

Eco Himal Nepal

School Children's Excursion to Dakshinkali Temple

Historicity of the Temple:

Dakshinkali Temple, located about 22 kilometers outside from Kathmandu is one of the main temples of Nepal, dedicated to the goddess *Kali* "The Black One" scowling and emaciated with protruding tongue and red eyes, decked with a necklace of skulls. *Kali* is just another form of great goddess *Durga* and there is a strong belief in the ability of goddess to make wishes of worshippers comes true. Beside the religious importance of the place, it is popular as the picnic spot and dating place for the lovers. The surrounding of the temple is decorated and utilized as the picnic spot and many people from all over the country visit there for both religious and aesthetic purpose.

Excursion Day:

The planning of excursing Dakshinkali was fixed on Friday, July 13, 2012 after the completion of first terminal examination. It was the occasion of the refreshment for the children. As planned and scheduled, EcoHimal representatives; Narayan Dhakal, Sangita Shakya and Keshab Raj Bhusal went Arunodaya Academy to pick up children. A minibuss was managed for the transportation up and down. From the side of Arunodaya Academy, hostel tutor, Mr. Bazra Ratna Bazracharya provided accompany in the trip. The students were happy and excited to visit new places from the beginning of the excursion. They were singing and laughing in the bus as they were heading towards the paradise. Dakshinkali arrival was quite exciting for them because they enjoyed the natural beauty and landscape scenario on the way to the temple. Just after the drop from the bus, Narayan Dhakal provided some disciplinary instructions for the visit and formed the groups of the children on the leadership of four elder students; Biplove Rajbhandari, Shanti Lama, Bhimsen Rawal and Pragati Budha because of the heavy crowded situation. The team leaders were facilitated by vice - leaders. Each group consists 7/8 children and the children visited the spots under the leadership of their elder brothers and sisters in the group

Sangita Shakya managed the *puja* materials for each group. The children followed the instructions and guides of the team leaders. The children worshiped the goddess and put the *Tika* on their forehead from the hands of *Pujari* (just like priest). The children took rest for few minutes and headed towards the picnic spot. When the worshipping task was finished, it was quite late for lunch. We looked for suitable and hygienic hotel but the hotels were not of enough capacity to provide services for all the children. So, Narayan Dhakal and Sangita Shakya took small aged children for the lunch and Keshab and Bazra gave accompany to other children in the game. Turn by turn, children had lunch and got together for entertaining and enjoying the different types of game.

The both physical and intellectual games were facilitated by the guardians under the formed groups. The children competed with each other representing their own group. *Tatto Allu* (Hot Potato) was first game among the children in which children were awarded if they knew the correct answers of the questions. Sangita and Keshab asked the questions, Bazra ringed the bell and Narayan awarded the children. The situation was celebrating and children enjoyed the game a lot. The second game Penalty Kicking was organized group wise and the representatives of groups tried their best for goals. Then third game *Ghaito Photae* (Breaking the mud pot with the stick in blinded condition) was also played group wise and children enjoyed it a lot. The children were asked to break 10 m far distanced mud pot with a stick by covering their eyes with handkerchief.

The children enjoyed the games a lot. There was provision of awards for the best groups and leaders on the basis of the management, guidance, control and performance of the groups and group leaders. The management of the excursion evaluated and monitored all the activities of the groups and controlling power of the group leaders. At last, before departing form Dakshinkali spot, Narayan Dhakal distributed the prizes to the best groups and leaders. Rajan Lama and his team became first on the basis of performance in the game and Pragati Buddha snatched the first position on the basis of group spirit and management. And rest groups also were awarded with prizes for their good attempts.

About 4:30 pm, we departed from Dakshinkali and had snacks at the hotel on the way to Kathmandu. On the way, the students enjoyed a lot with singing and joking. No one was in sad mood and everyone is celebrating the moment. After half an hour, the students reached at the school with EcoHimal representatives and their teacher.

Narayan, Sangita, Keshab and Bazra

Sunday, 4th Nov, 2012

Pictures of the excursion:



On the way to Dakshinkali Temple



Group photo at Dakshinkali



Lunchtime!



Playing games



Playing Games