



# **Nature Camp for Neighborhood Children at J.B Kaval Tree Park and CEE Campus**

## **Draft Report**





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## Resource Persons

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## Introduction

Nature being the source of all resources we use in our daily lives, it is of great importance that we understand the complexity of it in simple ways. The Jarakbade Kaval reserve forest near Yelhanaka has a tree park, undulating landscapes, tree cover and water bodies that provide an ideal opportunity for individual to explore, experience and understand the importance of surrounding nature. This area is home to variety of reptiles, migratory and resident birds, local host plants attracts variety of butterflies. This pristine area is slowly getting habited by new residents.

## Mandate of CEE

Centre for Environment Education, a Centre of Excellence under the Ministry of Environment, Forest, Climate Change (MoEFCC) Govt of India has its regional office in the vicinity of Jarakbandekaval Reserve Forest Area. The centre is implementing several nature education programme in southern states. Considering the importance of the above forest area and the growing habitation in the vicinity, a need was felt that the school children of the nearby new residents and villages needs to be introduced to the surrounding environment. Who in turn would take major role in protecting the surrounding nature.

## Nature Camp for Neighbourhood Children

A day long nature camp for Neighbourhood Children was organized in two batches covering over 48 students. This camp aimed at creating awareness about surrounding nature and instil in them the concern to respect and protect the surrounding nature.



### **BRIEF**

Batches : 2 (1 batch each for Urban and Rural school Children)  
Dates : 7<sup>th</sup> April and 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
Duration : One day camp (10.00 am to 5.30 pm)  
Students : 48 (24 urban children and 24 rural children )  
Age group : 5 to 15 years  
Villages : 5  
Location : J.B Kaval Tree Park, CEE and TDU Campus



## Key Objectives

Make students to explore and appreciate the surrounding nature

Introduce environmental and ecological concepts to students through games and activities

Impart identification skills among students on local trees, birds, insects and reptiles

Inculcate the conservation values among students through group discussions and interactive sessions

Demonstrate students on planting of sapling techniques

## Methodology

Following methodology was followed while executing the two nature camp





## Proceedings

### Morning Session

#### Introduction and Ice Breaking (10.00 am to 10.30 am)

In this introductory session, students were briefed about the objectives of the Camp and activities that will be conducted during the day long session. This was followed by the introduction from students and their expectation from the camp. Following this, an ice breaking activity on the importance of observing nature was demonstrated. Students appreciated this session and thereby set the camping mindset among children.

#### Break (10.30 am to 10.45 am)

Above session was followed by a break wherein every students was offered with a juice and snacks.





## Visit to J.B Kaval Tree Park (10.45 am to 12.30 pm)

Students from CEE Campus walked to nearby J.B Kaval Tree Park of Forest Department. Here students were engaged in



Exploring a tree : Identification, measurement of height and girth, tree as ecosystem, plant diversity



Medicinal Plants: Identification in the wild, uses and need for its protection



Understanding Butterfly : Their host plants, diversity, adaptation, uses in nature



Discussion on Nature and the need for its protection



Exploring Birds: Key features, Diversity, importance, migration, conservation



### Visit to Plant Nursery at TDU (12.30 pm to 01.30 pm)

After the tree park visit, students were taken to the herbal plant nursery of TDU. Here, students were exposed to the

- Nursery techniques
- Herbal Plant identification
- In-situ and Ex-situ plant conservation

### Lunch Break (1.30 am to 2.15 am)

Students were provided with traditional food of North and South Karnataka





### Group Work (2.15 pm to 03.15 pm)

Students were divided into four groups. Each group was asked to explore and identify kinds of Grasses, Trees, Flowers and Shrubs found in the CEE Campus. The group went around the campus and collected the details. Then each group made a presentation about their findings and also shared how these natural things are helpful for humans.





### Eco Games and Activities (3.15 pm to 03.45 pm)

Students were demonstrated with a game called Sense the Nature. In this activity students were divided into a team of two people. Each student was made to blindfold the eyes with handkerchief and then were made to touch the plants in the surrounding. Upon unfold students were asked identify the tree that they touched. Most of the students could identify the trees that they touched. Upon sharing the learnings from the game, students demonstrated how they could identify the plants with their eyes closed based on the texture of leaf, bark, smell of leaf etc. They also said that nature experiencing nature with eyes closed is exiting.





### Activities on Wise use of Nature and Natural resources (3.45 pm to 04.30 pm)

Finally it was time for the last activity of the day called 'Fish in the Pond'. This activity involved children to collect at least one fish per child to sustain in the game when the number of fishes in the pond are lesser in proportion to the number of participants. At the end of the activity, children understood how some people use resources in plenty while others starve for the same resources and why it is important to use the natural resources wisely so that everyone has enough and less implication to the environment.



### Planting Tree Saplings (4.30 pm to 05.00 pm)

After all the activities and th games, students were divided into four groups and were asked to plant one tree sapling each at CEE Campus. Accordingly students planted four saplings and watered. In this process students were briefed on how planting of sapling is done. Students enjoyed doing this.





### Growing Vegetables (5.00 pm to 05.15 pm)

Students were given an opportunity to sow the seeds of vegetables in the vegetable garden of the CEE Campus. They sowed seeds of Methi, Palak, Onion, Raddish, Brinjal. Few of the students enjoyed harvesting Brinjal and raddish grown in the garden. and Later they were introduced to the concept of organic farming and its benefits.





### Feedback and Group Photos (5.15 pm to 05.30 pm)

The camp concluded with feedback session and vote of thanks. In this session few students volunteered to share their experiences and learning of the day to their parents. Parents and the children requested us to conduct more of such camps for both, adults and children, so that they can benefit from the learning from nature and adopt more sustainable ways in their daily lives to contribute towards a better future.





## SCHEDULE

10:00 – 10:30	Introduction and Ice breaking
10:30 – 11:00	Briefing on Nature, Observation Formats and Activities for the day
11:00 – 13:00	Dividing the students in groups for Nature Walk Measuring the height & girth of trees through Assessing the canopy types and structure Exploring insects ; Bird Watching; Soiling hands to know soils Understanding Habitat Types & their importance Biodiversity count (census method and technique)
Lunch Break	
14:00 – 15:00	Activity on Conservation of Natural Resource Fish in the pond Dispersal of tree seeds in the surrounding areas Know your neighborhood lakes and forest
15:00 – 16:30	Discussion on Nature Walk Relationship between trees, habitats, canopy and biodiversity Comparison of Insects & Birds observed and their behavior Merits and demerits of various census methods and techniques
16:30 - 17.30	Group work ; Planting Feedback and Group Photo



