



On-Field Awareness Programme on Sacred Grove Conservation

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The CEtC Hornbill Foundation at MES Asmabi College Campus hosted an on-field awareness programme on Sacred Grove Conservation for School students on November 21, 2024. The event, held at the Sanghukulangara Kavu, aimed to educate and inspire the Biodiversity Club members from Anchangadi School about the importance of sacred groves and their conservation. This programme was an extension activity of the foundation's ongoing efforts to promote biodiversity and ecological awareness.



Programme Overview

The session commenced with a visit to the Sanghukulangara Kavu, a revered sacred grove that stands as a testament to traditional ecological wisdom and cultural and Biodiversity heritage. The students were guided through the grove, observing its intricate ecosystem and unique biodiversity. The visit provided a hands-on learning experience, helping students understand the dynamics of sacred groves and their critical role in conserving biodiversity, maintaining ecological balance, and sustaining cultural traditions.

Technical Session and Orientation

A highlight of the programme was the technical session conducted by Dr. Amitha Bachan K H, Assistant Professor, Department of Botany. Dr. Bachan provided an insightful orientation on the significance of sacred groves, emphasizing their ecological, cultural, and spiritual values. Key topics covered included:

1. **Biodiversity Conservation:** The role of sacred groves as biodiversity hotspots, housing rare and endemic species of flora and fauna.
2. **Cultural Significance:** The traditional beliefs and practices associated with sacred groves that have contributed to their preservation over centuries.
3. **Ecosystem Services:** The ecosystem services provided by sacred groves, such as water conservation, carbon sequestration, and climate regulation.
4. **Conservation Challenges:** Threats posed by urbanization, deforestation, and neglect, and the need for community participation in conservation efforts.



Dr. Bachan's interactive approach engaged the students, encouraging them to share their observations and ask questions. The session highlighted the interconnectedness of traditional knowledge and modern conservation practices, inspiring the participants to take an active role in preserving their natural heritage.

Outcomes and Feedback

The programme successfully achieved its objectives of raising awareness and fostering a sense of responsibility among the students towards sacred grove conservation. The participants expressed their enthusiasm for contributing to biodiversity preservation initiatives in their community. Feedback from both students and teachers indicated that the experience was enriching and thought-provoking.

Conclusion

The on-field awareness programme at Sanghukulangara Kavau was a significant step in sensitizing young minds to the importance of sacred groves. By combining experiential learning with expert guidance, the event effectively highlighted the need for conservation and the value of traditional ecological knowledge. The CEtC Hornbill Foundation remains committed to promoting biodiversity conservation and looks forward to organizing more such initiatives to empower the next generation of environmental stewards.

