

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

RIVER REJUVENATION PROGRAM

Yuvatha Nadiyodoppam

Rivers are considered as the lifelines of a nation. A river (*Nadi*) is a natural flowing water source usually freshwater, flowing towards an ocean, sea, lake or another river. Rivers are rich sources of fish and other edible aquatic life and major sources of fresh water, which can be used for drinking and irrigation. They had a big role in the emergence of civilizations in ancient times. Today many major cities find its place on the banks of rivers. Rivers have been used for navigation for thousands of years. They are natural habitats for many organisms. They also promote the growth of thick vegetation in their banks, creating rich biodiversity.

There are 44 rivers in Kerala. Among them 41 flows westward and 3 flows eastward. The rivers in Kerala are facing challenges due to high density of population, unscientific development, encroachment, sand mining, pollution etc. The educated Youth of Kerala have vital role to play in this context especially for the protection of our rivers.

By understanding the grave situation, the NSS Cell of the University of Kerala in association with the Department of Revenue, Government of Kerala initiated *YUVATHA NADIYODOPPAM* as its flagship programme. As part of the programme, NSS units of various colleges under the University of Kerala organized several activities such as 'puzha nadatham', cleaning of rivers, planting of trees in the

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river banks etc. The NSS units of Govt. College, Kariavattom also got the opportunity to put their fingerprint in the conservation of rivers.

Fiftyone volunteers under the leadership of Programme Officers visited the starting point of Vamanapuram river in Thellikachal, Pullampara, near Venjaramoodu on 17th February 2019. A meeting was arranged near the river at 10.15 am which was inaugurated by the Panchayath Vice- President Sri. Sreekandan Nair. An awareness class was also conducted. Sri. Balakrishnan, an environmentalist, was the resource person. After the class, the volunteers planted 200 mangrove plants in the riverbanks. They also conducted a rally through the riverside carrying placards and banner. Popular leaders and the local people joined hands with the volunteers for the success of the programme. It was very memorable to the young volunteers.



Fig: Inauguration Function of *nadiyodoppam* programme at Pullanpara panchayath, Vamanapuram

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Fig: Interactive Session about Vamanapuram River and its protection



Fig: Cleaning and planting of bamboo saplings along the banks of Vamanapuram River



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Fig: Valedictory Function of *Nadiyodoppam* Program at Phoenix Club Auditorium, Vamanapuram