

Project Update: September 2007

Under the conservation education and awareness project in Spiti Valley, I visited over 20 schools in Spiti Valley during May - June, 2007 with the intention of forming Himalayan Nature Clubs (HNC) in these schools. Principals/teachers showed a keen interest in conducting various education and awareness activities. Meetings were also held with rural youth to form Youth Awareness Clubs (YAC) in 10 villages of the region. The initial response is very encouraging and we hope to establish 10 YACs and 20 HNCs by October 2007. During 1st to 9th August, three Nature Education Camps were organized at a high altitude pasture (altitude 4,500 m) near Kibber village. About 100 children (age: 10 to 13 years) and six teachers participated in these.

The aim was to help foster positive values, emotions and understanding about natural environment and local wildlife through hands-on learning. They enjoyed and learnt a lot as seen from their feedback. We intend to conduct three more Nature Education Camps for school children, one training workshop each for youth and teachers and develop the proposed educational resource material'.



Left: Children displaying a clue during nature camp at Spiti. Right: Children with their paintings made during the camp at Spiti.



Left: Immersed in the world of nature...nature education camp participant at Spiti. Right: On a nature trail...