

Zoology curriculum requires orientation

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CHENNAI: Today's zoology curriculum lacks in basic information, field exposure and practical knowledge and a new syllabus has to be created for this, said former principal of AVC College, Mayiladuthurai, K Thyagesan on Tuesday.

Speaking at a workshop organised by the Chennai Snake Park Trust (CSPT), Thyagesan cited the US school curriculum as an example. A higher grade student there is taught about animal identification, habitat ecology, conservation status of the species, the role played by the species in that particular habitat, he said, adding when they learn that way, these basic information gets embedded in their mind.

The existing syllabus needs orientation, he said. These days many colleges welcome suggestion from lecturers while revising the syllabus. Attending this type of workshops will come in handy for the teachers to suggest and effect changes in the syllabus, Thyagesan said.

CSPT trustee V Kalaiarasan said 518 species of reptiles have been recorded in India, of which only 66 are being exhibited in zoos and parks in the country. Lack of studies on the different species of reptiles is the reason for lower number of exhibits in zoos across country. Life history of more species has to be studied, only then other species will find a place in zoos, he said.

CSPT executive trustee S Paulraj said the objective of the workshop is to make the zoology faculty utilise the opportunities available with the park, especially the reptiles. The lecturers can send their students for internship to the CSPT, he said.

One of the participants John Milton from Loyola College said this is the right time to learn about reptiles and birds, as there is a lot of awareness about the ecology, the forests and its degradation due to human interference.