

Project Update: January 2009

The 3rd workshop at Tokawade and Terungun were conducted on the 10th and 11th of Dec 08. Before commencing the workshop, there was a meeting held near Tokawade to select an educator for the programme. There were 4 candidates in all, 3 students and one primary teacher. The primary teacher got selected as there was more assurance that she would stay as the students were uncertain about their future studies plans and could feel the need to move to another place. The teacher also showed interest in learning more about the subject.

The workshop started with the Insect game. It was followed by a film which showed the different aspects of lives of insects, like their food, social lives, anatomy, locomotion etc. There was a classroom session on "Origin of Life". Some statistics like when the earth was formed, when different groups of animals and plants came into being, etc was shared. The workshop ended with the "Web of Life" activity.

The Tokawade workshop started with "Origin of Life". It was then followed by the 'Find my Mate game'. This is a card game where there are pairs of male and female bird species. They are kept face down at the beginning of the game. The children must pick up two cards, turn by turn, and attempt to make a male-female pair of the same species. If they manage to make a pair, it is retained with the child, else the cards are replaced in the same position. The game continues till all the pairs are matched correctly. The objective of this game is to identify the male and female of a bird species, and its also hones the memory as the child must remember where a certain card is placed, as it is kept facing down.

Before starting the game, all the cards are laid out open in front of the kids where they observe that some males and females of a species are identical, while others differ a lot. They also observed that the males are normally more brightly coloured and attractive looking than the female.

It was our observation that some children could remember seeing some of the birds shown to them, though they did not know all the names.

The next activity was finding any news, articles, poems, pictures, etc related to the environment from newspapers as cuttings for their scrap books. This was done to encourage reading and make them alert about any reporting on the environment to increase their awareness.

This was followed by a mapping exercise where the children were split into 5 groups and asked to map their school. A common key was worked out for the whole class. Most children managed to plot the main physical features in the school correctly. The activity was conducted to test the orientation skills. The children were asked to map their village as a follow-up activity.

Drawing books were distributed to all the students of both the schools to maintain their notes, sketch, paint, write essays, poems, and stories, and collect cuttings all related to the environment.

A meeting was held with Mr Sawant where it was agreed that: -

- 1) Each of the two educators will conduct the workshop for one school respectively.
- 2) A timetable will be prepared for conducting workshops in schools as well as with educators.
- 3) The educator's workshops will be conducted at Pune as well as Dimbhe.
- 4) The cost of travel to Pune will be borne by MAM and stay and food will be organised by Kalpavriksh.