

**BIODIVERSITY OF SNAKES AND OTHER REPTILES AND SNAKES AND ENVIRONMENT –
REPORT ON AWARENESS AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS
OF CHENNAI CORPORATION SCHOOLS - 2006-2007**

**PROJECT SPONSORED BY
NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**CONDUCTED BY
THE CHENNAI SNAKE PARK TRUST
RAJ BHAVAN POST, CHENNAI – 600 022**

MARCH-2007

PROJECT PROFILE

NAME OF THE ORGANISATION	: Chennai Snake Park Trust, Rajbhavan post, Chennai - 600 022.
NAME OF THE STATE	: Tamil Nadu
NAME OF THE PROJECT	: Biodiversity of snakes and other reptiles and snakes and environment – Awareness and Training Programme for Teachers and students of Chennai Corporation Schools.
DURATION	: November 2006 - March 2007
AMOUNT SANCTIONED	: Rs. 80,000/-. (Rupees eighty thousand only)
FUNDING AGENCY	: National Biodiversity Authority, Government of India. (vide letter No.1-3/2006/439.Tecl.NBA/7558 dt.19.10.2006)
PROJECT AREA	: Chennai Corporation Zones 5 to10

TARGET ACHIEVED

Name of the programme	Number of programmes	Number benefited	
		Teachers	Students
Teachers and Students training Programme	90	562	16,573
Evaluation through Competitions and Prizes	3	--	154

INTRODUCTION

Most of the environmental education programmes now available in the country are focussed on issues like deforestation, pollution and conservation of the larger mammals and birds. Diverse species of reptiles are found in all types of habitats and many of them live very near to human habitations. Due to many superstitions, myths and false beliefs, people either avoid them or wantonly kill them. In any case, there is little attempt to study the reptiles or understand their ecological significance or protect and conserve them.

Among the reptiles, the larger snakes like the cobra and the rat snake have a considerable ecological role to play in keeping the rodent population under control and thereby promote the interests of agriculture. It is estimated that 10% to 25 % of India's food crops is destroyed every year by rats, either in the field or as stored grain. Snakes in general and the

lizards also control other pests because they eat mostly insects and other small invertebrates injurious to crops. All reptiles thus play an important role in the environment.

For the past several years, the Chennai Snake Park Trust has been conducting various environmental education programmes for select groups.

It was found necessary to extend the training programme to school teachers and students of Chennai Corporation Schools to promote knowledge on snakes and other reptiles and dispel the erroneous beliefs about them to create awareness about the environment and the significance of reptiles in the environment. Educating the students in these matters will also indirectly result in the education of their parents.

For the current year (2006-2007), a grant of Rs.80,000/-was received from the National Biodiversity Authority, Government of India of which Rs. 76,764.50/- was utilized towards the programme.

Objectives:

- (i) To explain to the teachers and students the biodiversity of snakes and other reptiles.
- (ii) To enable the teachers and students to identify the common venomous and non-venomous snakes.
- (iii) To make them aware of the beneficial role that snakes and other reptiles play in the environment.
- (iv) To dispel erroneous notions about snakes.
- (v) First Aid and Treatment of Snakebites.

Methodology

Students Training Programme

The awareness and Training programme were conducted for 90 corporation schools in Chennai city, covering the zones 5 to 10 (Annexure –1). Dr. P. Kannan, Environmental Education Officer, Chennai Snake Park visited the schools and conducted the training programme. During these programme lecture on role of reptiles in the ecosystem particularly with reference to snakes, identification of venomous and non venomous snakes, false beliefs about snakes and other reptiles was delivered in front of the students and teachers (Plate 1).

Following the lectures, live demonstration of snakes was performed and video show on snakebite and treatment screened. The students and teachers raised many questions regarding environmental problems and their remedies, false beliefs about reptiles, snakebite and

treatment, biology of reptiles, ecological significance of reptiles, etc. The Environmental Education Officer gave the necessary clarifications. A total of 17,135 students and teachers (16573 students and 562 teachers) participated in the above programmes (Annexure – 1)

Course curriculum

Resource materials such as the Trust's publications *Snakes and Other Reptiles* (in Tamil) and posters on four common dangerously venomous snakes of India and common Snakes of Chennai were distributed to the schools.

Students Evaluation Programme

School level competition

At the conclusion of the programme, evaluation exercises were done to assess the success of the programme. An essay-writing competition was conducted on the role of reptiles in the ecosystem to the students who scored first three ranks were selected for the zonal level essay writing competitions.

Zonal level competition

First zonal level competitions for the zones 6th and 10th were conducted at Corporation Girls High School, No7, Erusappa Street, Triplicane, on 14.03.2007. A total of 65 students participated.

The second zonal level competition was conducted at Corporation High School, Strahans Road, Pattalam on 16.03.2007 for the zones 5 and 7, a total of 50 students participated

During the third zonal level competition, a total of 39 students participated from the corporation zones 8th and 9th. It was held at the Chennai Snake Park on 27.03.2007. An evaluation was done. Experts were engaged to assess and evaluate the answer papers. Three students who secured first, second and third ranks from each school and zonal level were given prizes and certificates (Plate 2).

During the first zonal level competition Shri. B.Vijayaraghavan, I.A.S. (Retd) Chairman, Chennai Snake Park Trust distributed the prizes and certificates to the students. During the second and third zonal level competitions prizes and certificates were distributed by Dr.V.Kalaiarasan, Director WWF-Tamil Nadu State Office and Shri, R, Rajarathinam, Director, Chennai Snake Park respectively (Plate 3).

Table 1. Prizes distributed to students during the competition programme

Type of Competition	Total No of competitions conducted	Details of prizes distributed
School level Competition	90	1. Dictionary English- English - Tamil Ist Prize (Rs 48/- each) 2. Dictionary (Mini) English-English Tamil IInd Prize (Rs 26/- each) 3. Book-Nammudan Vazhum Pambugal- Tamil -IIIrd prize (Rs.16/-each)

Table 2. Details of Zonal level essay writing competitions conducted the programme

Corporation Zones	Date	Venue	No.of Schools participated	No. of participants	
				Teachers	Students
Zones 6 and 10	14.3.2007	Corporation Girls High School, Erusappa Street, Trplicane, Chennai-5.	25	25	65
Zones 5 and 7	16.3.2007	Corporation High School, Strahans Road Pattalam, Chennai -12	14	20	50
Zones 8 and 9	27.3.2007	Chennai Snake Park Rajbahvan Post Chennai-22	12	12	39

Trainees' views about the Training programme.

The teachers and students for whom this was a first exposure to the subjects covered highlighted the usefulness of the programme during question and answer sessions.

Acknowledgements

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Annexure -1

Awareness and Training programme for the students and teachers of Chennai Corporation Schools from November 2006 to March 2007

Sl. No.	Date	Name of the Corporation Schools	Number of	
			students	teachers
1	13.11.2006	Corporation Middle School, Thiruvallurpet, Abiramapuram, Chennai - 18	60	2
2		Corporation Middle School, Santhome, Chennai - 28.	98	2
3		Corporation Middle School, N.S. Garden, R.A. Puram, Chennai - 28.	172	4
4	16.11.2006	Corporation Middle School, M.K.Amman Koil Street, Mylapore, Chennai - 4.	110	3
5		Corporation Middle School, Prof. Sanjeevi Street, Mylapore, Chennai-4	100	4
6	17.11.2006	Corporation Middle School, Thousandlight, Chennai - 6.	78	4
7		Corporation Higher Secondary School, Sindathripet, Chennai - 2	121	4
8	20.11.2006	Corporation Middle School, South Boag Road, Erikkarai, T.Nagar, Chennai-17	146	3
9		Corporation Middle School, Pragasam Salai, T. Nagar, Chennai - 17	137	3
10	22.11.2006	Corporation High School, Goyathope, Pudupet, Chennai - 2.	135	3
11		Corporation Middle School, Subbarayan Street, Pudupet, Chennai -2.	140	3
12	27.11.2006	Corporation Middle School, Kannammamet, T. Nagar, Chennai - 17.	221	5
13		Corporation Higher Secondary School, Thousandlight, Chennai -6.	128	3
14	30.11.2006	Corporation Middle School, Amman Koil Street, Vadapalani, Chennai - 26.	161	5
15		Corporation Middle School, Saidapet, Chennai - 15.	188	5
16	01.12.2006	Corporation Higher Sec. School, Beemanna Garden St., Alwarpet, Chennai-18.	144	5
17		Corporation High School, Kameeswarara Pakoda St., Chennai - 4.	181	5
18	06.12.2006	Corporation Higher Secondary School, Taramani, Chennai - 113.	430	10
19		Corporation High School, Pudupakkam, Velachery, Chennai - 42.	284	8
20	07.12.2006	Corporation Girls Higher Secondary School, Nungambakkam, Chennai- 34.	126	3
21		Corporation Higher Secondary School, C.I.T. Nagar, Chennai- 35.	198	6
22	11.12.2006	Corporation Middle School, Aminjikarai, Chennai - 29.	211	7
23		Corporation Middle School, Narasingapuram, Cindtadripet, Chennai - 2.	52	3
24	03.01.2007	Corporation Middle School, Mettupalayam, Chennai - 33.	178	6
25		Corporation Middle School, M.M.D.A. Colony, Chennai - 106.	250	9
26	05.01.2007	Corporation Middle School, Gujji Street, Anna Nagar East, Chennai - 102	139	4
27		Corporation Middle School, Veerasamy Street, Egmore, Chennai - 8.	146	5
28	08.01.2007	Corporation Higher Secondary School, West Mambalam, Chennai- 33.	276	7
29		Corporation Higher Secondary School, Lloyds Road, Chennai- 14.	120	4
30	09.01.2007	Corporation Higher Secondary School, Maduvankari, Guindy, Chennai- 29.	477	12
31		Corporation Middle School, Dhamodarapuram, Chennai - 20.	74	3
32	10.01.2007	Corporation Boys Higher Secondary School, Saidapet, Chennai- 15	159	5
33		Corporation High School, Kamaraj Avenue, Adyar, Chennai - 20.	521	15
34		Corporation Primary School, Kamaraj Avenue, Adyar, Chennai - 20.	145	3
35	11.01.2007	Corporation High School, V.P. Koil Street, Mylapore, Chennai - 4.	159	4
36		Corporation Middle School, Vellala Teynampet, Chennai - 86.	103	3

Sl. No.	Date	Name of the Corporation Schools	Number of	
			students	teachers
37	12.01.2007	Corporation Middle School, School Street, Arumbakkam, Chennai – 106	364	10
38		Corporation Middle School-I, M.M.D.A. Colony, Chennai - 106.	255	8
39	18.01.2007	Corporation Middle School-Varadarajapuram, Pudupetta, Chennai - 2.	160	5
40		Corporation Middle School-Tana Street, Purasawakkam, Chennai - 7.	88	6
41	19.01.2007	Corporation High School, Kilpauk, Chennai - 10.	420	12
42		Corporation Middle School-Venkattammal Street, Purasawakkam, Chennai	142	6
43	22.01.2007	Corporation Middle School, New Street, Kottur, Chennai - 85.	264	8
44	23.01.2007	Corporation Girls Hr.Sec.School, Rotler Street, Chennai- 112.	486	14
45		Corporation Middle School, Avadhanam Salai, Choolai, Chennai - 112.	260	10
46	24.01.2007	Corporation Boys Hr.Sec.School, Nungambakkam, Chennai- 34.	143	7
47		Corporation Middle School, Ramar Street, Nungambakkam, Chennai -34.	150	5
48	25.01.2007	Corporation Middle School, Vandikaran Street, West Mambalam, Chennai -33.	116	4
49		Corporation Primary School, Iswaran Koil St., West Mambalam, Chennai -33.	181	6
50		Corporation High School, Subbarayan Street, Chennai - 30.	261	9
51	29.01.2007	Corporation Girls High School, 7, Erusappa Street, Chennai- 5.	95	6
52	31.01.2007	Corporation Boys Higher Secondary School, Purasaiwalkam, Chennai- 84	199	8
53		Corporation Middle School, 150, Vellala Street, Purasaiwalkam, Chennai- 84	147	6
54	05.02.2007	Corporation Middle, Thideer Nagar, Saidapet, Chennai-15.	248	8
55		Corporation Primary School, Nesappakkam, Chennai -78.	346	12
56	06.02.2007	Corporation High School, Rangarajapuram Main Rd, Kodambakkam, Chennai-30.	442	18
57		Corporation Middle School, Kamaraj Colony, Kodambakkam, Chennai -24.	131	5
58	07.02.2007	Corporation Middle School, Trustpuram, Puliur 2nd Main Rd., Chennai -24.	286	10
59		Corporation High School, Thiruvalluvarpuram, Choolaimedu, Chennai - 94.	314	12
60	08.02.2007	Corporation Middle School, Vaikkorkaran Street, Chennai - 7.	112	4
61		Corporation Middle School, Vedavinayakar Road, Purasaivakkam, Chennai - 7.	183	6
62	12.02.2007	Corporation Primary School, Muthu Irulaandi Colony, Chennai -29.	52	2
63		Corporation Middle School, Kutty Street, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 34.	60	2
64	13.02.2007	Corporation Middle School, T.P. Koil Street, 127, Dr. Besant Road, Chennai - 14	36	
65		Corporation Primary School, Lloyds Road, Royapet, Chennai -29.	288	10
66	14.02.2007	Corporation Primary School, Thiruvanmiyur Kuppam, Chennai -41.	251	6
67		Corporation Primary School, Indira Nagar, Adyar, Chennai -20.	227	4
68	15.02.2007	Corporation Middle School, Balaji Nagar, Chennai -14	64	2
69		Corporation Primary School, V.P. Koil Street, Mylapore, Chennai - 4.	172	2
70	16.02.2007	Corporation Middle School, Gandhi Gramam, Chennai 600 041.	131	4
71		Corporation Middle School, 190, Kayetha Millath Road, Triplicane, Chennai - 5.	278	11
72	19.02.2007	Corporation Middle School, V.R. Pillai Street, Triplicane, Chennai - 5.	92	4

Sl. No.	Date	Name of the Corporation Schools	Number of	
			students	teachers
73		Corporation Middle School, 139, Bells Road, Tiruvallikeni, Chennai - 5.	126	5
74	20.02.2007	Corporation Middle School, Soorappa Street, Triplicane, Chennai - 5.	88	4
75	21.02.2007	Corporation Middle School, No.26, Thyphoon Alikhan, Triplicane, Chennai - 5.	184	5
76		Corporation Middle School, Begaum Street, Royapettah, Chennai - 14.	330	12
77	23.02.2007	Corporation Middle School, M.G.R. Nagar-II, Chennai - 78.	195	10
78		Corporation High School, Jafferkhanpet, Chennai - 83.	135	6
79	26.02.2007	Corporation Urdu Girls Middle School, 10, Peters Road, Chennai -14.	68	3
80		Corporation Middle School, Elisapuram, Chennai - 2.	93	5
81	27.02.2007	Corporation Girls Hr. Sec. School, Pulla Avenue, Shenoy Nagan, Chennai-30.	414	8
82		Corporation Middle School, Sivarajapuram, Chetpet, Chennai - 31.	84	3
83	28.02.2007	Corporation Middle School, 162, Peters Road, Royapettah, Chennai 14.	35	2
84		Corporation Primary School, MGR Nagar-I, Chennai - 78.	276	25
85	02.03.2007	Corporation Middle School, Krishnampet, Chennai - 2.	268	10
86		Corporation Middle School, Jagannathapuram, Chetpet, Chennai - 2.	100	5
84	05.03.2007	Corporation Middle School, Mc Nichols Road, Chetpet, Chennai 600 012.	110	7
88		Corporation Middle School, Appasamy Street, Chennai	60	6
89	07.03.2007	Corporation Middle School, Angalamman Koil street, Choolai, Chennai-112.	45	4
90		Corporation High School, No. 1. Strahans Road, Pattalam, Chennai-12	150	10
		Total	16573	562

AWARENESS AND TRAINING PROGRAMME ON SNAKES AND ENVIRONMENT

PLATE 1

STUDENTS TRAINING PROGRAMME



Venue: Corporation High School, Strahans Road, Pattalam, Chennai-12 on 07.03.07



Venue: Corporation Middle School, McNichols Road, Chetpet, Chennai-12 on 05.03.07

AWARENESS AND TRAINING PROGRAMME ON SNAKES AND ENVIRONMENT

PLATE 2

COMPETITION PROGRAMME



Venue: Chennai Snake Park , Rajbhavan Post, Chennai-22 on 27.03.07



Venue: Corporation High School, Strahans Road, Pattalam, Chennai-12 on 16.03.07

AWARENESS AND TRAINING PROGRAMME ON SNAKES AND ENVIRONMENT

PLATE 3

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION DURING THE ZONAL LEVEL COMPETITIONS



Venue: Corporation Girls High School, Erusappa Street, Triplicane, Chennai-5 on 14.03.07



Venue: Corporation High School, Strahans Road, Pattalam, Chennai-12 on 16.03.07