



STAND UP 4 ELEPHANTS

Report on the Elephant Educational Program

Under the Roots and Shoots Initiative of Jane Goodall Institute Nepal
With Students of Swostishree Gurukul



12.01.2026

Progran Site: SU4E Elephant Camp



Introduction

“*The program aimed to create an informed and compassionate learning environment where students could connect knowledge with responsibility and action.*”

Stand Up 4 Elephants is a nonprofit organization committed to advancing the ethical treatment, welfare, and long term protection of elephants in Nepal. Alongside veterinary support and welfare monitoring, the organization places strong emphasis on education as a tool for change. Its elephant education program is designed to build awareness around elephant behavior, social intelligence, emotional complexity, and the realities they face in captivity and in the wild. Through structured learning sessions, safe observational experiences, and youth engagement activities, the program seeks to nurture empathy, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of ethical wildlife stewardship.

The Jane Goodall Institute Nepal, inspired by the vision of Dr Jane Goodall, promotes biodiversity conservation and community centered environmental action across Nepal. Its Roots and Shoots initiative empowers young people to identify challenges within their communities and take meaningful action in areas such as wildlife conservation, climate responsibility, waste management, and animal welfare.

Swostishree Gurukul is an educational institution committed to holistic development, encouraging students to integrate knowledge with social responsibility and environmental consciousness. The school actively supports experiential learning opportunities that strengthen ethical awareness and leadership among youth.

The Educational Awareness Program emerged from the shared values of these institutions. By bringing together conservation expertise, youth empowerment, and academic engagement, the program aimed to create an informed and compassionate learning environment where students could connect knowledge with responsibility and action.



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Objectives of the Program

From the Perspective of Stand Up 4 Elephants



- **To deepen students' understanding of elephant behavior, intelligence, and social structure**, fostering informed awareness about their emotional complexity and welfare needs.
- **To highlight the ethical responsibilities of humans toward captive and wild elephants**, promoting respect based coexistence and humane treatment.
- **To create meaningful educational exposure to real world elephant care practices**, including welfare monitoring and medical support, through structured and safe observational learning.
- **To encourage empathy based conservation thinking**, moving beyond sympathy toward informed, compassionate action.
- **To inspire young individuals to become responsible advocates for biodiversity and animal welfare within their communities.**
- **To strengthen collaboration between conservation organizations and educational institutions**, reinforcing youth engagement as a pathway toward long term change.

Key Activities Conducted

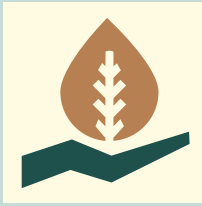


Information Session



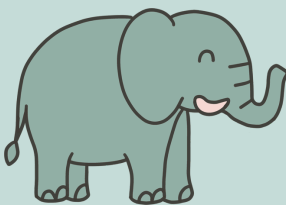
A structured educational session was conducted to introduce students to the mission and work of Stand Up 4 Elephants, with emphasis on elephant behavior, intelligence, social dynamics, and welfare needs. The session also addressed current challenges faced by elephants and the importance of ethical and informed conservation practices. Interactive dialogue encouraged critical thinking and active participation.

Enrichment Preparation



Participants prepared simple enrichment materials designed to stimulate natural behaviors and support the mental wellbeing of elephants. The elephants engaged with these enrichments following their medical session, allowing students to witness how thoughtful interventions contribute to improved welfare standards.

Observational Learning



Students observed routine elephant medical training from a designated safe distance. This activity provided insight into welfare centered care practices, positive reinforcement techniques, and the role of veterinary collaboration in maintaining elephant health and wellbeing. The observation reinforced principles of ethical handling and responsible human animal interaction.

Program Methodology

The Educational Awareness Program was conducted in three structured phases to ensure progressive learning, engagement, and experiential understanding.

Phase I: Orientation and Knowledge Session

The program commenced with a welcome and orientation session introducing participants to the objectives of the visit and the ethical framework of the organization. This was followed by an informative presentation on the mission and work of Stand Up 4 Elephants, with focused discussion on elephant behavior, social structure, emotional intelligence, welfare standards, and the current challenges faced by elephants in Nepal.

An interactive discussion and question and answer session encouraged students to actively engage, reflect, and clarify their understanding, fostering participatory learning.

Phase II: Experiential Engagement and Reflection

To translate knowledge into action, students prepared simple enrichment materials designed to stimulate natural behaviors and promote mental wellbeing in elephants. The elephants engaged with the enrichments following their medical session, allowing students to witness the practical value of welfare based interventions.

Phase III: Observational Learning

Participants were guided to observe routine elephant medical training from a designated safe distance. This structured observation provided insight into welfare focused care practices, positive reinforcement methods, and the importance of veterinary collaboration in maintaining elephant health.

This phase emphasized ethical handling, safety protocols, and the significance of trust based human animal interaction.

The program concluded with collective reflection and a group photograph, marking the completion of a structured educational experience grounded in awareness, empathy, and responsible conservation practice.



Outcomes and Impact

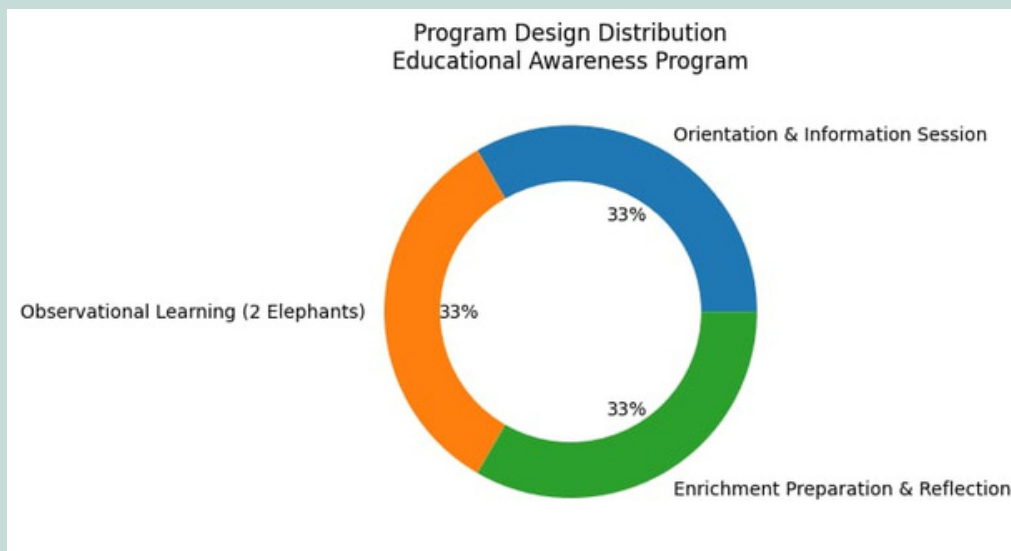
Direct Engagement: A total of 30 students from Swostishree Gurukul actively participated in the program, receiving structured exposure to elephant welfare and ethical conservation practices.

Enhanced Awareness: Participants demonstrated increased understanding of elephant behavior, social intelligence, and the ethical responsibilities associated with wildlife care and conservation.

Experiential Learning: Through guided observation and enrichment preparation, students were able to connect theoretical knowledge with practical application, strengthening retention and meaningful learning.

Empathy and Ethical Mindset Development: The program fostered compassion based perspectives toward elephants and reinforced the importance of humane, welfare centered approaches in conservation efforts.

Institutional Collaboration: The initiative strengthened working relationships between Stand Up 4 Elephants, the Jane Goodall Institute Nepal, and Swostishree Gurukul, supporting continued youth engagement in conservation education.



This donut chart illustrates the balanced structure of the Educational Awareness Program, showing that orientation and knowledge sharing, observational learning, and experiential engagement were given equal emphasis in the program design.

Conclusion & Acknowledgement



Conclusion

The Educational Awareness Program demonstrated the value of collaborative, youth centered conservation education. By integrating ethical elephant welfare practices with structured learning and experiential engagement, the initiative provided students with both knowledge and meaningful exposure to responsible wildlife stewardship.

The collaboration reinforced the importance of partnerships between conservation organizations and educational institutions in shaping informed, compassionate future leaders. Programs of this nature hold strong potential for continued implementation, expanded participation, and deeper youth engagement in ethical and sustainable conservation efforts.



Acknowledgment

Stand Up 4 Elephants extends its sincere appreciation to the Jane Goodall Institute Nepal for facilitating this collaboration under the Roots and Shoots initiative and for its continued commitment to empowering young people in conservation action.

We also express our gratitude to Swostishree Gurukul for encouraging experiential learning and for entrusting us with the opportunity to engage their students in meaningful dialogue and practical exposure to elephant welfare and ethical conservation.

The shared commitment of these institutions made this program both impactful and purposeful.



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