

EARTHWATCH: THE WORKSHOP REPORT

On the hot, humid morning of April 22, 2017, we (Madhubani ma'am, Reem, Smriti didi and I) went for a workshop at Sanskriti Kendra. It was going to start at approximately 8:30 AM (so thankfully we were on time). When the workshop started, it covered all the usual aspects: what was EarthWatch? What was its objective? How could schools be affiliated to it? Etc. Meanwhile many other school students joined us.



But the ice-breaking activity caught me off-guard. We had to say our names, our class and a memory of our hometown/city. I mean I never really expected an ice-breaking activity in an environment workshop.

So with this activity, we concluded that most of the green spaces (which were left only in our memories) had either been destroyed or encroached upon or had been shrunk.

What really hit me was the water footprint activity. We had just guessed that we used forty or fifty liters of water. But the statistics and data gave us a big jolt: apparently, one person consumed about 2865 liters of water every day when there was just 0.075% of water left for human consumption.

Related to this was the upcoming activity where we had to outline the processes which consumed water during the manufacturing of a given product. My group was given 'chips' which consumed thirty-six liters of water. So after we were done with this activity, we were left totally shocked that our old childhood friend, the chips, used up this much water and also made us feel guilty that we were adding more to our water footprint.

Other food items had the same case: black coffee, a piece of toasted bread with butter, pasta etc. the things which we ate for breakfast had consumed so much water from the earth.



After the presentation we were taken for some outdoor activities. The aim for the activities was to make us all citizen scientists and to help us know some methods to collect data. For this we were divided into two groups.

The first activity was to calculate the carbon stock in trees. This session was handled by Pradeep sir. In this activity we used a stick of breast size i.e. 1.37 m long. We have to put the stick at the base perpendicularly. Then we measured the girth of the bark. The girth gave the circumference of the tree and by applying the formula for cone we can easily find the volume of the tree. By applying another formula we can find the carbon stock present in the tree.



The next activity was to measure if the water that we drink is stable. This session was handled by Surbhi ma'am. So for this activity, we used the oxygen deduction meter. Through this we found that the water which is drinkable lies between the range 120-140 and the water which ranges higher than this is not safe for drinking.



After the field activity we came back to the auditorium where Dr. Pradhan was heading the session about the Indian Meteorological Department's works. First of all, we all had a rough, basic idea about IMD's works. But Dr. Pradhan gave us in-depth knowledge about the IMD and how they operated to help the citizens in many areas like disaster management, travel and tourism, industrial works etc. this part of the workshop was really fun and he even narrated some funny incidents which had happened with him and his colleagues during work.

Lastly, we took the pledge to protect our planet from further harm and we also filled up EarthWatch's feedback forms and their learning diaries.

There's only one thing I can say: this workshop made me more aware as a student on what I can do to do my part to save our Earth. It was simple yet amazing.

Devanshi Sharma, class XI