

**KUMARI ARIVIAL PERAVAI
YOUNG SCIENTISTS PROGRAMME 2009-2010
Report
on
Coastal Environmental Study Tour
[Neerodi to Vattakotai.]**

The coastal environmental study programme started from Marthandam Collage of Engineering and Technology on 16-1-2010 after having breakfast and planting of trees by each team. Inaugural session was held at the collage camp. The meeting started with the



introduction given by Riju Mohan. Mr. James Willson had given the welcome speech. Mr.Velaian spoke how to perform in the programme. Captain Bennet Singh gave the information about our coastal areas. After the meeting, we left to Neerodi at 9.30am.

At Neerodi, we could know about the life style of people from a fisherman Andrews. He told about the fishing types and types of fishing. Then, we were taken to St.Nicholas Hr. sec. school where father John Bosco had given us a warm welcome. We enjoyed the dance done by the children. ISRO Dy. General manager Mr.Ramashesan and Mr.Velaian informed the people about the threat the earth is going to face and about the aim of KAP. At Neerodi, the programme ended by vote of thanks given by Mr.Thiruvencatam and we left to VallaVilai.

At Vallavilai, Rev. Fr.Joseph Daniel gave us information about the fishing nets and how they use the fishing nets in different types of boat. We got an opportunity to see the ice plant, where they pack fishes for export. After that we had

our lunch at Nithiravilai, sponsored by Patriotic Sports club. At the meeting, Ms. Gayathri gave the welcome speech. Mr. Velaian spoke a few words about Global warming. Mr. Ramaseshan, the deputy GM of ISRO spoke a few words and encouraged the club members. Then, Jiya of space team gave a speech on global warming. After our lunch, we went to Eraimanthurai.

At Eraimanthurai, we saw the estuary of Thamirabharani River. Mr. Benzigr Rajan gave us information about the origin of the river and other details. Dr. Justin Antony s told us about government policies and about the studies of the coastal people. At St. John the Babtist's community hall, Poothurai, we had a meeting. The vicar and the local community members welcomed us there.

At 7.30, we reached Enayamputhanthurai. We had our dinner there. After that we had a debate and cultural programme and stayed at St. Antony's Hr.Sec.School.



On 17-1-2010, we woke up at 4.45am. Mr.Sathish, Convenor conducted yoga from 5.45 to 6.30am. It was useful to start the day energetically. After having our tea, we left the place at 6.45am and reached Annai hospital, Karinkal. The morning programme started 7.20am there. Ms.Safna of mountain team welcomed the guests. Then Mr.Velaian introduced the chief guest of the programme, Mrs. Gladis Lily, former Superintendent of customs. She gave us an inspirational speech to boost our self confidence of girls and to focus our aim in hardworking. Mr. Edwin Sam spoke on the importance of having gender awareness and gender equality among us. The meeting

ended with the vote of thanks by Durga. We had our breakfast there offered by Mrs. Gladis Lily and left to Colachel at 8.00am.

We visited the shipping harbour there. Mr. Benzigr Rajan explained about the importance of Colachel harbour, the main variety of fishes and the reason for abundant availability of fishes there. We visited the memorial erected on burial ground of Tsunami affected people and the victory of Maharaja of Travancore on 31-6-1741 to remember the victory of Travancore army defeating the Dutch. A local person Mr. Vimal Raj answered our questions regarding Tsunami happened at Colachel. .

Next, we visited Kadipattanam the estuary of Valliyar. Scientist Benzigr Rajan explained about the Richness of rare minerals like Ilminite, rootoil, Monosite, Garnite, Zircon in the sand. We observed many living organisms like oysters, crab on the rocks there. Muttam is famous for fishing and is a Tourist Spot. Mr. Benzigr Rajan gave a brief note about the coastal region from Muttam to Rajakkamangalam, it is called Wedge bank because, it is deeper and having big waves and heavy under current.

After that we visited Rajakkamangalam. Mr. Ingersol explained the phenomenon of absorption of carbon dioxide by sea. The over absorption of carbon dioxide by sea affects marine life. Then we visited Periyakadu fishing village. We walked over protective well built to break the wave energy harmful to fishing boats. Walking over the protective wall was a thrilling experience to us. Prof. Varithaya of Thoothur college explained the importance of having eco-awareness to us and also he talked the issues which will arise to coastal people if the central government bills to protect coast and fishing are passed.

We reached Chothavilai beach at 1.15pm. The family members of Mr. Raguvaran welcomed us to Chothavilai and

provided us lunch. Thiru. Mangavilai Rajendran explained about coral reef. After that Thiru. Ingersol told us to learn by practice. Mr. Sarath gave vote of thanks to Mr. Raguvaran and family on behalf of KAP and we left to Mannakudi. At Manakudy, we noticed nature's might and fury during Tsunami. Mangavilai Rajendran sir gave information about the mangrove forest in our district. We had our tea offered by Advocate Rajadurai and family. We reached Vattakotai at 5.45pm. Mr. Rajendran gave information about the fort there. After that, we left to Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari. There Shri Vasudev jee, NARDEP director spoke to us. Shri Anumandha Rao, administrative officer told us if the base is spiritual, no one will exploit. Selvi. Saraswathi had congratulated us. After reading the Reports by the five teams, the programme came to an end.

The learnings and findings of the Coastal Environmental studies programme [Neerodi to Vattakotai.].

The consolidated report of the learnings of mountain team members from the coastal environmental study visit on two days 16, 17 Jan 2010:

1. The income from fishes depends only on the seasonal catching.
2. They use different types of boat depending on the distance they go for catching fish.
3. They take half a day to one month time for fishing.
4. Now they use electronic equipments to identify the direction and location. Previously they depended only on star positions.
5. We noticed the risk of their living environment near the water front. They are also thickly populated and environmental sanitation need improvement.
6. The fishermen are well trained and experienced in their occupation of fishing and varieties of fishes.
7. The fishermen society and standard of people wholly depend on the sea only.

8. We noticed the protective wall erected to protect the village in many places of our visit. We also noticed a protective wall at Periyakadu to protect from wave energy and we had a thrilling experience to walk over that wall.
9. We got an opportunity to see different types of minerals available in the soil at Manavalakurichi.
10. We had a chance of seeing different forms of beach classification like estuaries of Thamirabarani, Pambar, Valliyar, Manthriyar, and Palayar and also learned the difference between Wedge bank and estuaries.
11. We got an opportunity to see the marine organisms that live on rocks such as Oyster, crab, etc...
12. We also learned the method used for measuring distance and depth of sea - nautical miles.
13. We also observed the pollution caused due to oil spillage in fishing harbour.
14. The planting of trees near the beach at Chotavilai beach area is a good attempt to protect soil erosion along the coast.
15. The abandoned AVM canal is now full of garbage and wastes. We got awareness to rebuild the canal for transport and good drinking water.
16. At Manakkudi, we noticed the nature's might and fury during Tsunami and also learned about the only mangrove forest in our district.
17. Now coastal people are having good educational facilities for children.
18. We saw the historical memorials and places at Munchirai, Colachel and Vattakottai.

In short, we have got a very good experience to know about the environment of KK Dist coastal area from Neerodi to Vattakottai.

Reshmi,
MOUNTAIN TEAM