

# **VISIT REPORT TO BHARATPUR BIRD SANCTUARY AND KARAULI**

**PERIOD - 7.1.20 to 10.1.20**

## **Objectives of visit to Bharatpur Bird sanctuary and Karauli**

- To have a firsthand interaction with nature, animals, migratory birds ecological balance etc. that they have been learning in schools and Wonderoom fun science sessions.
  - To give children living in cities a chance to personally see nature and experience the life of people living in such arid remote areas.
  - To give a chance to children living in remote areas to experience, meet and learn about nature and the life of city children.
  - To develop a system to exchange ideas, culture and way of life for children of rural and urban areas.
  - Increasing Sadbhavana with other living things and the environment.
  - To develop an ecosystem for children to take lead to revive harmonious relation between people and the environment.

## **Details of the visit:**

25 Children most of them who attend the SKILL lab regularly were earmarked for the visit. They assembled at RGF with their luggage and packed lunch at 7 AM. We departed from RGF at about 8AM after attendance and briefing. We reached Bharatpur at 1:30PM. Before entering the park children had lunch.

After buying tickets we walked inside the sanctuary. Children were briefed about the rules to be followed like, staying together, not to make sound, not to litter, not to disturb any bird or animal etc.



**Children from Karauli and Bamoda village also joined us who had reached there before us.**



**Children were informed about the various birds specially the migratory birds. Information like their name, from where they migrate, specialty etc. was parted. We saw a huge variety of birds , like Saras crane, painted stork, whistling duck, white breasted geese, Bar head geese, common coot, spot billed duck, snake bird, Siberian crane etc.**





Inside the sanctuary we also saw Chital deer, python and wild boars. In all children walked more than 10 kms , but none looked tired.





**They had great fun and were enthusiastic to know about each and every bird, animal, Plant they saw.**



**We returned to the entry gate at 5pm. Karauli group led us on our way to Karauli and we reached there at about 8:30pm. After allocation of rooms and beds children were served dinner.**





Even after the hectic day children did not want to sleep but sat around fire and shared their experiences. At 10 am they were made to go to bed.

### **8.1.20 Day two**

Children were amazingly all set for the day's activity quite early. They could experience the quiet morning, very different to that of the city. They gave left over chapattis to peacocks, parrots and other birds inside the camp. They could hear the calls of different birds like Partridges, peacocks. After breakfast, children played cricket match with the local children. They shared toffees and balloons with them. They went to their friends' homes and met their families.

At 10AM we left for Bamoda village . The journey was a memorable experience for the children. While crossing Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary, an extension of Ranthambore tiger reserve, they saw many wild animals like, Blue bull, Chinkara deer, Jackals and many vultures sitting on a rock in a large group ( a rare sight now a days).





We allowed them to take a little walk along the narrow water strip where they could experience the terrain and see the changing variety of plants and trees as they entered the Dang region.





**They were shown various Pokhars/ talabs which RGF has helped in making. They were explained about catchment areas and how a location to make such water reserves is chosen.**









On reaching Bamoda village, they were given lunch. Special instructions were given that they should not litter the area. They were then taken to pagaras and explained how soil is prevented from flowing with the rain water. This collected fertile soil is used to do farming.



Children were introduced to farmers of the village, who give testimonies about their condition before and what change this initiative has brought to their lives. How the ground water level has also improved.



They were lovingly served tea by the villagers. After tea, villagers were introduced to the children and a discussion was initiated where they could talk to each other. I had to back away as the women did not talk freely till I was there. Later they became free with the children and started pointing out to the various problems they are facing.



Problems like education for their children, smoke from their stoves, electricity, cleanliness of the village, medical issues etc. were pointed out. Children from SKILL lab promised to come up with some innovative ideas to help them.





Here also they shared toffees and balloons with the village children. They played with the cart wheel which local children were playing.



Children were especially stunned with the condition of the village school. They opened the rooms and saw the pathetic condition. The expression of worry and sadness was clearly visible on their faces. Some even asked me- How will these children get educated to become doctors and engineers?



Next we walked them to a water fall which is the last place before the Chamble River ravines start. It was a beautiful place. Children took pictures.





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**They could see the deep valley and the maze the river had made.**



**On the return journey all the children were asked to disembark the bus. The bus driver was asked to park the bus on top of the third mountain. They were briefed about, not to run, not to venture away from the group and not to stay exactly behind the one on the front, as there are chances of rock slipping by the person in front. The children were very excited and happy to trek the three mountains. On the way they picked (Ber).**





On reaching the camp they sat around the fire and shared their experiences of the day. After dinner they played music and danced.

### Day 3.

After a nice breakfast of pakodas, Chach and Jalebi children were taken for a walk through the fields. Children were shown the different types of crops, how to recognize them, what is the different requirement for each crop. Carrot, raddish, Bel pathar, amla, gram, mustard, wheat, Green peas, beetroot, amrak, Cauliflower, cabbage, tomatoes, brinjal, turmeric, onion, garlic and many other plants were shown. The village people were very happy to meet the children.



The experience of picking fresh raddish, tomato and eating with salt was surely unforgettable.









Talking to the farmers, understanding the methods they use for farming was very informative.





One thing that really amazed all of us was to see Kesar being grown by one farmer. Though the plant was not like the one grown in Kashmir but they say that it was keser and they use it with milk.



After a 2 hour long walk I was of the opinion that children will now rest on return to the camp but the children played two matches of limited over cricket.

As the lunch of Dal, bati and boora was not yet ready, so instead of waiting and wasting time, we took the children to Mamchari Dam about 3 KMs from the camp.





It was a beautiful place and visited by very few visitors. We could see various types of water birds. The children were shown how the flow of water is regulated. How the flow is measured. What is CUSECS? (An unit of flow equal to one cubic foot per second.)



We had a good discussion on the ecosystem of dams and lakes. How dams are both useful and harmful. While sitting on the bank of the lake. Children collected shells from the banks.





Next they went on a trek on the mountains around the lake. It was a once in a lifetime experience. Children enjoyed the excursion. They did not want to leave the place and wanted to climb further.







On their trek down the hills they saw a scorpion and a water snake.

On returning to the camp they had lunch and dinner combined. Then the camp fire was lit and everyone shared their experiences of the day. One thing was common that all of them wanted to stay a few more days as we had to return back to Delhi the next Morning.

#### **Day 4**

After a heavy breakfast accompanied with chach and packed lunch we were all set for the return journey. Children thanked the GGS staff for their loving care and help. With a last checkup of luggage and attendance we left for Delhi. We reached Delhi at 6 PM. Children were handed over to their guardians. All went well by God's grace.

#### **OUTCOMES:**

1. Children had a firsthand interaction with nature, animals, and migratory bird's. The information gathered will be of great help in their studies.
2. Children understood the importance of each and every creature in the ecological system.
3. SKILL lab children understood the problems of the villagers and assured them to come up with some innovative idea to solve them.
4. Children experienced the life of people living in villages and remote areas.
5. They could differentiate between the building material of houses and architecture between cities and villages.
6. Children living in remote village like Bamoda got a chance to experience see and learn about the different migratory and water birds.
7. Children exchanged their ideas with each other as they became friends. Our children invited them to visit Delhi.