife I jumped to take decision for joining the Wildlife Club. The club has offered me the opportunity to have more comprehensive exposure to the survival of the needs of the wildlife. I would definitely like to contribute in spreading the message to my close social circle and friends about the need to love and care the wildlife and protect it from getting harassed and killed by the unscrupulous people.

By: Shagun Nagpal, Student
VIII-C, Apeejay School, Pitampura, New Delhi

Report on My Visit to the Zoo

After visiting the zoo and participating in Animal welfare fortnightly for the year 2002, we learnt about the factors responsible for disappearance of many animals. Many eco systems have been threatened because of human interference. Wild Life has no where to go. Destroying habitats, polluting environment are contributing towards extinction of species. For a long time animals were taken from the wild to fill Zoos. Many of these animals were rare and by collecting them Zoos were driving them closer to extinction. Today, most Zoos breed their animals. Some Zoos have bred rare animals such as Arabian Oryx, Golden Lion Tamarin and Red Wolf and then released them into the wild.

Hunting has been one of the major reason for extinction. By banning hunting, protecting habitats, setting up nature reserves and reducing pollution, many rare species of animals can be saved. People are starting to realise how important it is to save wild life from extinction. Organisation such as Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) make people aware of problems and raise money to protect species and habitats.

HOW WE CAN HELP

Everyone can do something to help conserve wild life. We can collect paper, tins, bottles for recycling. This will help reduce the number of trees cut down, and mines dug under rare habitats.

We can stop buying things made from rare animals and try to avoid packaging that cannot be recycled.

Prepared by: Vibhu Yadav, Student
VII - D, Apeejay School, Sainik Vihar
Pitam Pura, New Delhi.

Against Wildlife Trade

Every country in the world has a rich wildlife that flourishes in dense and natural forests. Wild animals help to keep a perfect balance certain death the nature by means of food cycle which not only cleans our environment but also maintains a check over uncontrolled growth of 1 species which may be endangered to very existence of mankind. According to the available information, global trade in wildlife was illegal according to Interpol. A universal ban on export, import of ivory was claimed by the governments of countries all over the world to save elephants. Asian rhino is another rare species which is being killed by unscrupulous poachers around the world for its horns which has medicinal value. Illegal trade in the skins of Tigers, Bears, Monkeys, Snow Leopards has resulted in the species heading towards extinction. Why is this happening? Do we want our future generations to be deprived of the very looks of these marvels of nature? Certainly not. The truth lies in our refusing to wear any furs or skins coats or even jackets. Even atrocities on innocent world monkeys, Himalayan bears, caged parrots, and sparrows of different colors and sizes would stop the mad 'Tamashewala' to force the innocent animals to starve and head for a slow but certain death.

Eminent bird watcher (philanthropist) late Dr. Salim Ali who spent his whole life studding birds not only but the whole world, termed birds as signs of freedom ,cleanliness of environment and life. A number of wildlife projects to protect the wildlife in India and the world are being by the Indian government like 'PROJECT TIGER'. The rare animals now in very small numbers are being protected by projects like 'Save the PANDA' –a rare variety of bear found in China to save it from extinction and disappearing from the very face of Earth. In a effort to save the universe, it is the moral responsibility of each one of us to ensure that the motto of Mahatma Gandhi coexistence between humans and animals be balanced so that each one flourishes.

By being a member of the Wildlife Club, I have gained a lot more information about many animals including many of my favorites. I feel very delighted by watching the special creations of god, watching their humbleness and hearing their sweet chirps or loud roars! I hope that there are more and more exiting trips to the Zoological Park because of which we can learn and thereby make others also learn about the different animals of the world. Every time we go to the Zoo, we see different animals which now cannot be seen anywhere else, due to their extinction. Along with my studies, I am also being enlightened with the miracles of the originators of the Earth. As my duty and responsibility, I have promised myself not to ever wear or buy any material which concerns with the skin or fur of any animal.

By : Neha Sharma, Class VIII B
Apeejay School, Pitampura, New Delhi

Medicines from Animal Bones

We need medicines; it is important part of our life. But, medicines are made from animal bones. Animals are killed to get the bones for medicines. This is a typical situation, we the people have to find a solution to get the medicines and also save the wildlife. We must remember that we have to save animals as well as wildlife. Animals are the part of the nature. They also have the right to live and we should make sure that their right should be protected. Also, we must remember that the nature had made animals in forests, mountains, seas, rivers and many other places on earth. Nature will be kind to us if, we are kind to nature. The nature will make our life miserable. There are different types of animal like animals in forest, water animals, mountain animals, snow animals, pets, cattle, etc. If we start anaylising in detail, we will find that animals are important to our life in many ways. We use cattle for milk, agriculture, carrying load and transportation. we cannot forget the role of moles and horses, who helped our soldier in Kargil war by carrying food. arms, clothes to different parts of Himalayas. We have pets like dogs, which take care of our house security. Even today dogs are very important source of security agencies worldwide. I saw a film on television some time back that dogs and *monkeys* are being used by security agency of *U.S.* we must analyse the life in a forest. In a forest we find plants, trees, herbivores and carnivores animal. All of them depend on each other. If all are present then only a balance is maintained in the nature. We know that, if balanced is disturbed then nearby areas gets effected immediately. The main idea is that we need to maintain a balance in nature. Considering all this our government and many other countries had made several laws to protect animals and forest. We all know that, we also need medicines and for medicines we need animal bones. We must remember that every question has a possible answer. Similarly every problem has a solution. We must understand that nature itself provide a solution. If we keep balance in nature the disease will automatically come down. We still have reasonable amount of animal dying natural death for medicine. There are many other sources available in the nature; some are known and some unknown, which can be alternative to get the medicines. It is said, *" where there is a will there is a way".* So, ways are there we have to find a solution, keeping in minds the animals care. Hope we the *"Future of the world"* will make sure that animals are protected.

Lets pledge here that *"we will protect the animals"* .Our Slogan should be *"keep the wild alive"* the campaign of keep the wild alive can be achieved by the following ways

- Spread the word
- Lend a hand
- Make your Voice Heard
- Think Before you Buy
- Support Conservation Movement

Mahatma Gandhi once said about the nature *"I had given to satisfy everybody's need but not greed"*
So get involved. Endangered species need you.

By : Rachit Nagpal, Class VII
Apeejay School, Pitampura, New Delhi