

## REPORT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AWARENESS PROGRAMME (EEAP) 2017

The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF &CC), New Delhi, Govt. of India has initiated various awareness programmes for the interested visitors, general public and school students, in particular, through its concerned departments in recent days. As part of that Botanical Survey of India (BSI), a century old premier botanical institute of the country under the MOEF & CC, Govt. of India has also taken some activities like arrangement of visits for the school children.

In this educational programme, it had been decided that students from six schools in the eleventh standard, preferably from the rural background would be given intensive opportunity to visit the live plants in Botanical Garden, exhibit samples of economic and useful plants in the museum gallery as well as an acquaintance with the dried preservation of plants in Herbarium at Central National Herbarium (CNH). Thus, they will get the firsthand knowledge on economic and useful plants of India and other rare plants in wild habitat, also learn its conservation as well. The programme, as per proposal, will run from September-2017 to March-2018 with the visit of at least 50 students from each school at BSI, ISIM, Kolkata for Botanical & Museum Galleries and at BSI, AJCBIBG & BSI, CNH, Howrah for Botanic Garden and Herbarium. During their visits, one popular lecture will be arranged on various topics on plant science as per the schedule of the visit date and later, a duly filled feedback form will be taken from them to have understood their perception on the lectured topic and plant science, in general.

Dr. (Mrs.) Anindita Saha, Museologist and Conservator, co-ordinated the whole programme, communicating Botanical Survey of India with the school authorities and facilitated the visit of the students at both the centers.

The school that first visited from Dum Dum Kishore Bharati High School with their 38 students at Botanical Gallery of Industrial Section, Indian Museum, Kolkata on **September 9, 2017**. A popular lecture on the topic 'Potential dye yielding Plants of India' was given by Shri Bishnu Dey, Sr. Prev. Asstt. BSI, Botanical Survey of India, Industrial Section, Indian Museum, Kolkata on that very occasion.

The second visit was from the Vivekananda Siksha Niketan, Joygopalpur, Basanti with 48 students, who visited Central National Herbarium and AJCBIBG on **September 16, 2017**. They participated in an 'International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer' jointly organized by ENVIS Centre on Floral Diversity, Central National Herbarium and ISIM, BSI. Series of Popular Talks in connection with the Ozone Depletion were given by Dr S. Bandhyopadhyay and Dr. Avishek Bhattacharjee, Dr.(Mrs.) Monalisha Dey, all Scientist "B" from CNH and Dr. Mohua Dey, Botanist, CNH. Later, Shri S. M. Sabhapati, Botanist, AJCBIBG guided and explained various Curious plants of AJCBIBG.

The third visit was made at BSI, ISIM, Kolkata with the 39 students from Dum Dum Motijheel Girls' High School on **November 11, 2017** and Dr. M. Bhaumik, Scientist-D & HOO, BSI, ISIM delivered a popular lecture on the topic "Rhododendrons in India" among the students.

In continuation of the visits, another 31 students from Shyambazar A.V. School visited Central National Herbarium and AJCBIBG on **November 18, 2017**. On this very occasion, a Popular talk on 'Introduction about the Botanic Garden and History of Transportation of Plants' was given by Dr. S.S. Hameed, Scientist-D, AJCBIBG to the students. Later, he also guided the students about the interesting live plants in AJCBIBG.

38 students from Dum Dum Motijheel Girls' High School visited Central National Herbarium and AJCBIBG on **December 16, 2017**. A Popular talk on the topic 'Naming of Plants' given by Dr. Avishek Bhattacharjee, Scientist-B to the students. Later, Ms. Purabi Bhattacharjee guided the students about the interesting live plant collection in AJCBIBG.

Another visit took place in this month was from Shyambazar A.V. School with their 28 students on **December 23, 2017**. After through visit of Botanical Gallery and Hooker's exhibition at 4<sup>th</sup> floor ISIM, a popular lecture given by Dr. (Mrs.) Anindita Saha, Museologist and conservator on the topic, 'Preservation of Art objects on paper using aroma of Natural Plant products against biological Organisms'.

In continuation of the visits for the next year, 39 students from Narain Das Bangur Memorial Multipurpose School visited this office (ISIM) on **January 6, 2018**. Dr (Mrs) Kangkan Pagag, Botanical Assistant of this office delivered a lecture on the topic, "Natural Rubber Producing Plants and its uses in Mankind".

As per EEAP, on **January 13, 2018**, a group of approx. 46 students from Bagbazar Multi Purpose Girls' School turned up at the Indian Botanic Garden (IBG) where Dr (Mrs) Mahua Paul, Botanist shared her talk with the students on "Introduction about the Botanic Garden & Herbarium".

Again, the students of about 41 from Dum Dum Motijheel Girls' High School visited the same campus (Indian Botanic Garden) on **February 3, 2018**. Dr (Mrs) Sangita Das Chowdhury delivered a lecture on "Botanic Garden & Phytographic Zones in India".

The next two visits have taken place at this office (ISIM). One on **February 2, 2018** from the Bagbazar Multi Purpose Girls' School. Dr P.R. Sur, former Botanist of BSI, shared his talk on the topic, "Biodiversity and Uses of Medicinal Plants in India" before the students of around 35 from the said school. The next one was on **March 3, 2018**, where Ms. Sudeshna Datta, Sr Preservation Asstt., of this office shared a talk on "Wild Relatives of Crop Plants in India" during the visit of the Vivekananda Siksha Niketan with their 46 students.

The final visit as per EEAP was done on March 10, 2018. This time at Indian Botanic Garden (IBG) with 46 students from Narain Das Bangur Memorial Multipurpose School. Dr S.S. Hameed, Scientist "D", AJCBIBG gave a valuable talk on the topic, "Introduction about the Botanic Garden & Deforestation : A Lurking Menace".

So far from the visits taken place, it is seen that Dum Dum Motijheel Girls' High School, Shyambazar A.V. School, Vivekananda Siksha Niketan, Joygopalpur, Basanti, Narain Das Bangur Memorial Multipurpose School, Bagbazar Multi Purpose Girls' School visited both the centers (ISIM, CNH & AJCBIBG), whereas Dum Dum Kishor Bharati High school visited ISIM centre only.

The student showed their enthusiasms and curiosity while acquainting with the rare, precious collections of plant world. School authorities, parents are also overwhelmed and urged for continuation of conducting this kind of programme more and more in future.

**(MANAS BHAUMIK)**

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