

Role of educational institution in conservation

Harish R. Bhat,
Energy and Wetland Research Group,
Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian
Institute of Science,
Bangalore 560 012;



email: harishrbhat@gmail.com

Man- Nature

- Co-evolved with nature
- Always considered himself as an integral part of nature
- Enriched his knowledge through constant interaction with nature
- Livelihood dependence mostly on natural resources hence respected nature
- Emphasized sustainable harvest through tradition and culture

Landscapes, waterscapes, flora and fauna

- Landscapes and waterscapes were considered as integral and important component
- Flora – especially medicinal plants along with few keystone species
- Fauna- Many of the species with ecological significance with their goods and services

Important landscapes



Mountains



Waterscapes





Waterscapes











Marine species





Crop Diversity

- **India is a center of crop diversity - the homeland of 167 cultivated species and 320 wild relatives of crop plants.**
- **There are 167 crop species and wild relatives.**
- **India is considered to be the center of origin of 30,000-50,000 varieties of rice, pigeon-pea, mango, turmeric, ginger, sugarcane, gooseberries etc.**
- **Ranks seventh in terms of contribution to world agriculture.**



Natural resources



Natural resources



Conservation programmes through schools:

There is a need to look after the ecological well being

Careful planning on conserving, sustainably using and restoring the biological diversity across the length and breadth of the Indian sub-continent is the need of the hour.

The local educational institutions along with Eco-clubs, National Green Corps and other relevant programmes plays a significant role in generating and compiling information

Method:

Background information

Peoplescape

Lifescape

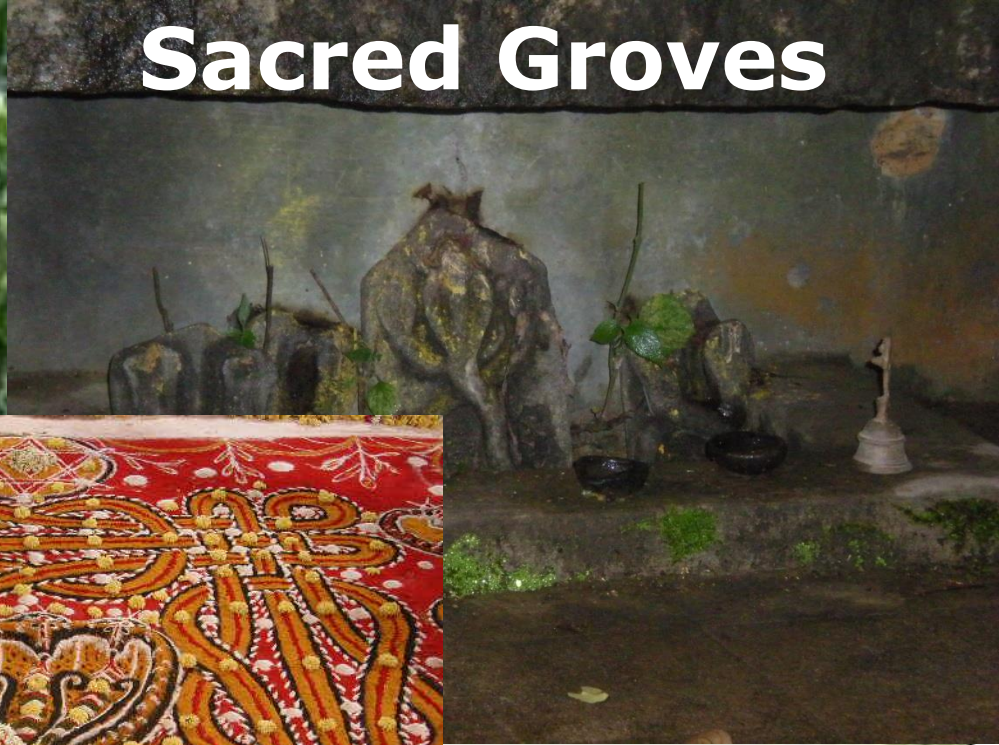






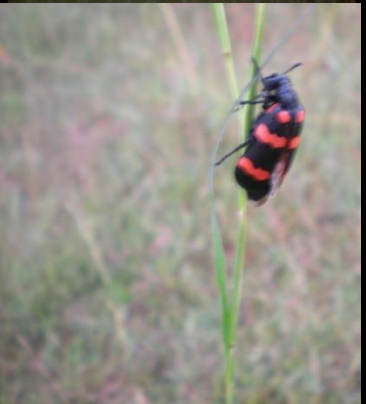


Sacred Groves









Exotic Species



Values of biodiversity

- **1. Direct values – consumptive use values**
- **2. Indirect values – non consumptive value (climate, soil, water)**
 - **Aesthetical, social and cultural value**
- **Consumptive use – animals, fish, plants**
- **Productive use – pesticide, medicinal, cultural, social, ethical**

Present value

- **Commercial**
- **Less ethics and non-sustainable practice**
- **Survival strategies**
- **Assessments**
- **Evaluation**
- **Traditional concept manipulation**
- **Disrespect to ecosystem's goods and services**
- **Quantity is important than quality**
- **Human-centric value for all diversity and ecosystems**

- **Values ascribed by all stake holders were in terms of the ecosystem services apart from their livelihood, which could be quantified in terms of the loss incurred after the status of lakes deteriorated**
- **Unfortunately many of the lakes, though appears 'good' is not qualifying in terms of the ecosystem services rendered due to anthropogenic problems such as encroachments, landscape transformation, alteration of the catchment area, pollution due to sewage inundation**

Strategies:

- Fencing tank boundaries to be undertaken
- Promote the concept of grass-covered bunds
- Repair tank channels
- Protect flora around tank areas
- Catchment areas need to be protected
- Strictly ban borewells near tank areas
- Ban brick kilns and quarrying near tank areas
- Mechanized fishing to be banned
- Regulate usage of tanks & clear encroachment
- Regulate fishing, hunting of aquatic birds
- Certain rare fish species areas need to have full protection

