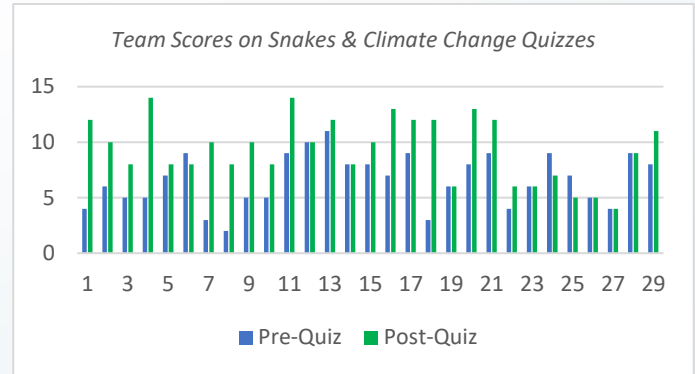




Funded by the Institute for Environmental Futures (IEF) Visiting Fellowship Scheme, Ms Lauren MacLeod and her host Dr. Nibedita Ray-Bennett conducted three innovative awareness-raising outreach workshops from 10 to 13 April 2024 in Odisha, India. The workshops were delivered at three government-run Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan (OAVS) higher secondary schools. The workshops facilitated knowledge exchange on snakes, climate change and snakebite deaths through quizzes, discussion and consultation and scope for future collaboration with [Avoidable Deaths Network](#) (ADN). 165 participants attended the workshops. Of these 165 participants, 151 were students (aged 12 – 17) and 14 were teachers across the schools OAVS Sasanambagan, OAVS Rajapur and OAVS Kusumi in the Blocks of Hinjilicut, Beguniapada and Kukudakhandi respectively.

questions aloud and asking questions to ensure an optimum understanding of the content.



During the workshops, it was evident that the students had an appetite for knowledge on this topic, with a list of 30 questions asked by the participants and the request for emergency response tuition. The workshops sparked the start of a fruitful relationship between the students in the rural district of Ganjam and ADN. The IEC materials on snakes and snakebites are currently being distributed in Ganjam to high-risk groups including children, women, farmers and herders through the ADN's [Case Station for Avoidable Snakebite Deaths](#) (CaSA).



The participants engaged with four information, education and communication (IEC) posters on snakes and snakebites in relation to 'myths and misconceptions' (Ray-Bennett, 2024a, 2024b), climate change (MacLeod *et al.*, 2024) and prevention (Mohapatra and Dutta, no date). To assess the impact, the participants were quizzed on their knowledge before and after engaging with the IEC materials on myths, misconceptions and climate change.



For myths and misconceptions of snakes, the participants had good existing knowledge of eight out of 11 questions. There were three nuanced questions which required

further discussion: i. Snakes drink milk, ii. Snakebites take place throughout the year, and iii. Snakebites are high from 6.0 pm to 12.0 am. For snakes and climate change, the participants worked in 29 groups. On average (mean), the teams scored 7 points in the pre-quiz; this rose to 9 points in the post-quiz. The responses of 66% of teams improved between the pre- and post-quiz, with improvements of up to 9 marks. The poster on Snakes of Odisha was discussed interactively with students taking turns reading the poster, answering

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