



SATPUDA FOUNDATION
Monthly Report –February 2020
Priyadarshini Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

Team:

Mandar Pingle – Conservation Officer

Niranjan Hinge – Field assistant

Highlights

- *98 patients treated free of cost during 6 health camps, process to apply for compensation for crop depredation and cattle kill due to wildlife explained to villagers during camps*
- *Organised one shramdhaan to clean a soak pit near hand pump in Satosha, 16 villagers participated*
- *Assisted one villager to repair defective biogas unit*
- *Organised 5 classroom programmes on harms of forest fires, 108 students attended*
- *Organised 2 nature trails, 21 students participated in the trails*
- *Organised one nature game to explain importance of birds, 13 students attended*

Mobile Health Service (MHS)

We organised 6 free health camps in February in 6 villages of Priyadarshini Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh. During the camps, a total of 98 patients were treated for various ailments and medicines were distributed free of cost. Forest Department staff also got treatment during these camps. During the camps, our staff distributed copies of Government Resolution explaining compensation package for crop depredation and cattle killed by wild animals. (Village-wise details of patients treated are given in table below)

<i>Sr. No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Village</i>	<i>No. of Patients</i>
1.	17/02/2020	Jamuntola	13
2.	17/02/2020	Telia	17
3.	18/02/2020	Kohoka	07
4.	18/02/2020	Khamba	19
5.	19/02/2020	Durgapur	19

6.	19/02/2020	Potiya	23
		Total	98



Dr Khode checks a patient (left) and Mandar distributes pamphlets explaining compensation schemes for crop damage and cattle kills (right) during MHS camp in Jamuntola

Sr. no.	Date	Activity	Place	Participants
1.	01 Feb	Soak pit cleaning	Telia	16
2.	21 Feb	Village meet regarding prevention and control of forest fires	Satosha	14
3.	13 Feb	Biogas unit repair	Turiya	01

Activity

On 1 February, our team organised a shramdhaan program to clean a soak pit near a hand pump in Telia village. Niranjana, along with 12 students and 4 women from the village, participated in the program. The team removed weeds surrounding the hand pump. They also collected plastic trash and disposed of it in trash bins. The soak pit had become clogged with trash and silt which was removed. The hand pump is regularly used by villagers and cleaning was necessary in order to prevent spread of diseases. The spill over water from the hand pump now flows in to the soak pit and helps recharge the groundwater level. The villagers who volunteered for the program are regular beneficiaries of our free health camps.



Students and women assist Niranjana in cleaning soak pit near a hand pump in Telia

On 21 February, Satpuda Foundation organised a meeting with villagers of Satosha village to sensitise them about forest fires. Niranjana explained to the villagers that majority of fires are observed during the minor forest produce (MFP) collection season. He explained that setting fire to foliage for mahua flower collection, setting fire to tendu trees for tendu leaves collection etc are a major cause of forest fires and that the villagers must ensure that such faulty practices of MFP collection is stopped. Niranjana also urged villagers to inform and assist Forest Department staff in prevention and control of forest fires during the summer season.



Niranjana sensitises villagers about harms of forest fires

During the month, Niranjana helped one villager from Turiya to repair his defective biogas unit. By assisting villagers to repair their defective biogas units, we are providing them an alternative source for cooking and thus their dependence on forests for fuel wood will be reduced. The health of the family members will also improve as biogas is a cleaner energy source as compared to fuel wood.

One nature trail was organised on 1 February in Government Upper Primary school of Telia village. 15 students were engaged during the session. Niranjana taught the students about the importance of various biotic elements in the ecosystem through an interactive game 'Web of Life'. He explained to them how the extinction of a species destroys the fragile food web, ultimately threatening the very existence of human life.

A similar nature trail was organised on 25 February for 6 children from Khamba village.



Niranjan teaching students during a nature trail

Education and Awareness Programs

Classroom Education

<i>Sr. No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Participants</i>
1.	22/02/2020	Govt Middle School, Telia	11
2.	22/02/2020	Govt Middle School, Kohoka	29
3.	24/02/2020	Govt Primary School, Satosha	26
4.	24/02/2020	Govt Primary School, Khamba	14
5.	25/02/2020	Govt Middle School, Turiya	28
		<i>Total</i>	<i>108</i>



Niranjan conducts classroom nature education program in Satosha

Nature Games

One nature game was organised on 20 February in Khamba village. 13 students were engaged during the session. Niranjan taught the students about importance of various biotic elements in the ecosystem through an interactive game 'Web of Life'. He explained to them how the extinction of a species destroys the fragile food web ultimately threatening the very existence of human life



Niranjan teaches about 'web of life' through nature game

Alternate Livelihood and Employment

In February, we collected and updated information regarding the current status of self help groups (SHGs) in villages in our area of operations. We are collecting information regarding the number of members in SHGs, whether the groups are engaged in some micro-enterprise or are willing to start micro-enterprise business etc.



Niranjan interacting with members of Srushti self help group in Turiya