

Vidyodaya School.

Place: Thepakadu and Game Hut. Mudumalai Range, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve. March 16, 2009. Vidyodaya School

The trip has been well documented by one of the students – MK Badichi, and her write up is being used as a report. She is 12 years old, studying in the 7th standard and lives in Thepakadu and is from the Bettakurumba Tribe.



About Theppakadu Trip

We went with Tarsh anna. We were three groups they were learning Centre I, Learning Centre II and group I. We went by Van and Jeep to Theppakadu. First we went to see the dead elephant which is named as Subramani. It was 54 years old and died of kidney failure. We went inside the forest by a Mazda, which was driven by Jayaram anna. We first saw a deer and melhi took photo of that deer. We saw monitor lizard, deer, monkey, Peacock, Crow, elephants. Then we went to Game Hut. But did not get photos of all these.



About Game Hut

Game means hunt. It means Hunting hut. There are animals like deer, elephant, Sambar deer, spotted deer, mouse deer, peacock, monkey, langur, lizards, Gaur, Snake, Tiger, Leopard etc. We went with Wilson Anna, who is doing work in researching about elephants. He introduced himself and told us what he was doing. We asked why forest men were cutting the plants. Its name is Lantana. The Lantana plants are more in Game Hut area. They cut the Lantana because there is not enough food for elephant, deer etc. There are difference types of grass. Lantana is come from another place and animals cannot eat of. It grows very fast and does



not allow other plants to grow. It also burns like anything. It is very bad for forest, because animals do not have food to eat. There are different types of grass. Gaur eats different kinds of grass and deer eat ~~are~~ different types of grass. Only if hantana is removed, grasses can grow.

We asked why they burn some grass near the road. He said that is done so that forest fire does not easily catch and spread to other parts of the forest. We went and saw the Game Hut and climbed up to the tower. They have made a trench around the tower so that the elephants do not get into the tower. Some elephants still manage to cross the trench. They will sit down at the side of the trench and push the mud in, and then climb out again. There was a lake near the tower where animals drink water. We then went back to Theppakadu. While we were coming back we saw a peacock dancing, gaur, four elephants, and a small pond made by animals to drink water. We stopped in Theppakadu. And once more we went to see the dead elephant Subramuni. Then we went to the river called mayar in Theppakadu and teachers gave us lunch to eat. We sat



On the bank of the river and ate
the lunch. My house is in Theppakadu,
so I went home, and my friends
went back to Gudalur.

