

This is Robinson, an eco Activist, involved in wildlife, nature and environmental conservation based actions.

I'm here to share few words about my experience that I had in a Snake Bite,

I am 31 & bold enough to execute my destiny and mission of my life & birth,
(To Con-Serve This Unique Home Planet)

Preserving wild, nature, environment and the endangered species is my work; I conduct literacy programs, seminars & training workshops. Further, tribal welfare, forest weed control & wild-life rescues under the banner of a grass root level NGO – Jeeva karunya trust (also known as GREEN CROSS INDIA), that can be described as a precise unit for conservation.

In and around ERODE district (State of Tamilnadu), we are well recognized for our snake, Wild-life rescue works. Every day & night we used to get calls from the Public, Nature lovers, Fire service, Forest department, & even sometimes from the police department concerning about snakes and wild animals entering human residences by mistake, we used to rush towards those places & rescue the hopeless species & relocate them back into the wild & this process results in

1. Human-animal Conflict resolution.
2. Conserving the endangered species,
3. Restoration of the life supporting nature,
4. Snake, Anti-venom related studies, research & treatment,
5. Supporting the Ecological balance,
6. Educating and creating awareness among the younger generation's

And we are successfully executing these conservation based rescues for years, with our own efforts, without any governmental & individual support (Directly or indirectly), Nowadays Snakes & Wild-life rescues turned out to be a full-time busy schedule for us. last may 2nd, I had a call from Mr.sharathy about a cobra often found inside their compound threatening their dog & their family members, we rushed out there but found nothing, coz its almost 10pm, so we decided to search back by the next morning but it resulted in a common wolf snake & nothing else. Again within the same week, we had a call again, but found nothing. Finally on 8th may, we rushed there and found a big herp beneath the bricks, one by one we removed those bricks and the ferocious majestic cobra stood up showing its hood, after an hour of struggle we rescued it safely. After the very next day, we rescued almost a dozen of herps continuously, since it rained early day. I got my room filled with big cobras, vipers & Rat snakes, which were too big and dangerous to relocate inside city limit, hence as usual we headed to the forest. On the way, I was supposed to present them to the forest officer before releasing. Which led me to mishandle the majestic cobra, which accidentally bit me, I saw its fangs punched inside the vein of my index finger (Right hand), I gently pulled him out, handled it to my colleagues and thought of cut squeezing the blood out and tried to pull out the stab, Something slowed me down and I felt the taste of the venom inside my mouth (already tasted the venom before), I felt that something is to happen wrong.

I just tied my fore-arms with my shoe lace and then rushed towards the hospital in our bike, Mr.Muthu my colleague & friend was driving, it took less than 5 mins to reach the government hospital. Before we reached on the way I lost my eyesight first, then hearing ability and consciousness, at last I lost my breath too...

Before we reached the Hospital, but surprisingly they were expecting us with all medical needs. Because they were alerted by the forest officials about my emergency arrival, I was treated with 29 vials of ASV within 2 days & got discharged for further better treatment of my infected hand. This is the situation that I was threatened, no doctors were conscious of what will happen to my infected hand. Every doctor I met, saw me as a new case. At the same time my hands getting worse. The swelling rose from wrist to fore-arm, fore-arm to arm. Finally started decaying; the decayed muscles also got split from others, further the fuss started gush out from the sour.

I was helpless and searching for a perfect treatment or else I knew, I am going to loose my arm or my life

By the same time my men, posted all pictures and videos of my infected my hand, in the internet and shared them with various web based global networks,

Nature break is one of such conservation based network operated by Vanessa in U.S. She cared worried and supported us a lot by providing us a lot of contacts of experts for better treatment and cure,

One of them is AVRI Animal Venom Research Institute; Kim McWhorter of AVRI contacted us & concerned about us. She got our number, and Mr.Roy Malleappah, BSc. was guiding me all the way towards the perfect cure...

I backed off from the hospitals that used me as a new subject to learn, I was totally confused actually with out knowing what to do I stayed at my home with the rotting swollen hand. My wife Shyamala Mathavi was squeezing out the pus from my hand by the weekend Mr. Roy called me and advised me to rush to the hospital (at least to the government hospital) to remove the decayed flesh from the others, so it might not effect rest of the hand. And I started to listen him, as I saw him taking care of me as my own brother, on seeing the pictures of my wound he said there is still time to save my hand.

He used to call me often and gave me the hope that I will get my hand back. He was very much worried about the anti venom's side effects, day to day he reveled what will happen to my hand and on seeing the pictures he cleared what is happening to it. Since then till now I am fearless regarding the hand, and now I am well improved and following the instructions to get the skin grafting healed, further I was informed that AVRI team members including Dr Keyler, are very much fretful, caring and informing me through Mr. Roy .

They even instructed us about handling snakes and have promised to provide us necessary equipments and supports to make availability of free ant-venom for the use public victims as a non profit service.

I'm heart fully thanking all the team members of AVRI for the voluntary involvement in guiding me top get my hand and life back it will be a great support towards sustaining our effort if they carry out their promise and anti venom project in India because many poor lives are suffered and led to death without proper anti venom facilities, I wish them to successfully accomplish the project, because I know the pain of snake bite.

Thankfully
Robinson wild-life, Eco-Activist
Green Cross India
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INDIA