

Excursion report

**Report of field trip to North Bengal** (29.11.2023 to 4.12.23)

**Semester:** V

**Paper :** DSE 1: Animal behaviour and Chronobiology

**Title:** Study of the behavioural activity of Himalayan Griffon Vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*) in captivity

**Introduction:**

The department of Zoology , Sree Chaitanya College, Habra conducted a field trip to Bengal Safari Park, Siliguri and Jaldapara National Park as a part of the practical syllabus of DSE 1 (Animal behaviour and Chronobiology). The team comprised of 24 students, 2 Assistant Professors and 1 Non teaching staff. The excursion was supervised by the two Assistant Professors (Dr. Sobhana Palit and Dr. Priyanka Sanphui)

**Objective:**

The main objective of the excursion was to study the behaviour of Himalayan Griffon Vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*) in captivity. Specifically

1. To collect Ad Libitum data
2. To construct an ethogram of the vultures
3. To calculate the time budget of the observed activities.

**Activities conducted:**

Collection of Ad Libitum data:

The vultures were observed and ad libitum data was recorded for 5 hours by the students and the different activities were also photographed.

Construction of Ethogram:

The data collected was analysed and the Ethogram of the vulture was constructed based on the collected data.

Time budget analysis:

For time budget analysis the students recorded the time spent by the bird for each behavioural activity. Data was recorded for 5 hours, analysed and represented in form of a bar diagram.

Observation and recording other animals present in the Zoo:

Other animals were observed and their conservational staus was documented

Interaction with the locals regarding human elephant conflict:

The nearby villages were visited and the students interacted with locals regarding the human elephant conflicts which is a very common event in this area.

**Outcome:**

The excursion provided the students an opportunity to use the theoretical knowledge in field. They learnt how to collect ethological data and construct an ethogram. They also learn how to analyze a data for calculating the time budget of an animal. The understanding of the wild animal behaviour in in captivity is of utmost importance from the conservational point of view. The interaction with the zookeepers gave the students an idea of feeding habi and behaviour of the vultures. The students also got insights into the captive breeding concept and practices with connection to fishing cat. The interaction with the locals regarding the human elephant conflict gave the students a practical experience of how scientific survey are done with respect to human wildlife interaction.

**Conclusion:**

The ethology excursion is a learning experience that allows students to observe and study the behaviour of wild animals in controlled setting. They also get a preliminary exposure of actual scientific research.

The department of Zoology is thankful to the college authority for the permission and support in organizing the event .

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