

PROJECT *MY TREE, MY FRIEND*

SALIENT POINTS:

A large number of children (a whole class/ 30 –50 students) are introduced to the diverse species of trees in and around their school first-

near or on the way to their houses next-

after a general survey of the subject by their teachers &/ the experts, each child selects one tree - the friend (f.) - f. Is given a name - f.'s botanical. Name, common English name. Local aliases are all learnt- student (s.) Observes f. Over the next 6- 8 months i.e. through the seasons and records changes – many parameters are faithfully recorded-

Each s. Works with one f. –

a class covers about 30- 50 types of trees found around

Given below is a minimum program for the months of July to March.

Plan: 2 sessions per month – one 2 hour session with theory, guidance, demo and homework- next day will be for clarifying doubts, fine tuning the homework for each s. So that he/she can do it in the following 30 days-

It is expected that all the students, expert, concerned teacher would be present on both the days. They will also walk along with students.

July

Day1 summary & orientation of the project- discuss how & what to observe / collect- take a walk in and around the school- show possible trees for adoption as a friend – let the whole set of students see and note down-

Day2 students show their preferences- elders allot and point out general location of each one's friend-

Homework (for the next few weeks) – a rough sketch- leaf samples, flower, fruit if any- name if known- map of the area and location of the friend- all these neatly recorded in a notebook.

This home work will be checked in the next month's meeting-

The program continues with two sessions per month. First day : theory/lecture + activity + discussion. Almost 2 hours next day shorter session of 1 period only to see if all have understood. And to give assignments for the next month I.e. until next meeting

Finally at the end [March] an exhibition of all that were collected .

Activities for summer holidays will be recommended.

Detailed worksheet gives requirements w.r.t. experts, teachers, school authorities, students etc,

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Activity oriented- language independent- adjustable to both high school and middle school levels or even for a mixed group of widely varying ages. But continued work by the same child from July to March is necessary for any benefit to the child or to the project – documentation helps to appreciate diversity .

This is a proposal by SETHU BANDHANA TRUST, MYSORE (with free help by volunteers of the trust - very low or zero budget project.

Schools should find a teacher/ expert/local volunteer to run the program.