



SAARC

Haveeru Coastal Awareness Festival For School Children 2012 Bangladesh



supported by SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre (SCZMC), Maldives



organized by
Livelihood Education And Development Services

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I hope this report will help us to communicate the message to other SAARC countries on how the programme has been organized and how the children and school of Bangladesh involved themselves spontaneously with this Coastal Awareness Programme.

Romina Dewan
Executive Director
LEADS

Executive Summary:

The coastal zone of Bangladesh is particularly vulnerable to climate change in its coastal zone, covering about 30 per cent of the country. The impact of coastal problems due to climate change is getting worse day by day due to behavioral patterns and human practices. As the people living in the city are not directly affected they do not feel that much about the problems. These are all man made and is done by the people living in non coastal area especially people living in the cities as they are totally unaware about what they are doing or they do not go to into deep as they do not stay in the coastal area. The main contributor to Climate Change is the use of fossil fuels (e.g. gas and coal) to generate electricity and power our machinery (e.g. cars, lights, air conditioners). When we burn fossil fuels we release carbon dioxide and other gases into the atmosphere, contributing to global warming. And the city dwellers consume and misuse more of these resources not that they do it willingly but mostly without knowing the impact of it. As studies have found that children are among the most vulnerable to climate change and are powerful agents of change providing children with empowering and relevant education on disasters and climate change in a child-friendly school environment can reduce their vulnerability to risk while contributing to sustainable development for their communities. Moreover, school students and teachers are one of the most critical segments to educate about their immediate environment and impart knowledge about the eco-systems, their interdependence and their need for survival. Targeting this group of children for the awareness programme has given opportunity to sustain the awareness programme among these city dwelling children and to reduce the environmental pollution. Moreover children can only make the adult aware about these issues once they fully understand their position and be the Change agent.

SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre (SCZMC) is a focal institution of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) which promotes regional cooperation in planning, management and sustainable development of the coastal zones, including research, training and promotion of awareness in the region. Out of eight SAARC countries five SAARC nations, India, Maldives, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka represent the coastal zone as an essential part of the life support system in the region and are very sensitive to adverse effects on the coastal environment. As part of awareness programme for the school children in Bangladesh about the coastal issues the SCZMC has requested LEADS to conduct the event in Bangladesh on behalf of the center. LEADS (Livelihood Education and Development Services), is an NGO and a social organization of TRK Consultancy Services providing quality and sustainable education and healthcare facilities through different awareness and education support programme, for the children especially underprivileged children enrolled in different government primary schools.

It was a three day event during **16th, 17th and 18th November** held in Public Library, Shahbagh Dhaka. The main focus of the programme was to involve the school children through encouraging them to participate in different activities on environmental issues.

Initially 28th and 29th September was selected thinking of the exam times and availability of the school children. Due to delayed approval the month was shifted to November as the venue was not available before that and there was also long school holidays for eid and puza in October. Even the month November was not very favourable due to the terminal exam of most of the schools so it became very uncertain to bring children during the event days. The two major public exams one for grade 5 (Primary School Certificate) and the other for grade 8 (Junior School Certificate) were scheduled in November. Therefore, LEADS has to communicate with many schools and take only those schools where the school authority agreed to cooperate and from where the guardian allowed their children to participate. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Shishu Academy, Dhaka, Department of Environment, Dhaka University extended their full support as and when necessary. Despite of all these challenges we got full support from the schools all throughout the programme. Not only during the event we got this support from

the beginning . All the schools , the volunteers , the children , guardians , different organizations participated fully to make the event a success.

The main objectives of the program were :

- to make the school children including the public aware about the reasons of environmental pollution and its impact on climate change and coastal area
- to aware the children and youth and establish a network with other civil society members to carry on the work and not make the programme an end in itself.

To involve the children with this awareness programme different competitions were arranged . The issues of the competitions were :

1. Art
2. Mobile phone photography
3. SMS slogan
4. Recycling products
5. Dress as you like
6. Poster Competition

Other than these competitions there were Rally , related games , prize giving ceremony , cultural function , screening movies on climate change , coastal and environmental problems in Bangladesh etc. The day one started with Rally and was inaugurated by Prof A.A.M.S Arefin Siddique , Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University and Director SCZMC, Maldives. The rally started from Shishu Academy . Almost 400 people and children participated in the rally holding placards and festoons to show their concern about the problems and issues of climate change and coastal area. The theme of the event was “ Save Coastal Area, Save Bangladesh , Save Yourself”. The theme itself made them realize the impact of climate change and the coastal problems on them to survive . As the school children made the placards and festoons themselves they got the opportunity to be aware about these issues while making them. Not only they involved themselves in placard making they also were aware by participating in different competitions as they had to know about that particular issues to do well and win. It was seen children browsing the internet to know about the climate change , problems of coastal area , its impact etc which was very encouraging as using their mobile and internet in a positive way may not for long but at least for the time being. As there were exams going on during the event day children participated in some event before the event day and judgment was given on the event day. Event like mobile phone photography, SMS Slogan , Recycle product were completed before the event date . The mobile phone photography competitions and SMS slogan gave the opportunity to use the mobile and modern technology in a positive way. The children became quite aware to take picture of the environment and other positive things rather than unnecessary picture from now on as one of the student who won a prize took a picture of Coxes Bazar sea beach when she visited that beach with her family before the advertisement for the competition. This encouraged some children quite effectively. We had 350 students in the rally and almost 300 students in different competitions . So it gave opportunity to almost 600 to 700 students to involve themselves directly with this awareness activity. Most of them came from schools with their school teachers, which helped us to have the children march the rally in a disciplined way. The children as well as the guardians , school representative were able to carry with them the message to save the environment for their own benefit after the event. The cultural programme gave the opportunity to the audience , the children and the guardians the message of environment pollution and its impact on coastal area and especially on them if they do not realize and think of their next generation.

This kind of knowledge enables children to learn how to be part of the climate change solution and teaches them that they can make a difference. The skills , knowledge and attitude they will gain from this awareness programme will be required to live in a sustainable world, now and in the future. And the learning about sustainability starts with everyday practices of limiting waste, and reducing energy and water use by collecting rainwater; turning off lights and power switches when not needed etc. All of these to sustain requires the continuation of the event and a follow up of the awareness programme in a structured way and in a formal environment. As the base of this has been created it needs to be strong to take things forward. Moreover , to have a standard approach of continuation of all the awareness programme of the SAARC coastal zone countries as well as non coastal zone countries can share with each other the outcome of the awareness programme and plan ahead.

SAARC Haveeru Coastal Awareness Festival for School Children – 2012 Bangladesh

1. Background:

Human induced changes in the global climate and associated sea level rise are widely accepted with policy makers and scientists. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded that “the balance of evidence suggests a discernible human influence on global climate”. The exact magnitude of the changes in the global climate is still uncertain and subject of worldwide scientific studies. It is broadly recognized that Bangladesh is very vulnerable to these changes. Indeed, it has internationally been argued that Bangladesh, as a country, may suffer the most severe impacts from climate change.

Bangladesh is highly vulnerable, because it is low-lying, located on the Bay of Bengal in the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna and densely populated. Its national economy strongly depends on agriculture and natural resources that are sensitive to climate change and sea level rise. It is particularly vulnerable to climate change in its coastal zone, covering about 30 per cent of the country. Climate change is not only an “environmental” concern but really a “development” concern for Bangladesh. This means that climate change as an issue must come out of the ghetto of “environmental problems” to take center stage as a major developmental problem to take center stage as a major developmental problem. More promising anticipatory adaptations are changes in behavioral patterns, human practices as the main contributor to Climate Change is the use of fossil fuels (e.g. gas and coal) to generate electricity and power our machinery (e.g. cars, lights, air conditioners). When we burn fossil fuels we release carbon dioxide and other gases into the atmosphere, contributing to global warming. This can cause sea level rise, increased frequency and intensity of hurricanes, changing weather patterns, coastal erosions and loss of freshwater resources. The coastal zone of Bangladesh forms the lowest landmass and is part of the delta of the extended Himalayan drainage ecosystem... The coastal zone of Bangladesh is prone to multiple threats such as cyclones, storm surges and floods, as well as earthquakes, tsunamis, and above all, climate change. Scarcity of drinking water, land erosion, the high groundwater arsenic content, water logging, water and soil salinity and various forms of pollution have also slowed down social and economic developments (Islam and Ahmad, 2004). During the last 250 years, six tsunamis, at most, have been reported to have affected the coast of Bangladesh (Choudhury, 2006). It is estimated that at least 4.8 million people are at high risk from tsunamis (Islam *et al.*, 2006).

These are all man made and is done by the people living in non coastal area especially people living in the cities as they are totally unaware about what they are doing or they do not go to into deep as they do not stay in the coastal area. The coastal awareness programme should target these groups of children . Moreover , school students and teachers are one of the most critical segments to educate about their immediate environment and impart knowledge about the eco-systems, their inter-dependence and their need for survival.

Therefore, coastal awareness festival will give opportunity to raise awareness among these city dwelling children to reduce the environmental pollution so that the coastal area and the marine eco system can be saved .

The coastal zone of Bangladesh;

The coastal area of Bangladesh is an active delta, rich in water and land resources. The area is also one of high risks to natural and man-made calamities. The area is characterized by a constantly changing geographic and geomorphologic situation. The coastal zone covers 19 out of 64 districts facing, or in proximity to, the Bay of Bengal, encompassing 153 *thanas* (sub districts, formerly called *upazilas*) and the EEZ (MoWR 2005). The zone constitutes 32 percent of the area and 28 percent of the population of Bangladesh (Islam, 2004). In 12 of these districts, 51 *thanas* face a combination of cyclone risk, salinity and tidal water movement above critical levels and are designated as “exposed coast” (Figure 1, green areas). The coastal zone covers an area from the shore of 37 to 195 kilometers, whereas the exposed coast is limited to a distance of 37 to 57 kilometers (Islam *et al.*, 2006).

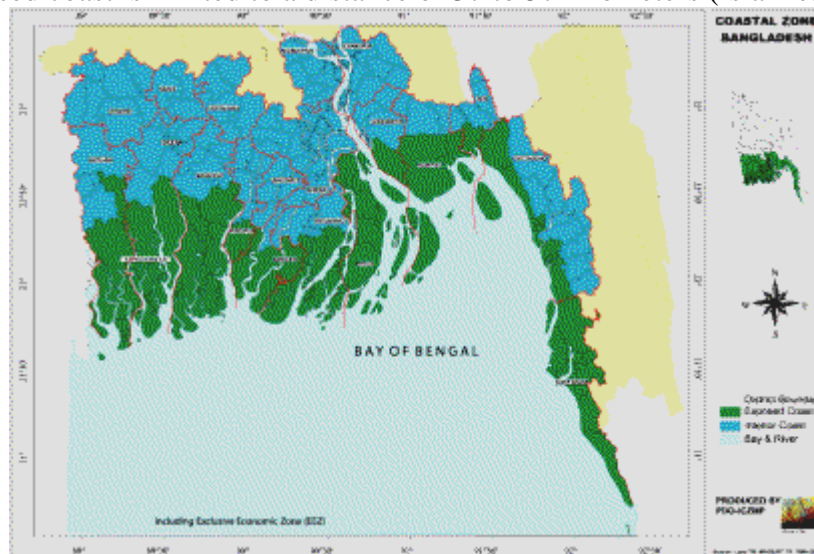


Figure 1. The coastal zone of Bangladesh

The coastal zone of Bangladesh forms the lowest landmass and is part of the delta of the extended Himalayan drainage ecosystem. The Ganges–Brahmaputra–Meghna Delta, covering most of Bangladesh, is also one of the largest and youngest deltas in the world, and is still very active. Sixty-two percent of the land of the coastal zone has an elevation of up to three metres and 86 percent up to five meters (Islam *et al.*, 2006). The coastal zone of Bangladesh is prone to multiple threats such as cyclones, storm surges and floods, as well as earthquakes, tsunamis, and above all, climate change. Scarcity of drinking water, land erosion, the high groundwater arsenic content, water logging, water and soil salinity and various forms of pollution have also slowed down social and economic developments (Islam and Ahmad, 2004). During the last 250 years, six tsunamis, at most, have been reported to have affected the coast of Bangladesh (Choudhury, 2006). Because of Bangladesh’s low elevation, Sadhuram (2005) predicted that a tsunami of one meter could severely damage coastal Bangladesh. It is estimated that at least 4.8 million people are at high risk from tsunamis (Islam *et al.*, 2006).

Twelve major issues/problems have been identified as the main sources of coastal and marine pollution in the National Plan of Action of Bangladesh . The issues are as follows:

- Industrial waste (including ship Break yards)
- Sewage disposal

- Solid waste management
- Agrochemicals and PoPs
- Deforestation
- Salinity intrusion
- Rapid urbanization
- Erosion in the coastal zone
- Extraction of coastal resources
- Coastal tourism
- Land use change
- Climate change

2. Introduction:

The SAARC Haveeru Coastal awareness Programme for School Children was a three day event during 16th, 17th and 18th November 2012 organized by Livelihood Education And Development Services (LEADS) a social organization of TRK Consultancy Services with support from the SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre (SCZMC), Maldives. The main focus of the programme was to involve the school children through encouraging them to participate in different activities on environmental issues.

Initially 28th and 29th September was selected thinking of the exam times and availability of the school children. Due to delayed approval the month was shifted to November as the venue was not available before that and there was also long school holidays for eid and puza in October. Even the month November was not very favourable due to the terminal exam of most of the schools so it became very uncertain to bring children during the event days. The two major public exams one for grade 5 (Primary School Certificate) and the other for grade 8 (Junior School Certificate) were scheduled in November. Therefore, LEADS has to communicate with many schools and take only those schools where the school authority agreed to cooperate and from where the guardian allowed their children to participate. Ministry of Environment and Forests, Shishu Academy, Dhaka, Department of Environment, Dhaka University extended their full support as and when necessary etc were also involved. The main objective of the program was to make the school children including the public aware about the reasons of environmental impact of climate change on coastal area and make them conscious to conserve the environment and themselves.

3. Objective:

- The main objective of the program was to make the school children including the public aware about the reasons of environmental pollution and its impact on climate change and coastal area and
- Aware the children and youth and establish a network with other civil society members to carry on the work and not make the programme an end in itself.



The Theme : Save Coastal Area Save Bangladesh Save Yourself. This theme was used in all the Banners and Festoons. This theme was chosen to remind people in general and the children in particular that if we can not save our coast then it will be problem for Bangladesh and ultimately it will be problem for us so they have to save the coastal area to save themselves.

4. Journey towards the event !

4.1. Planning :

4.1.1. Setting up of Working Committee: A Working committee was set up with LEADS staff and management to plan for different activities and arrange all the logistics of the Festival . The main responsibility of the committee was to :

- identify and select schools
- select and Train Volunteers for the event
- develop the publicity materials like posters for the schools
- distribute the posters
- invite the teachers for the sharing workshop and motivate them
- select venue
- keep constant liaison with the schools to ensure their participation and avoid any misunderstanding and clarify issues when needed
- liaison with different sources to make the gate for the festival as per guideline
- arrange all the logistics to make the festival a success
- do other work as and when necessary

4.1.2. Identification and Selection of the schools : The schools were selected after discussing with the committee members and visiting some schools . We visited those schools from where the teachers took the responsibility and committed to participate We gave them first hand knowledge about the festival as well as about the competitions. The Schools were identified

from where the children will be able to participate as their exams were going on. Both English medium and Bengali medium school were taken into consideration so that children from both these schools get chance to participate and broaden their knowledge. Moreover, the Bangla medium children were busy with their preparation of Primary School Certificate (PSC) and Junior School Certificate (JSC) Exam which were scheduled in November. We have to avoid that group of children as the guardian was also not willing. LEADS decided to take the schools as their partner organization so that the schools take the responsibility and have the ownership to the programme. Even scope was given to discuss with the school authority in every issue.

4.1.3. Selection of Volunteers and Training : The responsible LEADS staff and some volunteers were selected and trained to do the necessary work and liaison with the schools.



Emphasis was given to take some school children as volunteer during the three day event. As the guide and scouts are trained in volunteering almost 50 of them were selected to do volunteering through their Teachers. The main objective was also to make them aware while volunteering on this particular issue.

4.1.4. Design and development of Posters and banners :

As we planned to reach out more than 400 to 500 students through different activities like rally, competitions, volunteering, participate in dramas and cultural programme, develop placards etc poster was developed to reach out to schools to let them know about the competitions. The design of the poster gave importance to attract the school children with colours and information as much as possible. All the SAARC flag were used as band to let the children know about the 8 SAARC

countries. The main theme of event of coastal area, some marine fish and dolphin which were used in the poster were also used through out all the banners and festoons to keep similarity in the theme of the publicity materials.

4.1.5. Booking of the Venue: The venue was first selected at Shishu Academy as Shishu (children) Academy is the only National Institution for the development of children's mental and cultural facilities. It organizes national children award competition, occasional competition and different fairs for children ever year. It has its branches all over the country. For wider participation and awareness we thought of working with this Academy but unfortunately when the date was changed we did not get Shishu Academy during that time. We got Public Library which is also in the heart of the city and arranges all the fairs. We took necessary permission to host the three day event there. The rally started from Shishu Academy and ended in Public Library.

4.1.6. Taking Permission for the Rally : As mentioned early that Shishu (children) Academy is the only National Institution for the development of children's mental and cultural facilities and as we did not get this Academy for the three day event we thought at least to start the rally from Shishu Academy and sought relevant permission from the Dhaka Metropolitan Police for the rally.

4.1.7. The Festival gate: As the gate is the main to attract people especially children we



thought to give some message through the gate . During the designing of the gate emphasis was given to show the coastal environment. In both the sides'

coastal underwater picture and above water coastal area was shown but in one side picture of sunset and in other side picture of sunrise was drawn in canvas by Fine arts students. This also gave opportunity to aware the students on this issue while drawing. Two dolphins and some plants were also there.

4.1.8. Campaigning in Schools : We went to meet the teachers and distributed posters .The posters were distributed to the schools which showed interest as well to other schools so that some guardians can take interest.



4.2. Information Sharing Workshop with the Teachers:

A workshop was conducted with the school heads to let them know about the objective of the festival and to let them know about their role so that they can involve the children of their schools spontaneously . It was held on 11th October. Almost 21 teachers from 18 schools attended the workshop. LEADS explained the objective of the workshop in a plenary discussion . The teachers introduced themselves by mentioning one environmental problem and one solution to



the problem in a pair . They were then given the rules of the event to discuss in a group . This was then presented by each group leader about their observation and feedback. As per their observation and feedback we changed some of the rules , like they proposed to make 2 groups in the recycle product if the numbers of children are higher . It was very encouraging to observe that all the teachers were very active and showed their interest despite the exams in the school. They were shown a power point presentation, where the reasons of coastal problems and its link with environmental pollution were communicated to them just to make them realize that how the non coastal people are responsible to create all these natural disasters so that they can communicate these message to the children of their respective schools .

Outcome of the workshop:

At the end of the workshop teachers were

- aware about the environmental impact on coastal issue
- motivated to involve the school children to participate in the festival effectively
- supportive to make the festival a success



4.3. Registering for the Competitions:

The children were asked to register their name to ensure their participation and to give their details. Schools took the responsibility to fill the forms and the students were asked to collect the admit form from

LEADS center so that the guardians get to know more about the competitions and clarify themselves if they want. We charged 100 taka for registration fee to ensure their participation and in against that we promised to give all the participants a crest whether they win or not. It encouraged many children to participate .



5. Press Conference: LEADS took the initiative to arrange a press conference to publicize the event through print media and electronic media. The press conference was arranged on 14th November just before festival to let media people know about the festival . Besides some print media electronic media like Radio Foorti people also were present. The LEADS staff and management people were present during the conference. Already the electronic media ATN Bangla a leading TV channel committed to advertise the event . ATN Bangla has a special programme for

children “ Amra Korbo Joy “, for which they took information to broadcast and be present during the event.

6. Day 1 : 16th November' 12

6.1. The Festival and the Event:



6.1.1. Rally: 9.00 am to 10.00 am

Day one started with a Rally from Shishu Academy to Public Library at 9.00 a.m . The rally was marched by almost 500 students , volunteers, teachers, social worker, environmentalist etc. Among them almost 350 were students . It was a great pleasure for us that The Director of SCZMC Ms Shaheeda Adam Ibrahim and Ms Aminaath Naaz came all way long



from Maldives to support children with the awareness programme. The Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof A.A.M.S Arefin Siddique was also kind enough to give importance to this issue and marched with the children and flagged the rally with Ms Shaheeda Adam Ibrahim . We had a plan to have minimum 100-200 students and youth for the rally. We were happy that many schools and students showed interest to come to the rally to express their opinion



to combat climate change and its impact on the coastal area. As we had plan to have 200 students we agreed to accept 100 more but eventually we had 350 students in the rally and almost 300 in different competitions . So it gave opportunity to almost 600 to 700 students to involve themselves directly with this awareness activities. Most of them came from schools with their school teachers, which helped us to have the children march the rally in a disciplined way. Some children came with their parents getting information through the poster . All the schools were asked to bring banners and festoons to make them aware while developing them and to have ownership to the programme. All the children and the teachers wore T shirts and caps

with the festival message “ Save Coastal Area Save Bangladesh Save Yourself” and coastal environment picture on it . We committed to give T shirts to all the children who will join the rally as this T shirt will help them to carry the message with them after the Festival and remind them of the event and their commitment. Some children were carrying the slogans about the coastal issues like river erosion, climate change, waste management, global warming, cyclone, Sidor, hurricane, threat to traditional livelihoods, destruction of ecosystem etc which came out from the competitions.

6.1.2. Inauguration: 10.00am -12.pm



After the rally the event was inaugurated around 10. a.m by the Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University . Ms Shaheeda Adam

Ibrahim, the LEADS representative, the children and other dignitaries were also present . The Vice Chancellor gave the inauguration speech at Public Library . ED of

LEADS welcomed the Director SCZMC , Maldives , the VC of Dhaka University and the children. Ms Shaheeda Adam Ibrahim on behalf of SCZMC thanked the children and LEADS to host the event on behalf of Bangladesh and also the Vice Chancellor to march the rally with the children .



6.1.3. The Stalls:

The stalls were there for three days so that the children can roam around and learn. The art and poster competitions started from 2.pm at Public Library premise. The children were asked to report at 1.30 . As the children submitted their slogans, photography and recycle product earlier these were displayed in the stalls and the judges came around 3.00 pm to select the winners. When the art

and poster competitions were completed it was displayed in the stalls and the judges came to select the winners. The premise were the stalls were erected some marine pictures, miniature of shark , turtle were also displayed to attract the children. Coastal problems in Bangladesh , marine fishes , birds of Bangladesh, underwater picture etc were displayed in different banners to attract the children. The banners for the stall were designed in such a way that children were eager to visit and knew about the subject of the stalls.



6.1.4. NGO Stall: Prakriti O Jibon (Nature and Life) : An NGO working in the environment sector was invited to display there environmental materials . They had some movies on marine birds , fishes, marine diversity , pollution and our environment etc. They were screening their movies in their stall and displayed their materials . This has given opportunity to the children to know the practical things of life .



6.1.5. Livelihood Stall: One stall displayed some bed spreads a traditional hand made work by the poor women for their livelihood. These were just displayed to let the children and other people know that due to coastal problems some families are bound to come to stay in the city areas and had to survive for their livelihoods.

6.2. Competitions: Time: 2.00-4.00 pm

6.2.1. Art Competition:



For wider participation and awareness we planned to work with Shishu Academy first as Bangladesh Shishu(children) Academy is the only National Institution for the development of children's mental and cultural faculties. It organizes

national children award competition, occasional competition and different fairs for children ever year. It has its branches all over the country. Due to time limitation we went to schools to publisize about the competitions . The posters were distributed and

displayed in different schools . The topic of the art competition and other competitions was “Coastal Problems and My Responsibility” The children were asked to draw any coastal problem or any solutions to the problem which they think they can solve by themselves. To give ownership to the programme to the government the some judges were also selected from related government officials . Competitors were methodically eliminated at every stage of the contest. Relevant judges were appointed for every category. The judges of the art competitions were the Ex Chairman of Shishu Academy Artist Mustafa Monowar and one of the re known Artist of Bangladesh and the Dean of Fine Arts , Dhaka University Mutlub Ali. As almost 168 students enrolled their name for Art Competitions we divided the children for art competition in 2 groups. The grade 3 and 4 in group A and grade 5 and 6 in group B.

6.2.2. Poster Making

Competition: The children of grade 6 to 8 participated in poster competition. As poster Has a scope to give messages the elder children were given chance to participate in this competition. 47 children registered for this competition. The judges of Art Competition were also



the judge of poster competition. .

6.2.3. Recycling Product Competition : Recycling involves processing used materials into new products in order to prevent the waste of potentially useful materials. Recycling is a key component of modern waste management and is the third component of the "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" waste hierarchy.



Thinking of this we thought of having competition among the school children on recycled items for participation in the competition

and festival. This competition has given the scope to the children of **grades 7-10** to take everyday *trash* items and turn them into useful products, *treasure* . S.M. Ahsanul Aziz , Deputy Director (Climate Change), Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Forests. Md. Shaik Zahidul Islam Sr. Assistant Commissioner Commissioners'

Office, Dhaka who has a Masters in Environment were the judges of Recycle product with Shaheeda Adam Ibrahim from SCZMC . We put emphasis on the products which are frequently used and are not environment friendly as waste. Also the product which is made should be easily available to make and usable. The first prize went to a raincoat made by used packet of pasteurized milk . The second prize to flower vase made by used plastic disposable coffee glass and the third prize to money bag made by used juice packet . Also another prize was given to a hand bag made by coconut cover considering it to be a waste from coastal area.

6.2.4 Mobile Phone Photography Competition: Mobile phone cameras are now capable of producing



shots which even the most critical photographer will say are decent and well worth displaying in portfolios. Most camera phones are simpler than separate digital cameras. Then

when someone use this improved technology that are available which are designed to help one to be more creative and take better photos. As most people now carry a mobile phone in their pocket that has a camera built in we thought we'd go for having mobile phone photography competition among the school children of grade 7-10 to use the mobile in a positive way . The children were asked to take picture through mobile and send a laminated copy to LEADS centre. As mentioned early that it was an exam time so the children could not go out to take picture and for this compared to other event the number of students were less. Some of them registered but could not submit at the last moment . The children were asked to save the picture in their mobile phone and bring it with them when they come . Shafiqul Alam Kiron , Senior Photographer of Map Photo Agency and Abir Abdullah Senior Photographer , European Press Photo Agency were the judges of the Photography Competition.

6.2.5. SMS Slogan Competition :

The children of those schools which were selected and with the teachers with whom we had the workshops participated in the Slogan competition. Some other students also came to know about the competition though poster and



ATN Bangla a reknown Channel who became our media partner . Almost **67** students registered for this competition. The children from grade 8-10 participated in this competition. The best 10 to 15 slogans were selected and were used during the rally and some were used in the banner to encourage the children. The children were asked to submit first the SMS slogan through mobile to encourage the children to use the mobile in positive way. Then they were asked to submit also a hard copy written in a colourful way to attract people. The winners were selected on the way it is appealing , related to coastal environment and also the way it is written to attract people . The judges of the SMS slogan were Md Abul Kashem, Director General, FIMA and Md Anwar Hossain Senior Technical Officer Bangladesh Television . Both of them have Literature background.

7. Day 2: 17th November' 12

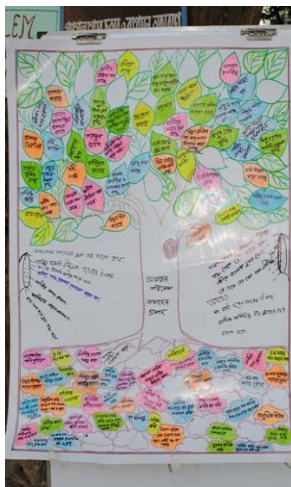
7.1. Games: Learning by Reflecting Corners

The 2nd - day was filled with game from 10.00 to 3.00 pm. The children learned through playing different games. All the games were based on some activity on coastal issues and environment. The games were grouped as per the number of children. Most of the children for this game participated hearing about it from TV Channel and LEADS office. The children of grade 3-5 had different game and the children of 6-10 had different game so that the younger children do not have to compete with the older ones.



7.1.1. Extempore Speech: There was extempore speech on different coastal issues like , how air pollution is affecting us, how global warming happens, what are the reasons of global warming, how you are affected by Coastal problem etc The children were asked to pick a paper and whatever issue comes they have to give speech on that. The students of grade 7-10 were entitled for this game. Prizes were also given for 1st , 2nd and 3rd winners . Mostly children who came to visit the festival knowing from TV and other

sources like Radio participated in the games.



7.1.2. Problem Tree Analysis:

In one Corner children were given opportunity to think and reflect upon their



learning and do these activities. They identified the reason of coastal problems and its impact as well as gave the solution to these problems. All the children who came to this festival were asked to give their opinion . They gave their opinion by colouring the tree.

7.1.3. Sentence Making:

The children of grade 3 -5 participated in sentence making game. They picked up a word related to environment and they were asked to make 3 sentences. The winners were selected whose spellings were correct, construction appropriateness and relevancies of sentence to the environment etc were correct. The words like water, air, pollution , flood etc were given to make sentence.



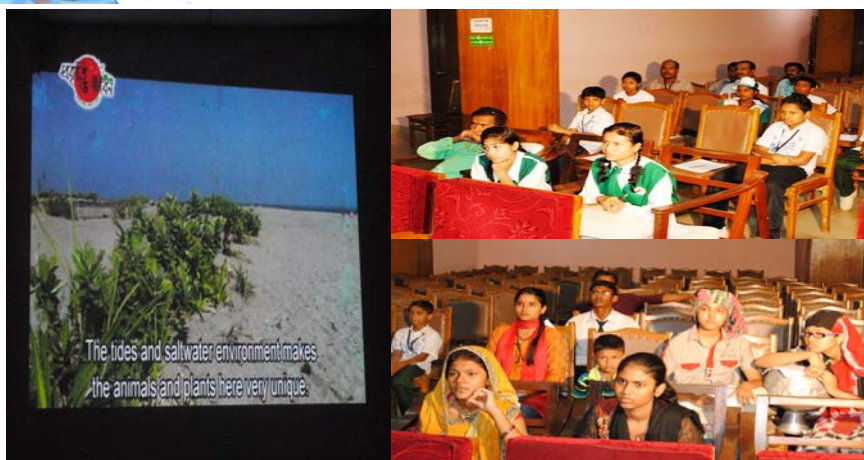
7.1.4. Animal Game :



It was just a fun game played by the small children of grade 3-5 . There was a duck without the beak and the children were asked to put the beak in proper place. The student who put the beak in proper place or nearer was the winner. There was also 1st , 2nd and 3rd prize for it. Shaheeda Adam Ibrahim, the Director SCZMC , Romina Dewan the ED LEADS and A.S.M. Kabir Chairman LEADS and some other adult also played the game out of fun . The children enjoyed it very much. As duck is a water animal we used this for the game .

7.1.5. Memory Game: This game was for the children of grade 3-5 . They were shown some items for 1 minute and then were asked to write the items within 2 minutes. The child who was able to write the maximum item was the winner .

7.1.6. Movie Quiz : The Grade 7-10 children were eligible to play this game. They were shown a movie on marine diversity and pollution and then given some question on that movie. They were asked to answer the question within a limited time specified to them. There were 10 in each group to watch the movie . The students who answered all the



question correctly and quickly got the prize.



7.2. Dress As you Like: This competition was open to all and they were asked to dress depicting any coastal people livelihood or problem. They have come around 10 am and stayed till 2.00 to display their character. The girl who won the prize depicted the role

of a young girl of a coastal area who got married at an early age and got pregnant early and is suffering from mal nutrition, low education and other social problem. She pleaded to us to stop this kind of coastal problems otherwise many young girls life will be at stake.

7.3. Face Painting: A student from Fine Arts was present in the second day and did face painting for the children. Mostly girls were interested to decorate their face with traditional design.



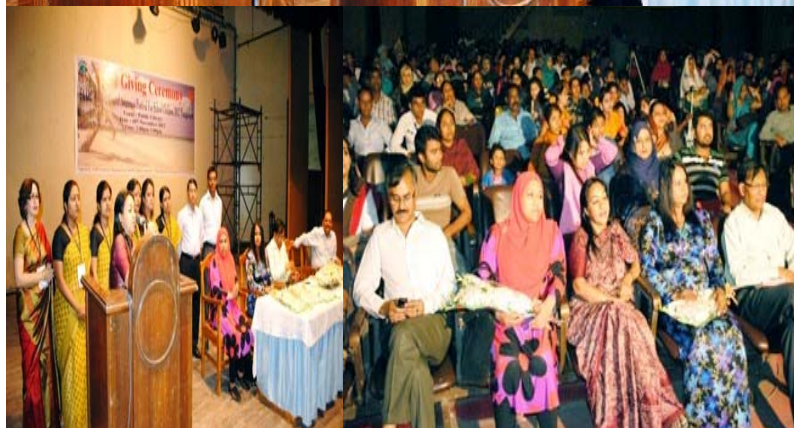
7.4. Outdoor Signature Campaign

Do's and Don't: There was a banner written Do's and Don'ts in one corner where the children came and written what they will not do and what they will do regarding saving the coastal area.



8. Day 3 : 18th November'12

8.1. Screening Movies on Environment: In the morning there was screening of movies on environment in the auditorium so that children and other guests get opportunity to watch.



8.2. Cultural Programme: There was a cultural programme related to

coastal issues just before the prize giving ceremony. Two students one girl and one boy volunteered to announce in the programme. The chief guest, the special guest were welcomed by the children by presenting bouquet to them. Prior to the cultural function speech was delivered by the chief guest Mr Faiz Ahmed Joint Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forests, the special guest , Ms Shaheeda Adam Ibrahim , Director SCZMC . The Director SCZMC thanked LEADS to organize this event on behalf of SCZMC. The ED Romina Dewan and the Chairman Mr. A.S.M.Kabir of LEADS thanked SCZMC and also

the children without whom the programme would not have been successful. . Some drama, songs , dance were performed by the children to enjoy in the afternoon. The main cultural function was organized in such a way where the focus was mainly to give message on environment . There was a solo dance which was done by a song on Rain . A group of students from Adamjee Cantonment College performed a drama

which gave a message about two friends who are affected by Coastal erosion and Tornado. Eventually they came to city in search of job but ultimately got involved with terrorist activity. They were not able to save them. They were caught and hanged to death. This is the story of thousands of coastal people who are suffering like this. The main dance drama at the end totally was on environment pollution and how it contributes to climate change. The theme of the dance drama was given by LEADS. As the children and the next generation are the sufferers of climate change the dance drama showed two friends telling different people who are polluting environment to stop those as it will effect them and their next generation. And ultimately realization comes to those people after there was natural disaster. Some students also showed their interest to perform some songs and dance after getting information from TV Channel who was our media partner. We gave them floor before the main programme. Almost 500 audiences comprising of students, guardians, teachers, dignitaries were present. At the end of the programme all the audience stood up to show their support to combat climate change and save the country with others.



8.3. Prize Giving

Ceremony: The prizes were distributed to the children who won the different competition. The children who participated in the competitions also received crest for their active participation whether they won or not. The awards were given by Shaheeda Adam Ibrahim the Director SCZMC

and Mr Faiz Ahmed Joint Secretary Ministry of Environment and Forests. They were assisted by the team members and the Chairman of LEADS. The children who participated in the cultural programme were also rewarded. The events were Mobile phone photography, SMS Slogan, Recycle product, poster competitions, art competition. For each event there was 1st 2nd and 3rd prize. Only for art there were two groups as the numbers of students were high in this event. Grade 3 and 4 in one group and 5 and 6 in another group. The children who played games on the second day were also given prizes. Games like sentence making with environmental words, Movie

quiz, Animal game, Extempore speech, All the children were happy as none of them went empty handed. Some of the guardians and teachers also received prizes on behalf of the children and schools. Some more pictures of the event and the list of winners are given in the annexure.

9. Outcome: The SAARC Coastal Awareness Festival was very much appreciated by all groups of people especially the children. Despite the event being held during the exam period and with a short notice we got very good support from the school. We were expecting maximum 200 people for the rally but for the interest of the students and the school we had almost 500 people including students for the rally and almost 500 students in different competitions, cultural programme, games as all of them were based on coastal and environment issue. Only in the rally and competitions we had total 585 students among whom 236 were boys and 349 were girls. This number excludes the student participated in the games and the cultural programme and visiting the festival. As our main focus was to increase awareness among the school children we tried to involve the school children all through out the programme. Even the stalls displayed the product of the children. Only one NGO who is working exclusively with the environmental awareness through different movies and which are very popular was invited to display their materials. As mostly they had movies it attracted the audience very much. One of the movies was also used to have the movie quiz game. These movies are very informative for all and using this movie in the game gave the opportunity to the children to watch and know the information correctly at least to win the game.

Emphasis was also given to have environmental message in the cultural programme through dance drama, drama. These all had good impact on the children especially the dance drama which showed how the people are destroying the environment through constructing building, cutting trees, polluting water and destroying marine fishes etc and its impact on the coastal area like tornado, storm but the children are conscious and telling these people to stop all these environmental pollution for their own safety. The drama ended with the realization to these people and making promise to combat these issues with the support from all. As impacts of these dance drama and the event, LEADS was thanked by most of the schools after the programme. Even some of the students called to know when again these kinds of activities will happen. The event was able to;

- Aware almost 900 students, volunteers, teachers, youth, university teachers, guardians about the impact of environmental pollution and climate change on coastal area as well on Bangladesh and themselves
- 23 schools were directly involved to create a base
- Encouraged the students to know more about the environment and coastal issue to save themselves and take steps to protect the environment
- Became a base to carry on the activities

10. Limitations : LEADS has been asked to organize this event during January 2012 and accordingly submitted project concept but unfortunately due to unavoidable circumstances and permission from the government the approval and the deed was signed on the 3rd week of September which delayed the whole process. Even the dates have to be shifted from September to November. Initially 28th and 29th September were selected thinking of the exam times and availability of the school children. Due to delayed approval the month was shifted to November as the venue was not available before that and there was also long school holidays for eid and puza in October. Even the month November was not very favourable due to the terminal exam of most of the schools so it became very uncertain to bring children during the event days. The two major public exams one for grade 5 (Primary School Certificate) and the other for grade 8 (Junior School Certificate) were scheduled in November. Shishu Academy selected first as the venue but this was not vacant in November therefore we have to take Public Library as the venue and it was only available during 16th, 17th and 18th November 2012. Therefore, LEADS has to communicate with many schools and take only those schools where the school authority agreed to cooperate and from where the guardian allowed their children to participate. As we got full support as and when necessary from the Ministry of

Environment and Forests, Shishu Academy, Dhaka, Department of Environment ,Dhaka University Dhaka Metropolitan Police etc especially the schools it was quite helpful for us to organize the event despite all these bottlenecks.

11. Recommendation and the Way forward :

As mentioned the coastal zone of Bangladesh is prone to multiple threats such as cyclones, storm surges and floods, as well as earthquakes, tsunamis, and above all, climate change. Scarcity of drinking water, land erosion, the high groundwater arsenic content, water logging, water and soil salinity and various forms of pollution have also slowed down social and economic developments During the last 250 years, six tsunamis, at most, have been reported to have affected the coast of Bangladesh. It is estimated that at least 4.8 million people are at high risk from tsunamis .

These are all man made and is done by the people living in non coastal area especially people living in the cities as they are totally unaware about what they are doing , what is the impact of this and how it is affecting the children . As they do not go to into deep as they do not stay in the coastal area. Moreover , school students and teachers are one of the most critical segments to educate about their immediate environment and impart knowledge about the eco-systems, their inter-dependence and their need for survival. Climate change directly affects the lives of young children both now and in the future . It would be irresponsible for us not to share this information with children, to give them the opportunity to learn how their actions impact on the health of the planet. This kind of knowledge enables children to learn how to be part of the climate change solution and teaches them that they can make a difference. The skills , knowledge and attitude they will gain from the awareness programme will be required to live in a sustainable world, now and in the future. We all want different things for our children, and early childhood services have a long-standing practice of respecting different cultures and family values. Environmental sustainability is not a lifestyle choice, but a way of living. As the coastal awareness programme targeted these groups of children especially the school children to sustain the knowledge there should be continuity of the programme

The very term “sustainability’ is not just about caring for the environment. It also takes into account social structures and economic considerations. And the learning about sustainability starts with everyday practices of limiting waste, and reducing energy and water use by collecting rainwater; minimising the use of heating and cooling; turning off lights and power switches when not needed; or putting food scraps in a compost bin. While no area is immune to the impacts of climate change, evidence suggests that developing countries, which already struggle with social, economic and environmental issues, will be worst hit by changes in rainfall patterns, greater weather extremes, and an increase in droughts and floods, which ultimately leads to coastal problems

Children and women will be among those most affected by a changing climate. It is estimated that 65 per cent of those who will be affected by climate-related disasters every year in the next decade will be women and children. Therefore the programme :

- Should not be end in itself .
- Should carry on with follow up programme to see how far these children are aware in a formal way
- Should monitor what the schools are doing as part of their awareness , how far the schools became responsible to save the coastal area, saves Bangladesh and save them the theme of the Festival .
- Should multiply the knowledge of the awareness programme through these schools
- Should give opportunity to the children who participated to spread the knowledge and be given opportunity to learn through exchange visit to the other countries

- Should encourage the children to teach others how to recycle the products and reduce waste and be the change agent.
- Should have a sharing workshop with other SAARC countries to learn from each other to carry on the awareness activity

12. Conclusion:

Because of its dense population and low-lying land, Bangladesh is highly vulnerable to climate change. Its national economy strongly depends on agriculture and natural resources that are sensitive to climate change and sea level rise. Even though it is particularly vulnerable to climate change in its coastal zone, covering about 30 per cent of the country the impact of coastal problems due to climate change is getting worse day by day due to behavioral patterns and human practices. As the people living in the city are not directly affected they do not feel that much about the problems. The main contributor to Climate Change is the use of fossil fuels (e.g. gas and coal) to generate electricity and power our machinery (e.g. cars, lights, air conditioners). When we burn fossil fuels we release carbon dioxide and other gases into the atmosphere, contributing to global warming. And the city dwellers consume and misuse more of these resources not that they do it willingly but mostly without knowing the impact of it. While children are among the most vulnerable to climate change, they should not be considered passive or helpless victims. Children are powerful agents of change, and studies have found that many children can be extraordinarily resilient in the face of significant challenges. Providing children with empowering and relevant education on disasters and climate change in a child-friendly school environment can reduce their vulnerability to risk while contributing to sustainable development for their communities. School students and teachers are one of the most critical segments to educate about their immediate environment and impart knowledge about the ecosystems, their inter-dependence and their need for survival. Targeting this group of children for the awareness programme has given opportunity to sustain the awareness programme among these city dwelling children and to reduce the environmental pollution. Moreover children can only make the adult aware about these issues once they fully understand their position and be the Change agent. All of these to sustain requires the continuation of the event and a follow up of the awareness programme in a structured way and in a formal environment. As the base of this has been created it needs to be strong to take things forward.

Annexure

Annex – 1

Names of the Participating School
&
Winners List

Names of the Participating School

- 1. Adamji Cantonment Public School**
- 2. Baily Preparatory School**
- 3. Bangladesh International School & College**
- 4. B.A.F Shaheen School & College**
- 5. Begum Rahima Adarsha Balika Uchcha Bidalaya**
- 6. Bangladesh Bank Colony High School**
- 7. Bright School & College**
- 8. Bir Sreshtha Noor Mohammad Public College**
- 9. Delhi Public School**
- 10. Dhaka Residential Model College**
- 11. Engineering University School**
- 12. Green Herald School**
- 13. Government Laboratory School**
- 14. Holy Cross Girls High School**
- 15. Motijheel Model High School & College**
- 16. Play Pen School**
- 17. Progati Registered Primary School**
- 18. Rayer Bazar High School**
- 19. Shahid Bir Uttam Lt. Anwar Girls College**
- 20. Udayan High School**
- 21. Viqarunnisa Noon School & College**
- 22. Zigatola Model Government Primary School**
- 23. Zigatola High School**

Names of the Winners

Competitions

Drawing

Group 1 : Class 3 to 4

Muntasir Mubin	1 st	Dhaka Residential Model College
Muhammad Mahi Ullha	2 nd	Udayan Uchca High School
Asnuva Saharin Binita	3 rd	Viqarunnisa Noon School & College

Group 2 : Class 5 to 6

Masrafi Billha	1 st	Play Pen School
Maisha Maliha Siddiqa	2 nd	Engineering University School
Anika Tahsin	3 rd	Green Herald

Poster :

Class 6 to 7

Amrin Shahariar	1 st	Agrani Girls High School & College
Rupkath Ikbali	2 nd	Shahid Bir Uttam Lt. Anwar Girls College
Labiba Binte Amin	3 rd	Shahid Bir Uttam Lt. Anwar Girls College

Mobile Photography

Class 7 to 10

Jarin Tasnim	1 st	Viqarunnisa Noon School & College
Sunhera Tasnim	2 nd	Viqarunnisa Noon School & College
Shafayat Rayain	3 rd	Dhaka Residential Model College

SMS Slogan

Class 7 to 10

Segupta Amrin Ahsan	1 st	Viqarunnisa Noon School & College
Mahatab Rashid	2 nd	Udayan Uchca High School
Rafsana Yamin	3 rd	Viqarunnisa Noon School & College

Recycle Product

Class 7 to 10

Ajoad Labiba Mohiuddin	1 st	Shahid Bir Uttam Lt. Anwar Girls College
Sunhera Tasnim	2 nd	Viqarunnisa Noon School & College
Oasifa Tasnim	3 rd	Viqarunnisa Noon School & College
SalSabil Ashraf	4 th	Viqarunnisa Noon School & College

Dress as you Like

Class 1 to 10

Sumaiya Chodury	1 st Shahid Bir Uttam Lt. Anwar Girls College
Farzana Tabasum	2 nd Viqarunnisa Noon School & College
Hafsa Jarin Sigdha	3 rd Viqarunnisa Noon School & College
Rabbi Shikder Kayes	4 th Shirajom Model School
Farzana Akther	5 th Viqarunnisa Noon School & College

Games

Animal Game

Group 1

Iftekher Islam	1 st Baily Preparatory School
Arpita Das	2 nd Baily Preparatory School
Md. Nurun Nabi	3 rd Baily Preparatory School

Group 2

Sahanz Akter	1 st Monipuri High School
Ali Hossain	2 nd Zigatola Model Gov't Primary School
Munira Akter Bokul	3 rd Zigatola Model High School

Movie Quiz

Group -1

Ashraful Huqe Inu	1 st Adamji Cantment Public School
Ali Hossain	2 nd Begum Rahima Adarsha Balika Uchcha
Rufshadul Islam	3 rd Adamji Cantoment Public School Bidalaya

Group -2

Maksura Rahman	1 st Viqarunnisa Noon School & College
Azmiri Alahi	2 nd Anandamoyi Balika Uchcha Bidalaya
Mohima Rabbi	3 rd Viqarunnisa Noon School & College

Extempore Speech

Shihab Hasan Nion	1 st Adamji Cantonment Public School
Fahad Al Mahmud	2 nd Adamji Cantonment Public School
Sobuz Dewan	3 rd Rayer Bazar High School

Make Sentence

Kakoli Akter	1 st Zigatola Model Government Primary School
Mariuom Akter	2 nd Udayan High School
Md. Arafat Hossain	3 rd Baily Preparatory School

Annex – 2

Registration forms



Registration Form
SAARC Haveeru Coastal Awareness Festival for School Children-
2012, Bangladesh

Picture

For official use

Name of the Participant		Name of the School	
Guardian's Name & Signature		School Contact No.	
Guardian's Contact No.		Class	
Name of the Competition		Age	

Signature of the LEADS Authority

Signature of the School Authority

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Registration Form
SAARC Haveeru Coastal Awareness Festival for School Children-
2012, Bangladesh

Picture

For Student

Name of the Participant		Name of the School	
Guardian's Name & Signature		School Contact No.	
Guardian's Contact No.		Class	
Name of the Competition		Age	

Signature of the LEADS Authority

Signature of the School Authority

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Registration Form for School

SAARC Haveeru Coastal Awareness Festival for School Children 2012, Bangladesh

Name of the Competition:

Name of the School :

Contact No:

Sl no	Names of the Participant	Class	Roll	Section	Guardians Name with Mobile No.	Date of Birth / Age	Registration Fee
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							
6.							
7.							
8.							
9.							
10.							

Signature of the School Authority:

Annex – 3

Programme Schedule

Workshop Schedule

“SAARC Haveeru Coastal Awareness Festival for School Children-2012”

Workshop with the School Teachers –Our Responsibility

Venue: TRK Training Room

Date: 11th October, 2012

Time: 10:00 am -1.30 pm

Time	Duration	Activities
10.00 – 10.30	30 Minutes	Registration & Tea
10.30 – 10.45	15 Minutes	Introduction & Discussion on Poster
10.45 – 11.15	30 Minutes	Pair work
11.15 – 11.45	30 Minutes	Movie Screening on Coastal issues
11.45 – 12.15	30 Minutes	Collection of Students name for the Competition
12.15 – 12.45	30 Minutes	Banner & Stall Responsibility
12.45 – 1.15	30 Minutes	Sharing & Closing Session
1.15 – 1.30	15 Minutes	Lunch

Organized by : LEADS (**L**ivelihood **E**ducation **A**nd **D**evelopment **S**ervices)

Supported by : SCZMC (SAARC Coastal **Z**one **M**anagement **C**entre) Maldives

Programme Activities
of
SAARC Haveeru Coastal Awareness Festival for School Children – 2012, Bangladesh

Organized by LEADS and Supported by SCZMC, Maldives
Date ; 16th to 18th November '12

Date	Event	Time	Activities
16th	Rally	9.00- 11.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day one will start with a Rally at 9.00 from Shishu Academy to Public Library . It will be flagged by Prof A.A.M.S. Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor Dhaka University and Ms Shaheeda Adam Ibrahim Director SCZMC, Maldives. The inauguration will be till 12.00 pm. After inauguration there will be break for Jumma Prayer
		2.00-4.00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Competitions and Poster Competitions and the judgement • Judgement of Recycling, Mobile Phone Photography , SMS Slogan Competition
17th	Games and dress as you like	10.00 -2.00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The children will learn through playing different games. • The children who are interested will participate in dress as you like
18th	Screening of Movies on Environment	10.00-12.00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the morning there will be screening of movies on environment in the auditorium so that children and other guests get opportunity to watch.
	Cultural Programme and Prize giving	2.00-6.pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a cultural function related to coastal issues . Some drama, songs , dance etc will be performed by the children to enjoy in the afternoon. This will be decided later once the schools are selected.. • The prizes will be distributed to the children who will win the different competition. The awards will be given by Director SCZMC and Joint secretary Ministry of environment government of Bangladesh

Outdoor Signature : The children will sign and commit some do's and don't . This can be then followed up through the schools .

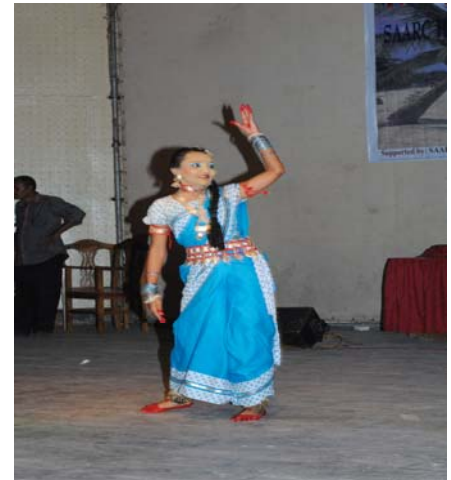
Competitions

Competitions



Cultural Programme
&
Prize Giving Ceremony

Cultural Programme



Prize Giving Ceremony



Games

Problem Tree Analyses



Animal Game



Extempore Speech



Memory Game



Movie Quiz



Make Sentence



Do's & Don't



Dress As You Like



Pictures

Rally
&
Inauguration

Rally



Inauguration



LEADS

LEADS (Livelihood Education and Development Services), is an NGO registered with the Department of Social Services, Ministry of Social Welfare, and a social organization of TRK Consultancy Services. It provides quality and sustainable education and healthcare facilities through different awareness and education support programme, for the children especially underprivileged children enrolled in different government primary schools.

<http://www.leads-bd.org>

SCZMC

SAARC Coastal Zone Management Centre (SCZMC) is a focal institution of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) which promotes regional cooperation in planning, management and sustainable development of the coastal zones, including research, training and promotion of awareness in the region.

<http://www.sczmc.org>





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