

# Coastal Environmental Studies Research Report

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On January 17 2009, the first day of our Young Scientists Coastal



Environmental Research Studies trip started from Marthandam College of Engineering, Kuttakuzhi. The programme was inaugurated by Vice Chairman of Marthandam College of Engineering, Prof. James Wilson. He gave us

some tips, advices and ideas how to proceed on with the Coastal Research. Prof.R.Thiyagaswamy in detail explained us the historical importance of the places which we were about to visit during the two days programme. He explained us in detail the importance of Vattakottai, the reason for the construction of Vattakottai by the Travancore king, Marthanda Varma. It was very interesting to hear the history. He also Advised us to collect materials especially paper cuttings and to preserve them. The District Forest Officer, Thiru. Sundararaju explained us in detail the different types of ecosystem,



their importance and how to preserve and save them. He also advised us to use this opportunity of two days camp in a knowledgeable manner. The gathering was felicitated by Dr.Vijayakumar-IMA Vice President and Dr.A.Jayalal-IMA

Secretary. The notices prepared by all the five teams regarding the awareness and remedies of climate change were released by the dignitaries in the dais. The Principal-Thiru. Pramil Kumar gave us some tips regarding coastal studies research. Saplings were planted by the five teams along with the Scientists, Consultants, Convener and Guide Teachers in the presence of District Forest Officer.

- ☞ The inaugural session at Kuttakuzhi ended and we proceeded to Neerodi. Mrs. Esalda, Teacher and her family members were very much enthusiastic to see our children and made us happy with their loving reception and refreshments. We had an interaction with the anglers (fishermen) of that locality. They shared their experiences due to the sea level rise and thereby the seashore shifted. We thereby distributed the notices and explained them about the pollution of coastal areas. Awareness was given regarding the hygiene and sanitary conditions.



- ☞ From here, we proceeded to Vallavillai where we had discussions with the Fishermen Union Representatives. Shri. Nicholson, Headmaster, St. Jude's Middle school Nithravilai and his friends received us. They briefed us the different techniques of fishing that were new to us and they told us about the migration of fishes. They also shared their experiences about their livelihood and survival as to how it is been carried out by long route fishing towards Goa and Mumbai. This is due to the migration of fishes towards the above said area due to the marine pollution.



- ☞ Next at Nithiravillai we had interactions with our scientist Shri.Ingersol and Thiru.Joeprakash-Coordinator, National Green Corps regarding the climatic changes of that locality. We have no words to express our thanks to "The Patriotic Sports Club" and their team members who received us and shared their joy and happiness with their loving hospitality and wishes.

- After lunch, we visited the Parthivapuram Parthasarathy Temple. Here we enjoyed the artistic view of sculptures and we had a detailed review of this and the history of the temple. The Tamil poet Thiru. Thangarasu explained us the importance of the temple and we came to know that it was built before 2000 years and it is the only temple with its entrance facing the west direction. He also told us that the temple's history is found in the scriptures of Chithra Library at Nagercoil.

- Our trip proceeded to Thenkapattinam. Here we had an opportunity to



see the estuary where the Thamiraparani River and the AVM canal meets. We learned about the breeding of fishes. We had an opportunity to see various types of fishes like Thattai fish, Chori Fish, etc.

- From here, we went to Enayam Puthanthurai. The headmistress, Sr. Felinda and the staffs of St. Antony's Higher Secondary School took us to the seashore and introduced us to the local anglers. From them we had more information about the previous history of the village. They also told us the inability to dispose the waste from the shore. We too gave them an awareness regarding the disposal of waste and how to maintain a hygienic living.
- Next at Karungal, we met a well-known personality Smt. Gladis Lilly who shared her experiences in fighting against the use of Narcotics. We had discussions with Prof. James Wilson and Thiru. Joeprakash regarding climatic changes.
- At Colachel, we stepped into the monument and paid our homage built in memory of 414 people who died in 2004 tsunami disaster. We walked along the deep waters in the shore and had a glance of the construction of the proposed harbour.
- At the end of the day's trip, we assembled at Koottumangalam Vivekananda Matriculation Higher Secondary School. It was an interesting time amidst the happy gathering of Shri. Sreekumar, Principal and his fellow teachers. A hot argument took place between the five teams on the topic சமூகத்தை நெறிப்படுத்துவது அரசியலா? ஆன்மீகமா? அறிவியலா? ஆசிரியரா? அறிவார்ந்தநூல்களா? All the five



teams entertained the whole group with their variety of talents. The day ended with delicious dinner.

- On 2<sup>nd</sup> day, our trip started with an enthusiastic yoga. After breakfast with wishes of the Correspondent

Shri. Manikandan and Principal of the School who accommodated us the earlier night, we reached our first site Kadiyapattanam. We were accompanied by the Scientist Thiru.A.Benzigar Rajan. He gave us information about the locality. We also saw the estuary where the Valliyaaru links with the sea. We also learnt from him that this area is rich in thorium. Corals are also present in these areas. Fishes like Vaalai, Nethili, and Chalai are abundant in these areas and sharks are seen less.



- At Muttom, the important tourist spot of our district, we saw the lighthouse built in 1882 and came to know that its light reaches up to 25 kms and directs the ships in right direction. We saw the high and ferocious waves and steep rocks. Here we discussed

Water & Vector born diseases with Dr.Arulprakash. He gave us details about typhoid, diarrhoeal diseases, malaria, etc. Dr.Arumugam and Dr.Arulprakash conducted meetings with their own teams.

- After that, our journey continued to Rajakamangalam, beautiful seashore of KK district. Scientist A.Benzigar Rajan gave us details about the turtles and the fishes living in the area. He explained about the breeding and living conditions of turtles.
- At Periyakaadu, Scientist A.Benzigar Rajan explained the importance of that place and fish breeding.
- At Chothavilai, the beach that was badly hit by tsunami and thus lost its original beauty, we relaxed and had our lunch and after that each team in between had discussions in preparing the report. We are indebted a lot to Shri. N. Raghvaran and his family members who themselves provided and served the lunch.

- After lunch at Manakudi, Shri.Mangavilai Rajendran gave us lot of information regarding mangroove forests. He told us the importance of mangroove forest and how it helps in the breeding of prawns. This is the areas where we can see mangroove forests in our district. We also learned about the climatic conditions,



necessary for the growth of this forest and the structure of the trees and its parts. He also showed us the hills of the Western Ghats namely Podhigai, Mahendragiri, Marunthuval malai, etc. A similar mangroove forest was also available near Chidambaram, i.e., Pichavaram. He also showed us an estuary. In general, he gave us lot of information regarding mangroove forests, their habits and reproductive nature. We also saw the bridge damaged after tsunami disaster.



- With tremendous information, we reached Vattakottai. We had an opportunity to meet Advocate Rajathurai and his family who not only received us but also treated us with a grant refreshment. Here we came to know that Vattakottai is taken care of and

maintained by Archaeological survey of India (ASI). A staff of ASI explained us all the details regarding the Vattakottai fort, which Prof. Thiyagaswamy has already briefed us. We were very much thrilled to see the Thiruvalluvar Statue at Kanyakumari and at the other side, the Koodankulam Atomic Project. We had lot of fun and enjoyed the sceneries around.

- All the way from the first day along the coastal area we, the 5-team members distributed the awareness notices to all the people whom we met on our way.
- At last, we reached Vivekananda Kendra, Vivekanandapuram, where we had our valedictory function. Each team leader read the team report. Madam Saraswathi felicitated us and wished us for our golden future.

Scientist P.Palvannan, Guide teachers and conveners gave their special addresses.

- ☛ As usual, the two days educative, informative programme ended with the golden words of our beloved Organizer Thiru.Mullanchery M. Velaian.
- ☛ In short, the programme was very educative. We had an opportunity to mingle with various people at various locations to know about their living habits. We learned about the habitats of flora and fauna seen along the coastal areas and their importance. We realised the climatic changes and impacts seen along the coastal areas.
- ☛ I, on behalf of sky team, thank the Organiser Thiru. Mullanchery M. Velaian for giving us this golden opportunity to get into a bank of knowledge with regard to Coastal Environment.