

Project Update: September 2017

Workshop on conservation of lateritic plateaus and their biodiversity

This was a 2-day residential workshop held at Chaukul Grampanchayat on 11th and 12th September 2017. Chaukul Grampanchayat, villagers, Chaukul highschool, Forest Department Amboli, Malabar Nature Conservation Club Amboli (MNCC) and Department of Botany- Goa University have played different roles in organisation of this workshop. A total of around 70 participants (including Chaukul villagers and school children, MNCC) participated in this programme. A total of 34 participants were from different colleges such as, Shri Pancham Khemraj College, Sawantwadi (23 participants); Sant Rawool Maharaj Mahavidyalaya, Kudal (two participants); Anandibai Raorane Arts, Commerce & Science College Vaibhavwadi (two participants); Gogate Jogalekar College, Ratnagir (two participants); Abasaheb Marathe Arts & New Commerce Science College, Rajapur (three participants); Department of Botany GSS College, Belgaum (two participants). Villagers from nearby villages those who are working in conservation area, ecotourism also participated.

Main objectives of this workshop are i) Educate the students about lateritic plateaus and their biodiversity and ii) Creating awareness about conservation and sustainable ecotourism. Different activities were carried out such as, lectures, group discussion, field trips, essay competition, exhibition of handicrafts, etc.

Lecturers

- Dr Surendra Thakurdesai (Department of Geography, Gogate-Jogalekar College, Ratnagiri)

Topic: Lateritic plateaus of Konkan: Formation and Characteristics

He gave basic idea about formation of lateritic plateaus in Western Ghats, their characteristics, chemical processes, about their uniqueness, their effect on species present on them, etc.

- Prof S. R Yadav (Department of Botany, Shivaji University, Kolhapur)

Topic: Plant diversity of lateritic plateaus in northern Western Ghats and its importance
He showed different lateritic plateaus and unique species, their ecological role, etc.

- Mr Kaka Bhise (Malabar Nature Conservation Club, Amboli)

Topic: Contribution of MNCC in conservation of Biodiversity of Amboli

He introduced about activities conducted by MNCC for students, people, etc.

- M. Shashank Marathe (Kirat Trust, Vengurla)

Topic: Ecotourism

Home stay, availability, conservation, different skins etc.

Field Visits

a. Night trail – Mr. Rahul Prabhu-Khanolkar (Mhadei Research Center, Goa) conducted this session. During field he explained about frogs, their calls, different body parts, importance. Chaukul plateau is famous for different unique species of frogs also.

b. Nature trail – This session was conducted by research students of Goa University Microhabitats on lateritic plateau, herbaceous vegetation, ecological role, plants-

animal interaction (by Mr Anup Deshpande, Miss Prabha Pillai and I) and bird watching, photography (By Mr Kiran Gaude) etc.

Activities for school children

To understand student's view about Chaukul plateaus and their vegetation this session was arranged. The students from 8th, 9th and 10th standard actively participated in this session. Best essay (1) and best handicraft (2). Mr. Suryakant Gaokar (Vivekand) will be guiding school children on this session (On special request from School teachers)

a. Essay competition

In simple words students have expressed about plateaus and their surrounding diversity. They are aware about unique herbaceous vegetation and uniqueness about their village.

b. Exhibition

Handicraft things such as collage, drawing, bouquets from available vegetation prepared

Group Discussion

This session was for students for different collages. Topics such as different tools used in ecology work, photography, conservation, threats, and government policies for conservation were discussed.



Dr. Surendra Thakurdesai delivering lecture



Prof S. R. Yadav



Prof. S. R. Yadav visit for exhibition



Mr. Shashank Marathe



Participants from colleges and nearby villages



Group discussion



Prize distribution for students



Field Trip



Team