

Konika Excursion

We are happy to inform you that the Konika Excursion took place on the 15th of April '08. In association with Rotary Club of Calcutta East Central. We took the children to Botanical Gardens.

Botanical gardens of Kolkata, is situated 8 kms away from the city, on the west bank of the Ganga, covering an area of about 273 acres. Laid out in the year 1787, Calcutta botanical garden is one of the oldest and largest botanical gardens of India. It contains about 12,000 living perennial plants and millions of dried out plants gathered from world over. The main attraction of the botanical gardens is the giant size banyan tree that is said to have the second largest canopy in the world and is 250 years old it also has 2800 prop roots covering an area of 1.5 hectares of land. Over here, you can find a plethora of beautiful orchids and other colorful flowers. The garden also has a library, where you can find a valuable collection of books on botany. The botanical garden of Calcutta houses trees of rarest variety.



We were totally 40 of us in number so we booked three Tata sumo cars to take us. It is about a 45 minute ride from SBDCH.

On arrival to the park the search was on for a nice spot to sit, everyone was looking here and there each one was saying that their place was better eventually we came to a decision. Finally under the banyan tree became our spot for the day since it was nice and shady.

After a tiring journey we gave the children a small snack which consisted of toast, banana, sweets and biscuits. After the children had eaten and relaxed a little. We broke them up into two groups; each group had a captain one was Priyanka a girl and the other was Niraj a boy they were chosen by the children themselves. They even pick names for their groups one was **Richie Rich** and the other was **Tom & Jerry**.

We started with a quiz contest about 25 questions were asked and whoever gave us the correct answers were given prizes on the spot. After the quiz contest we organized a race for the boys in which they had to take off their shoes and socks and keep it in a line in the middle of the starting point and finishing line. Then the boys were made to run to the shoes and socks and put them on and then run to the finishing line. Jitendra Singh was the winner of this race.

This was followed by three different types of dance competitions. The dance performance in the first one was the children were just made to dance to the music and whoever danced the best was given a prize.

In the second round the boys were made to dance to a song which is done by girls and the girls were made to dance to a song which is done by boys. The girls were the winners of this competition because they were able to dance like boys and the expression which was given by the girls was simply wonderful.

The third competition between the two captains. Priyanka was declared the best. After the dance competition the children just danced and enjoyed themselves. While the children were dancing we distributed pieces of cucumbers and toffees to the children as it was a really hot day. The temperature was approximate 37 degrees.

Our General Secretary finally arrived with the lunch packets. The children were all very happy to see him they all started chanting 'dadu, dadu 'which means grandfather. After lunch the children were allowed some free time to look around the garden and play among themselves.

There is nothing new to you tell you about these children they have so much of talent and so much of self confidence that even at the garden they gathered a huge audience who were very amazed at their performance.

At 5.00p.m we left the park we didn't have to ask the children about their whole days experience the shine in their eyes and the smile on their face said it all.