

**KRUGER FOUNDATION FOR CHILD AID,
KARWAR
AND
KANARA WELFARE TRUST, ANKOLA**

**PROJECT CHANGE MAKERS
FOR A BETTER TOMORROW - II**

SIXTH ORIENTATION RETREAT

2nd to 4th of MAY 2012

Subject of the Retreat:
ART OF LIVING

Place:
Anshi National Park, Anshi

A BRIEF REPORT

6th Orientation Retreat**Camp held on 2nd, 3rd, and 4th May 2012****Venue: Anshi National Park**

The sixth Orientation Course for the second batch of students of Change Makers Group was organized at Anshi National Park, from 2nd to 4th May 2012.

Day One – 2nd May 2012, Wednesday

Participants started arriving at Hindu High School, Karwar, from 10.00 a.m. Registration was completed by 11.00 a.m. Journey tickets were collected and signatures obtained on the attendance register. A copy of the Camp Schedule was issued to the participants. 46 CMG students along with 7 Gokul girls were present. Lunch was provided to all the members at Hotel Shri Krishna Vilas by 12.30 p.m. After lunch, they were taken in a special bus to Anshi where the camp was organized.



After the arrival at Anshi National Park, separate accommodation arrangements for boys and girls were made. Boys were housed in a huge dormitory and the girls were housed in 5 separate tents.



A small trek of 5 kms. was organized at 4.00 p.m. All the boys and girls along with the staff and a forest guide started their trek from the base camp on the Maingini Trail. Along the way the flora and fauna of the area was observed by the trekkers. After a brief rest at one or two places the team returned to the base camp at 6.30 p.m. for light

refreshment.

Interaction of the CMG members with Shri S.P.Kamat and Smt. Sreelata Kamat took place at around 7.00 p.m. After the recitation of 'Sankalpa' led by Prof. M.S.Habbu, prayers were recited in chorus. Various topics came up for discussion during this 2 hour session.



A short documentary film on wildlife was also shown to the campers. Dinner was served at 9.00 p.m. and the members retired to their respective tents for the night.

Day Two – 3rd May 2012, Thursday



Early morning, at around 6.30 a.m., a safari expedition was undertaken. The students and organizers were taken in 5 vehicles inside the Anshi forest area.

After a short jaunt by vehicle, the students embarked on a walkathon led by Shri S.P.Kamat till the end of the trail.

During the course of the trek, Shri S.P.Kamat stopped at various places and explained the significance of the flora & fauna existing in the Western Ghats forests. At the end of the trail, a panoramic view of the Kadra Dam reservoir could be seen. After a few moments of rest, the return trek to the base camp was undertaken.



Breakfast was provided at 9.30 a.m. on the return to the base camp.



After the recitation of prayers, the first session of the day commenced at 11.00 a.m. in the open area of the National Park campus.

Resource person, Dr. R.G.Hegde, Advisor, Dandeli Education Society, talked on the topic of “Building a Positive Attitude”. With his baritone voice, he enthralled the students with his subject. He interacted with all the students and gave them necessary tips to enable them to adopt a strong positive attitude which would help in their role as change makers of the world. Shri S.P.Kamat also ably supported the discussion by giving out his views to the CMG members on building first impressions in this competitive era.

Lunch was provided at 1.00 p.m.

The second session started at 2.30p.m.



Office bearers from the Nuclear Power Corporation of India, Kaiga Station, addressed the students on the topic of “Nuclear Energy”. During the course of the session, a short film along with a brief presentation on Nuclear Energy and allied topics were shown. Resource persons from NPCIL, Shri U P Subrahmanya Kumar and Shri Vishnu Madiwal, described the process of energy generation and waste

disposal inside the nuclear plant. They also explained the differences between various types of energy. Trivia information, like the amount of radiation emitted by materials we use in our day-to-day activities was also shared. An impromptu quiz competition on the topics discussed earlier was conducted. Cash prizes were awarded to the first three top scorers and 20 consolation prizes were also given. The resource persons invited the entire CMG batch to visit the nuclear power plant at Kaiga.

There was a short break for refreshments at 4.30 p.m.

Ms. Vasanthi Hariprakash, BBC News Feature Contributor and Media Trainer from Bangalore, had been invited to film a private documentary on Kruger Foundation, Gokul and Project Change Makers. She also assented to talk to the change makers group as a resource person.



Mr. Rakesh B., Cameraman from Bangalore also participated in the session. After a brief introduction, a small clip of a video shot by



Mr. Rakesh for an advertisement was shown to the group. A small news-clip from NDTV 24x7, wherein Ms. Vasanthi had documented a news story was also exhibited. This was the first exposure of the change makers group to a hitherto different avenue, viz. the media.

Ms. Vasanthi, who has worked in all the three Medias, i.e. print, radio and television, talked to the group on the topic of public speaking.



She stressed on the three aspects which have to be kept in mind while speaking in public – 1) Body Language, 2) Pitch & Intonation, and 3) Eye contact.

After giving suitable examples, she invited the students to come up and speak to the group. By this time most of the students had lost their inhibitions and could speak to the crowd confidently. After a brief interaction with Ms. Vasanthi and Mr. Rakesh on pursuing a career path in media, the students engaged themselves in providing light entertainment.

The students exhibited their talent in various areas like classical music, classical dance, contemporary song & dance, singing of bhava-geete, bhajans, etc. The resource persons and organizers also joined in the entertainment program.



Dinner was served at 9.30 p.m. and the members retired to their respective tents for the night.

Day Three – 4th May 2012, Friday

At 6.30 a.m. in the morning the boys and girls started out for a 5 kms. trek along the Evergreen Trail. The troupe was led by Shri S.P.Kamat. The view from the top of the hilly terrain was breathtaking. A green tree snake was also sighted along the way.

A sumptuous breakfast awaited the trekkers on their return to the base camp. After a round of prayers, the session for the day started at 10.30 a.m. with a talk on 'Nature and Wildlife' by Shri Y.N.Manavalli, Range Forest Officer, Anshi. He explained to the group the nature of the Anshi forest and the flora and fauna found in it. He emphasized upon the students the need to conserve the forests and its resources. At the end of the session, some of the change maker students expressed their vote of thanks to the Forest Department officials and the National Park staff for helping the organizers to hold this camp at Anshi.



Later, a feedback session was held in the presence of Smt. Sreelata Kamata and the organizers. Prof. M.S.Habhu and Shri K.V.Shetti asked the students to narrate the experiences they had in this orientation retreat and called for suggestions in enhancing the quality of the future camps. Many CMG students came forward and expressed their views and opinions with regard to the present camp.



Everyone opined that this camp at Anshi was one of the best camps they had attended so far. All the students got to exhibit their talents in the entertainment program. They could also play many games in the Park's playground. Moreover, the treks they took

into the forests helped them realize the tranquility that nature had in its store. They vowed to safeguard the forest resources and respect all birds and animals. They thanked all the resource persons, the organizers and Shri S.P.Kamat for organizing this camp at Anshi National Park.

Lunch was served at 12.30 p.m.

The participants started their return journey at 1.00 p.m. from Anshi to Karwar and then to their respective homes.

The total expenditure of the three day camp including accommodation, transportation, food, equipment and other expenses amounted to Rs.75,008/- (Rupees Seventy five thousand and eight only).

Special thanks are due to the following persons who helped us to conduct this camp successfully.

- **Shri B.G.Nayak**, AFO, Dandeli and **Staff** – for helping us in organizing accommodation, food and transport facilities at Anshi.
- **Shri Banavalikar**, Depot Manager, KSRTC, Karwar – for honouring our request to provide direct bus service from Karwar to Anshi at the standard fare.
- **Shri S.P.Kamat**, Karwar – for his key suggestion to hold this camp at Anshi and overall guidance.