

The Rufford Foundation Final Report

Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to jane@rufford.org.

Thank you for your help.

Josh Cole, Grants Director

Grant Recipient Details	
Your name	S. Sivakumar
Project title	Sundarvan's Snake Awareness Programme for Schools at Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
RSG reference	16202-1
Reporting period	September 2015 to August 2016
Amount of grant	£4950
Your email address	s.sivakumar@ceeindia.org
Date of this report	13 th September 2016

1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
To reach as many as children of government or government aided schools			Fully achieved	Within the given timeframe considering holidays and exam days, our team reached 9043 students of 82 government or government aided schools
To create a cadre of teachers to create continuous reptile awareness in schools			Fully achieved	Two 1-day teachers' orientation programmes on reptiles were conducted at Sundarvan for 60 teachers. During the programmes conducted at schools, 321 teachers were reached.
To reach as many as general public			Fully achieved	Using this project as opportunity, we could publish facts about snakes and dos and don'ts in case of snakebite in local media, especially print and electronic.

2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).

Even though the hurdle has been overcome, few of the difficulties faced were as follows:

- 1) Many schools did not have a classroom big enough to accommodate all the students from 6th to 8th class and the entire programme had to be done twice in a row for all students to get the benefit of programme.
- 2) Power cuts, and more than expected absence of students during festivals were some of the common problems encountered.

3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.

Three most important outcomes of the project are as follows:

- 1) We reached schools in remote locations where students actually encounter snakes on a regular basis. They were full of questions and misbeliefs that are slowly being dispelled.
- 2) We reached teachers who were also victims of misunderstanding and information based on what they had heard instead of scientific data. Through teachers who are now aware we are able to reach even more students.
- 3) Excellent resource material in terms of a booklet and a manual on reptiles with special focus on snakes has been produced with information in the local language. These will be very useful reinforcement to every student and teacher who we have reached.

4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project (if relevant).

Not relevant.

5. Are there any plans to continue this work?

Sundarvan has been working to create awareness about species that are generally considered less charismatic. Snake Awareness Programmes have been a part of the Zoo Education Model at Sundarvan and will be continued through our 'sponsor-a-programme-for-students' concept.

6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?

Success of the programme can be measured through a pre- and post-test taken by the students attending the programme. The results will be shared on our online portals and data will be published in Zoosprint magazine by Zoo Outreach Organization.

7. Timescale: Over what period was The Rufford Foundation grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?

The grant was used for 12 months period, as proposed in the proposal.

8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Sundarvan visit to schools	2250	1750	500	As all the school distance are not equal from Sundarvan, we could save some money in transportation.
School visit to Sundarvan	1200	1200	0	
Teacher orientation workshop	500	500	0	
Booklet and teacher orientation manual on snake	1000	1500	500	<p>Since our reach of students was much bigger than the mentioned reach, the resource booklet was printed more than the mentioned quality. As this is the wonderful source of information to distribute during the awareness programme, the remaining copies with us will be used during our future programmes.</p> <p>The teacher orientation manual with activities preparation and printing also took more than the expected amount. However, these were managed within the money we received from the Rufford.</p>
Total	4950	4950	1000	

9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?

1. Looking for more external support to reach more and more students and teachers to increase the impact. We will attempt to do this through voluntary service also.
2. Regular follow-up with the schools and teachers who attended this programme to continue to do this programme in their school to widen the reach.

10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?

Yes. The Rufford Foundation logo was used in the following materials,

1. Snake booklet that was distributed to all the participants of this programme.
2. Teacher orientation manual.
3. The participation certificates issued to the participants of the teacher orientation programme
4. The snake presentation we used for this programme.

The RSGF was mentioned during all our school programmes and during the teacher orientation programmes. The funding details was always mentioned to the local media whenever, they covered this project.

A primer on snakes for school teachers

dna correspondent
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Ahmedabad: Science teachers of 60 secondary schools participated in a snake orientation workshop jointly organised by UK's Rufford Foundation and Sundarvan, a nature discovery centre in Ahmedabad on Friday and Saturday.

They were made aware about the types of snakes, their habits and snakebite preventive measures. S Shivkumar, manager of Sundarvan, said, "Until and unless snakes are not teased, they will not harm you. Three hundred species of snakes are found in India, out of which 60 are

Treatment for snakebite

Keep the patient calm, do not tie any cloth near the bite. The victim should not run or walk and if the bite is on hand, bangles or rings should be removed.

venomous. The four most poisonous ones are Spectacled cobra, Common krait, Russell's viper and Saw-scaled viper."

The participants were advised to keep surrounding clean, ensure there are no cracks in the house or branches do not touch it and carrying a torch while venturing into bushes.

સાપ અંગે શાળાના વિદ્યાર્થીઓમાં જાગૃત્તિ ફેલાવવા

સુંદરવનમાં ટીચર્સ ઓરિએન્ટેશન પ્રોગ્રામનું આયોજન કરવામાં આવ્યું

અ મદાવાદમાં આવેલા સુંદરવન દ્વારા છેલ્લા ત્રણ દાયકાથી સમાજમાં સાપ અંગે લોકોમાં જોવા મળતી માન્યતાઓ અને ગેર માન્યતાઓ દૂર કરીને સાચી સમજ આપવા પ્રયાસ કરવામાં આવે છે. સાપ અંગેની જાગૃત્તિ કાર્યક્રમના ભાગરુપે જ યુ.કેના રફોર્ડ ફાઉન્ડેશનની આર્થિક સહાય વડે સુંદરવનને છેલ્લા એક વર્ષમાં ૮૨ ગવર્નમેન્ટ-પ્રાઈવેટ સ્કૂલોમાં જઈ સ્નેક અવેરનેસના પ્રોગ્રામ કર્યા છે. આ પ્રોગ્રામ અંતર્ગત સુંદરવન દ્વારા શાળામાં અનેક સ્નેક અવેરનેસ પ્રોગ્રામ આયોજીત થયા હતા. જેમાં બાળકોને સાપોની જાતિ, સાપની ટેવો, સાપ કરડે તો શું કરવું વગેરે જાણકારી આપવામાં આવી હતી. જો સાપ અંગેની સાચી માહિતીથી ટીચર વાકેફ હશે તો તે સ્ટુડન્ટસને પણ શિખવી શકશે આ હેતુથી સુંદરવન ખાતે ૧૯ અને ૨૦ ઓગસ્ટે ટીચર્સ ઓરિએન્ટેશન પ્રોગ્રામનું આયોજન કરવામાં આવ્યું છે.

આ ઓરિએન્ટેશન પ્રોગ્રામમાં ટીચર્સને રેપ્ટાઈલ્સની જાણકારી,



આપણે હતા તે પહેલાથી સાપનું ઘરતી પર અસ્તિત્વ

સાપનું અસ્તિત્વ આપણે હતા તેના પહેલાથી છે. આપણે તેમને ન નડીયે તો તે પણ તે પણ આપણને નડે. સામાન્ય રીતે સાપ ઉંદર કે એના જેવા બીજા જીવ પકડવા માટે થઈને ઘરમાં ઘૂસતા હોય છે. એકિસડન્ટને ટાળી નથી શકાતો, પણ તે ન થાય તેના માટે પ્રિકોર્શન્સ લેવા સારા. જેમકે, ઝાડી વાળા વિસ્તારમાં જાવ ત્યારે પેન્ટ, શૂઝ પહેરીને નીકળવું, સાથે ટોચ રાખવી વગેરે. તમારા વિસ્તારમાં આસપાસ સાપ દેખાય તો ફોરેસ્ટ ડિપાર્ટમેન્ટની હેલ્પલાઈન પર કોલ કરવો જોઈએ.

-એસ. શીવકુમાર , સુંદરવન પાર્ક મેનેજર

સાપોના બિહેવીયર અંગેની જાણકારી તેમજ તેમનું નિરીક્ષણ, સ્ટુડન્ટસને ક્વેશ્ચન-આન્સર કરી કઈ રીતે સાપ અંગે માહિતગાર વગેરેની ટ્રેનિંગ આપવામાં આવે છે. સુંદરવનના આ

કાર્યક્રમનો હેતુ શિક્ષકોને સાપ અંગે સાચી જાણકારી આપવા ઉપરાંત ટીચર્સને અન્ય સુંદરવનના અન્ય પ્રાણીઓ અને પક્ષીઓને નજીકથી ઓળખે તેવો પણ છે.

Snake awareness prog for AMC school kids

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Sundarvan – the nature discovery centre in city which is known for its educational programmes on flora and fauna will educate students of 80 AMC schools regarding nature and its conservation.

It will also include an awareness programme on snakes. Officials at Sundarvan believe that students living in shanties and in rustic settings have greater exposure to the dangerous reptiles. Hence, educating them is the best way to ensure their safety.

The main aim of the initiative is to allow students who do not have access to conventional means of information like television and books to learn about nature and conservation.

Till now more than 1500 students from AMC and panchayat-run schools have benefited from this programme, said officials.

S. Shivakumar, parks manager of Sundarvan, said: "Sundarvan is functional since 1978. Many private schools bring their students here for nature awareness programme. But the students from poor background, who have maximum risk from snakes and other venomous insects, didn't have any knowledge of how to safeguard

□ The main aim of the initiative is to allow students who do not have access to means of information like TV and books to learn about nature conservation

themselves. These students do not have access to television channels like Discovery and NatGeo. So, we decided to step in."

The programme is being funded by UK's Rufford Foundation. The initiative will reach out to 7,000 students of 80 AMC and panchayat-run schools. "We will also give training to 60 teachers so that they can educate students," Shivakumar said.

The initiative was not easy to implement. According to Shivakumar, they have had to convince the schools who have been reluctant to let them bring samples to educate the kids.

He said, "We take samples like skin shed by the snake, charts of snakes and birds. The administration gets worried about exposing the kids to dangerous reptiles. But once we take a class or two, the response is generally positive."

Pictures



Top to bottom: Jignasa Patel, Education Officer, Sundarvan, interacting with students in a school; Pavan Patel, Volunteer, Sundarvan, interaction on snakes with students during one of the programme under RSG; Students handle slough (moult skin of a snake) during their visit to Sundarvan through RSG programme; Students showing the posters snakes distributed during this programme & Students showing the resource material on snake distributed to them during the snake awareness programme.