

National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi

Workshop on “Evaluation of Museum Visitors and Exhibitions” (30 – 31 July, 2012)

A two day workshop was conducted on the theme - “Evaluation of Museum Visitors and Exhibitions” at NMNH, New Delhi during 30-31 July 2012. The Objective of the workshop was capacity building training programme for the staff of NMNH and its regional centres. About 25 participants including Officers from museums under NMNH, and other museums and Students from Delhi Institute of Heritage Research and Management participated in the programme.

The workshop started with a Welcome note given by Dr. Reena Dey, Scientist-C to introduce the participants with the broad objectives of the programme. Later, Dr. B. Venugopal, Director, NMNH gave the Keynote speech on Museum Evaluation and Exhibit Evaluation through different methodology, followed by a presentation by Dr. Siva Prasad Parida, Resource person from RMNH Bhubaneswar, on Interaction with visitors in the museums and why visitors really visit the Museums.

The officers from other museums shared their experiences regarding visitors' behaviour in their respective museums.

During Session 1 on Exhibit Evaluation, all participants visited the museum galleries in three groups to evaluate specific exhibits in the museum. These groups drafted and presented the Exhibit Evaluation Sheets based on their exhibit evaluation.

On Day 2, the workshop continued with discussions on developing Evaluation sheets for the visitors. Later, Sh. B. B. Shrivastava, Education Officer 'C', National Science Centre gave a Power Point presentation on the “Case study of school students visiting science museum”. Tips for visitor evaluation in the museum were provided to all the participants. A common visitor evaluation form was developed by taking the key points deliberated upon during the workshop.

The important feedback came from participants with special needs, who stressed that museums should consider the special needs of the persons with disabilities while evaluating the exhibits. A final draft of visitor evaluation sheet and exhibit evaluation sheet were prepared at the end of the workshop.

Workshop on “Development and Evaluation of Learning Kits” for primary level based on NCERT Curriculum : (22 – 23 August, 2012)

A two-day workshop on “Development and Evaluation of Learning Kits” was conducted by the Museum on 22 and 23 August, 2012. The workshop was focused on developing classroom resources on Environmental Studies for teaching the students of primary level based on the NCERT curriculum. The participants in the workshop included expert officials from NCERT and DIET, in addition to the in-service teachers from Navyug Schools and resource persons from the Education and Technical divisions in NMNH. The trainee-teachers from DIET (Daryaganj and R. K. Puram) also participated in this workshop.



A session of the Workshop on Evaluation of Museum Visitors and Exhibitions



Participants during a workshop on Development and Evaluation of Learning Kits

The faculties from NCERT gave important suggestions and guided the participants on how and why to develop teaching resources. Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Principal, DIET, Daryaganj & Dr. G. K. Vadera, Lecturer, DIET, R. K. Puram also gave valuable suggestions based on their experience with trainee teachers.

Dr. Jaya Prasoon, SEA, NMNH introduced the participants with the Learning kits prepared by NMNH as follow-up of workshop done with trainee teachers from DIET in October 2011. Suggestions were invited from the participants on the activities and write ups to be incorporated in the learning kits. Later, the contents on the information sheets were modified by including important point raised during the

discussion and write ups were shaped in the form of user's

friendly guide to be provided with the kits. Final formats of user's guide for the five learning kits were presented by the participants. The activity based contents of the kits were upgraded on common themes which could be used by different classes at primary level. Feedback and suggestions regarding evaluation of the kits by the experts and participants were received at the end of the

Regional Museum of Natural History, Mysore

Gallery Development

The work for the renovation of public toilet is continued by the CCU.

Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal

Rakshabandhan Programme

RMNH, Bhopal organized Rakshabandhan Programme for trees on the concept "Plants and animals have got every right to live and feel protected" on August 4, 2012. More than 200 children from Parvarish – Museum School participated in this programme. The trees namely 'Copper Pod – *Peltaphorum plerocarpum*' 'Monkey Bread – *Holoptedia integrifolia*' 'Sissoo – *Dalbergia sissoo*' 'Indian goose berry – *Emblica officinalis*' were selected symbolically for this programme. Children and general public tied the rakshasutra on the selected trees.

Collaborative Programme

CRIL-NLIU and PRAYTNA, Bhopal based NGO arranged a debate competition on "Save Tiger" for law students on August 12, 2012. Shri Manoj Shrivastava, Principal Secretary of Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh, Dr. S. Sethuramalingam, Scientist-E, Dr. Raka Arya, NLIU, Shri Ajay Dubey, Secretary, Praytna and Shri Siddharth Gupta, Advocate of Madhya Pradesh High Court were present in the programme.

Participation of Scientist E

The Scientist E participated as a Judge at the competition on-the-spot speech competition based on Biodiversity which was organized by EPCO, Bhopal in preparation for CoP11.

Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhubaneswar

Competitions

A painting competition was organized by the Museum to commemorate the 8th Anniversary of the RMNH, Bhubaneswar for the students of class I to IV & V to VII and a written quiz competition for VIII to X & +2 students. In response to the publicity through letters, posters and banners, a total of 1,531 and 555 students registered for the painting and written quiz competitions respectively. Out of the registered participants 1,118 and 346 participated in the painting and quiz competitions respectively.



Children participating in a painting competition



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha with other delegates during the Anniversary programme

Exhibition

During the 8th Anniversary of the Museum on 10th August, 2012 an Exhibition on "Baleen Whale skeleton and some Interesting Marine Creatures" was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha Sh. Naveen Patnaik. The skeleton is believed to be the largest (47.3 ft.) collection of the marine mammal in post-independent India.

Publications

During the Anniversary function of the Museum, the annual Newsletter the RMNH, Bhubaneswar and a brochure on whales in English and Oriya, was released by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha.

Anniversary

The 8th anniversary of the Museum was arranged on 10th August 2012 in which the following participated. Shri Naveen Patnaik, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Bijayashree Routray, Hon'ble Minister, Forest & Environment, Labour & Employees State insurance, Govt. of Odisha, Shri Debi Prasad Mishra, Hon'ble Minister, Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Resources Development, Govt. of Odisha, Dr. (Mrs.) P. Mohanty-Hejmadi, Former Vice Chancellor, Sambalpur University, Dr. G. V. Subrahmanyam, Advisor, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India and Dr. B. Venugopal, Director, NMNH, New Delhi.



Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha Govt. releasing the Annual Newsletter

Extension/ Out-reach programme

Environmental Awareness Programme-2012 for JNVs of Odisha was held at JNV Konark, Puri District on 18th August 2012 and at JNV, Salbani, Mayurbhanj District on 19th August 2012. A total of 234 students participated in the quiz competition out of about 755 students who had participated in the programme. The winners were awarded with a cash prize of Rs. 1,000/-, Rs. 750/-, 500/- as 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize respectively, along with 05 consolation prizes of Rs. 200/- each and certificates in the presence of the Principal and staff of the school.



A resource person addressing children during an awareness programme

Regional Museum of Natural History, Sawai Madhopur

Temporary Exhibition

The work on Exhibition development is progressing. Infrastructure fabrication work is nearing completion, modelling and development of background paintings of diorama is also progressing steadily under the supervision of the team from NMNH.

The preliminary work of theme execution has also been undertaken separately at NMNH for development of the digital panels for the remaining showcases

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