

TRIP TO MARAMALAI

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I take this opportunity to present a brief report regarding our trip to Maramalai. We were organized by Captain of the ship **KUMARI ARIVIAL PERAVAI, Mr. M. Velaian.** We commenced our journey from District Forest Office Nagercoil at 8.00 am on 14-02-2009. **Mr.V. Sunadara Raju IFS, DFO** of K.K. district, **Mr.M. Velaian, Mr.S. Ingersol, Mr. A.Benzigar Rajan** and guide teachers accompanied us. The morning was blessed with the melodious prayer song by the water team members. The DFO gave some useful information and tips about the forest in K.K District. About 28% of the area of Kanyakumari District is covered by forest. The specialty of forest is, it is made up of 5 layers. They are the creepers, shrubs, herbs, trees and saplings. **Mrs. Jane Catherine, principal, Belfield Matric. Hr. sec. school** is kind enough to provide their school bus for our programme.



While traveling, we got an opportunity to see the panoramic view of **Perunjani dam**. The sight of Black monkeys jumping on the trees, hanging on branches made merry on our trip. We saw **Yannaikuttimukku** where the elephants break the place and eat the sand as a medicine for their indigestion problems. The terrain hill road has more numbers of sharp bends known as hairpin curves than any other hill stations like ooty. Our moving



encyclopedia, **Mr. Mangavilai. D. Rajendiran** told that , this is the path where elephants used to cross. We can see **kaatu kozhi** on bamboo forest. We saw dark thick forest with silver oak, clove, all species (*sharva suganthi*) used in preparation of food and rose wood. The cost of rose wood varies up to Rs. 52000 per cubic metre. In order to prevent the cutting of trees from private parties and poachers, the govt. has enacted the private forest act. The specialty of this forest is the step by step trees. Silver oak is seen largely in this area. It's pulp is used to make paper. It is also a shadow tree. It acts as a lightning arrester too.



Some brain teasing questions were put to us to enrich our brain. Do you know



which gives us food? It's the sun. The age of sun is 4600 million years. Tsunami occurs at the earth plates when a volcanic eruption takes place below 22- 32 metre.

In 26th august ,1883, there was an attack of tsunami due to the cyclone named **crakadoa**. It affected 324 countries including India at Kanyakumari. But no one died because the sand dunes saved the people in our district. There were 49 countries on the Indian Ocean known as **laemoria** continent. They all merged in the ocean due to rise in sea level. During this attack of tsunami, the sea went in for about 30km. The fisher men found a door made of brass and when they tried to open it, the British advised them if the sea went in it will come at a great force. So, they stopped and came back to land.



Coral reef is also a mountain made up of dead animal's bones (calcium carbonate). It is the place of habitat for fish. The largest coral reef is the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

SOME OTHER VALUABLE AND THOUGHT PROVOKING POINTS shared by *Mr. Mangavilai. D. Rajendiran*:

- *The estuaries have to be enlarged.*
- *Sand dunes should not be abolished to reduce death.*
- *Next, let us see what to do to stop soil erosion; grow plants with stilt root.*
- *The Rajput ruled India for a long time and at that time the extend of India is up to Palestine and Gandhakar. Alexander with the motivation to capture the whole world, started a war against Rajput. They said they were ready to fight. But Alexander went back telling that, it is a gift for their braveness.*
- *Every ruler wished to capture India because of the plenty of natural resources.*
- *Columbus discovered America when he went to search the pathway of India.*
- *The River Amazon pushes the water for about 100m inside the sea.*
- *The world biggest forest is Amazon in Brazil.*
- *The world's second largest forest is in Africa.*
- *The Kanyakumari dist. is the only place in India which receives seasonal rain two times both from north east monsoon and south west monsoon.*
- *The British planted more eucalyptus trees after some years there was lack of ground water. Dr. Samraj researched about it and said that if they remove the eucalyptus only they could get good drinking water as the eucalyptus absorbs more water and gives it out.*
- **MUTHUKUZHIVAYAL:** *It is the top plainest surface in KK. dist., where a tree belongs to jadhikay family is present. It*



absorbs water and stores it in the cork and gives out during dry summer. That's why the river of KK. dist. has water through out the year.

- *We all know that leeches absorb blood from the body but it absorbs only impure blood. Hence it is used as medicine.*
- *Do you know the grammar of forest? It should be thick and look like cauliflower.*
- *Manayam is the place where artificial pearl is produced.*

Then we had our lunch at CMS bungalow provided by district forest office, Nagercoil. We took a nice bath in yaanai pallam falls.



POLLUTION IN MAARAMALAI

☹ *The rubber factory in kiriparai releases the formic acid which mixes with the water in perunjani dam and contaminates that water.*

☹ *The waste from paulkuzham estate mixes with water in river tharuvai and reaches pazhaiyaru.*

☹ *Mayilaru rubber factory wastes mixes with pechiparrai dam.*

Due to the above mentioned pollution natural fish vegetation gets destroyed. Thus the KK dist. is losing a lot of fishes from this areas.



NATURAL VEGETATION AND WILD LIFE IN K.K. Dist.

Kanyakumari district has 2 types of teak series. They are the Thadikarakonam teak series and Kodayaru teak series. The wild animals live in between these series. Jackfruit trees, mango trees are also seen in plenty. Due to the deforestation, the pig, monkey, deer, bear, wild buffalo enter into agricultural land to satisfy their hunger. To control this



we want to grow fruit bearing plants and preserve them for 7 years till they reaches to maximum height. We have to remove the rubber trees and manjiyam trees and plant the fruit bearing trees.

Finally I thank all the members of KAP and guide teachers. I convey our special thanks to , **Mr. V.Sunadara Raju, IFS, DFO of K.K. district, Mr. M. Velaian, Mr.S.Ingersol, Mr.A.Bensigar Rajan, Prof. T. James Wilson and his family, Advocate. Rajadhurai, Mr. Mangavilai. D. Rajendiran , Mr.P. Murugan, all the foresters and CMS Employees, all our well wishers and one and all.**



We record our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Mrs. Jane Catherine, principal, and other non teaching staffs of Belfield Matric. Hr. sec. school, Asaripallam, with out their support we couldn't have got this pleasant and memorable opportunity in the early years of our school life.



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