

Project Update: May 2009

On 1st May 2009, a meeting was organized with the coordinators of the participating schools to evaluate and discuss about the ongoing projects. It was informed that the children are already in the process of making the exhibits. With the volunteers help, they learnt about displays and exhibits, but need more training. Hence, in order to train the children on developing exhibits and posters, 12th May is tentatively fixed for the training.

As the schools are spread far and wide and in villages, the coordinators proposed that the exhibition could be done at each school, so that maximum people from the community could be invited to witness their children's findings that could involve community's participation in a better manner. Then, jointly, they could plan for actions ahead.

Another thing discussed was on celebrating the World Environment Day on 5th June. All agreed to design posters on the theme that are working on which also could be a part of the exhibitions later.

The water test kits were given out to the coordinators. They were very happy receiving the kits and hoped the children would learn about the water quality more scientifically. The coordinators were excited to start the new session with new ideas and activities in line with the project goals and objectives.

A workshop was organized for 27 students and five teachers from five community schools taking part in the Community Development Education Project, on 12th May 2009. Only the selected students and the teachers were called for the workshop. The workshop was held at Shringery Community High School. The main objective of the workshop was to reorient the participants on the project, in the light of new academic session, and onward research activities.

Parshuram S Niraula, Project Director, facilitated the workshop, where he reinforced the purpose of the project. All the five themes were discussed, on how to go about for research for each theme. A flow chart for each theme was thoroughly discussed, with the main objective of working with the community for a sustainable development. The participants in their school groups along with their teachers learnt about visualizing the literary message through artwork. They were also briefed about development of exhibits and other materials. They all agreed to prepare one skit to pass on the message to the community during exhibition. Preparation of different models was also discussed.

Owing to the distance among the schools, exhibition which was initially proposed at one place for all the schools is replaced by exhibitions at four schools. Basuki and Kalidevi will hold their exhibition at Kalidevi Primary School. The remaining three schools will have their exhibition at their own schools. This is being done in order to involve maximum parents and community members and expose them to their children's research work. Otherwise, the direct beneficiaries would not be able to travel/walk long distances to witness the exhibition program, considering their work in the farms. The activities during the exhibition were tentatively discussed with the criteria for judgment being developed the all coordinators of the school.

Overall, the workshop went off very well and was satisfactory.

