

REPORT ON JARAWA CONTACT EXPEDITION CONDUCTED UNDER  
THE PILOT PROJECT FROM 24-5-97 to 25-5-97

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On behalf of the ZSI, participated in the Jarawa contact expedition organised by AAJVS from 24-5-97 to 25-5-97 to study the ethnozoological aspects of the Jarawa tribe inhabiting near Lakra Lungta, South Andaman.

The team comprising members from various departments left Port Blair by M.V. Tarmugli on 24th night and reached Lakra Lungta by next morning. The team able to make contact the Jarawas at spike and Lakra Lungta without any difficulty. On noticing the vessel, Jarawas came out of the jungle to the shore with joy. The team first landed at spike and then at Lakra Lungta and noticed 26 jarawas at spike and 14 at Lakra Lungta. Details of male and female numbers is given below-

Locality	Adult Males	Adult Females	Children		Infants
			M	F	
Spike	6	7	5	3	5
Lakra Lungta	3	5	3	3	-

Huge quantities of coconuts, banana bunches, pieces of red cloth and iron scrap distributed to them. They were very much delighted with the gifts. One Jarawa woman and small boy requested the team members by gestures and taken away their T-Shirts. They wore immediately with joy. It is clearly evident that they are not much reluctant to wear clothes, particularly the children are very much fascinated with the dress material. In future, experiments can be made by distributing the clothes to children to see whether the community accept the dress culture or simply make fun and reject after some time.

The team did not notice any one suffering from any cuts or wounds. All are looking healthy, except one male under the age group of 35 to 40, suffering from mild fever. One woman is pregnant.

Further regular contact programmes certainly help in developing friendly relations between Jarawa tribe and the so called civilized human community. So that the aggressive and attack tendency gradually dilute among the Jarawas.

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