

Knowing the Unknown!

One Day Orientation Program for the students of Abheek Academy Trust, Bangalore



Organized by

**The University of TransDisciplinary Health Sciences and Technology
(TDU)**

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Introduction

Abheek Academy Trust intends to provide an experiential learning space, with a holistic approach to harness every child's potential in an atmosphere of freedom and responsibility. It is an invitation to create harmony between parents, children and educators. As an extended home, here the child will enjoy the connection of educators passionate about bringing excellence in living and learning, and who themselves are inquiring into the essence of life education and its role in bringing about a healthy and a thinking society. It aims to create an unbiased platform so that educators are the torchbearers of change that they take children from darkness to light or from ignorance to knowledge thereby playing a major role in nation building. Every child is like soft clay that is ready to be molded. It's finally a teacher's imagination that reflects on a child's personality.

An orientation program was organized for Students of the 5 years to 13 years on 28th June 2018 at TDU. The objective of the orientation was to apprise them on the basics of biodiversity and conservation, manuscripts and visit to Ethnomedicinal garden. It provided students to take basic knowledge and understanding of the environment. This program encourages students to value the environment and consider it important in order to inspire participation in the process of improving and protecting the environment.

Introductory Session

Dr. M. Abdul Kareem, Associate Professor and course Coordinator gave an overview on the TDU and gave a brief introduction about the Program. Around 15 students participated in the program accompanied by four teachers



Session 1: Biodiversity Conservation

Ms. Anu.V, Senior Research Fellow, TDU took over the session by interacting with the students about nature and ways to conserve them. She explained about the living and non-living things with activity where the students had to collect living and non-living things and explain to the others. Then they were asked to pick up the chit and speak about the topic such as forest, rivers, plants, animals, birds, etc. and the ways they can protect or conserve them for future generation. In the next activity students were blind folded and asked them to explore the garden and touch the plant with the help of their partner. This activity was conducted to understand the nature with their senses like touch, smell, taste, odour etc.



Session 2: Play on Conservation

Mr. Nishanth. G, MSc student at TDU conducted a story telling session based on traditional folk stories. The kids learnt about local names of a few trees and their medicinal properties through the story. The story also involved songs and events that gave a message about biodiversity and its conservation.



Session 3: Manuscripts

Students was also exposed to the world of manuscripts by showing physical copy of manuscripts, where Mr. Anantha, M.A, Research Fellow explained about the different scripts of India and

different methods of writing manuscripts that was followed by ancients to document the information. They were educated about different types of scripts, languages of India. They came to know about different types of writing materials like palm-leaf, hand-made paper, birch-bark, metal-plates, inks used to write, iron-pen used to write / etch on palm-leaf



etc. Along with that they came to know that Center of Theoretical Foundation, TDU published manuscripts in the form of physical books and E-books. Bhojanakutuhalam has been shown to them and the aspects of food have been explained to them.

Session: 4: Visit to Ethnomedicinal garden

Students were taken to ethnomedicinal garden which comprises of over 450 species of medicinal plants, and the nursery has mist chambers for propagation and shade houses with misting facility for special indoor plants. Ms. Nandini Dholepat, Consultant, TDU explained about the different varieties plants such as Amla, Pomogranate, Lemon grass, Mango, Tulsi etc. They were taken to nursery garden where could see various medicinal plants along with their uses. And they also purchased few saplings that are available for sale in the ethno medicinal garden in TDU campus.



Learnings:

It was a general perception among students that only a few plants are medicinal. However, they found that most of the plants have medicinal value after undergoing this orientation program. They also learnt about importance of biodiversity conservation.

Feedback:

The students were very excited to be in campus and explore the varieties of plants around them.

List of Faculty:

1. Dr. M. Abdul Kareem, Associate Professor and Course co-ordinator, TDU
2. Ms. Nandini D., Consultant, TDU
3. Mr. Ananth M.A, Research Fellow, TDU
4. Ms. Anu V., Senior Research Fellow, TDU
5. Mr. Nishanth. G, MSc Student, TDU

List of Participants:

1 Tejas	Grade 1
2 Smriti	Grade 1
3 Dyuti	Grade 1
4 Aditi	Grade 2
5 Raaga	Grade 2
6 Shreyas Varma	Grade 2
7 Nidhi	Grade 3
8 Ibbani	Grade 3
9 Sriraam	Grade 5
10 Niharika	Grade 5
11 Yagnasree Kalidindi	Grade 6
12 Skanda	Grade 6
13 Srujana	Grade 8
14 Sneha	Grade 8
15 Jyotiraditya Rao	Grade 8

Course Coordinator

Dr. M. Abdul Kareem

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