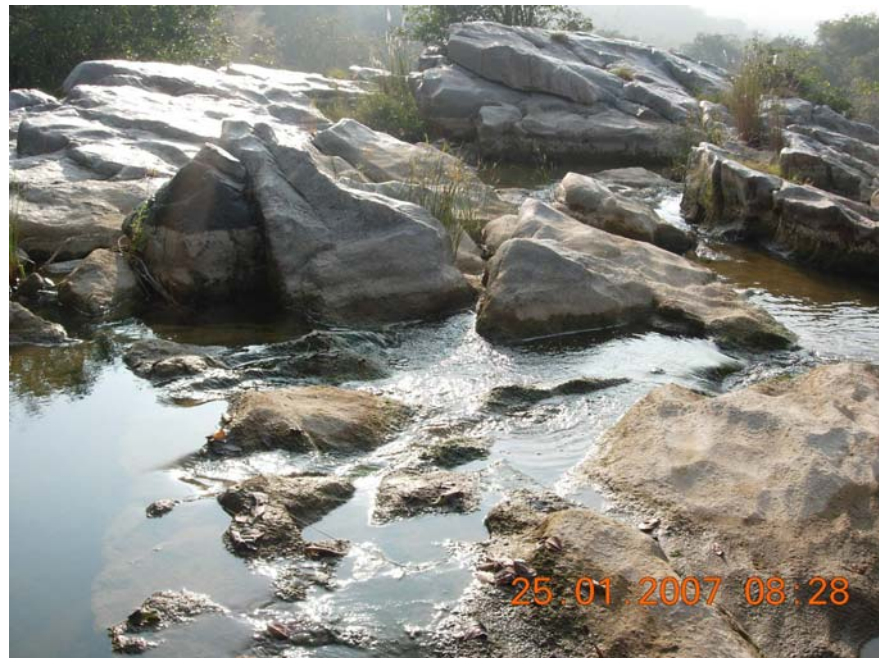


Kaigal Education and Environment Programme, Kaigal Centre, KFI



Highlights of Annual Activity Report April '06- March '07



Information Center: An information centre was started in September 2006 at the Kaigal Centre. This place has Krishnamurti books and audio tapes in Telugu and English for sale and for reading. It also provides information on the activities of all KFI centres.



Sanctuary Schools: There were four Sanctuary Schools this academic year and the number of children we reached out to last year was around 80. The four schools worked through the year with a week's vacation in October, a week's holiday in November and a month long vacation in May. A one room school building was constructed for one school – 'Chamanti' at Mugilupodarevu – with funding from friends.

Some of the interesting student/teacher projects, student/teacher workshops, teacher enrichment programmes and review meetings have been mentioned here.

1. School Activities:

i. Handicrafts: Some of the older children and all teachers were involved in producing hand-stitched and embroidered cloth bags, Macramé mats and hand woven baskets made from a local creeper. The quality of the children's work has shown a lot of improvement over the last year .





future use by the schools.

iii. Fresh Water Ecosystem – a hands-on project: The topic, ‘Fresh Water Ecosystem’ was covered through a hands-on project. The children were involved in creating a fresh water body – a lotus pond. Lotus grows naturally in these forests and is now locally becoming rare. This was a month long project where the older students from all the schools participated in small groups.



2. Workshops, Conference and Review meetings

Teachers attended the KFI Conference and the ‘Play for Peace’ workshop at The Valley School. Some workshops organized specifically for them include ‘Making mathematical models’ and ‘Pottery making - 3’. Monthly review meetings were held with teachers for specific guidance and help.



3. Continuing Education for teachers

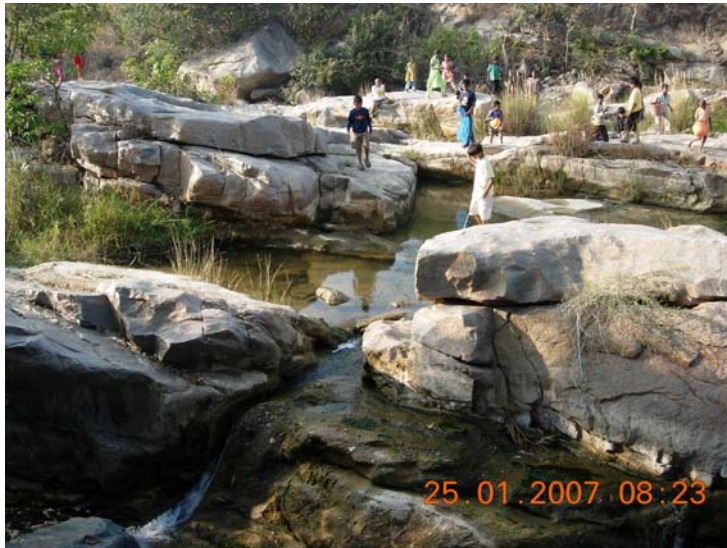
Two of our teachers completed their graduation this year. One of them is registering for his MA course in Economics. Two others have passed their II year BA exams.

Land care, Germ Plasm Bank , Forest Nursery and Livelihood Programmes:

1. Germ plasm bank has more seeds added to its already existing collection (~ 200 species).
2. Have successfully regenerated many new species of native, wild fruit yielding trees and shrubs that support many varieties of birds, insects and small mammals and also provide valuable nutrition for local communities, especially children.
3. Afforestation and protection of the KFI land.
4. New value additions to NTFPs were experimented with four varieties of wild fruits and marketed.
5. Honey purchase form tribal communities and sale continued.
6. Attempting to revive basket weaving by tribal women using a local creeper.



Student visits



- Many groups of students from the different schools (Puvidam, Bhavya, The School and The Valley School visited Kaigal).
- Activities varied from swimming in the pools and streams, tough treks, day long river walks, quiet forest walks, to field studies, interactions with communities, living with tribal communities, cooking and working on

the land. The programme was conceived to sensitise students to simple living, rural life, observations in nature and to experience the beauty and joy in living in wilderness.