

REPORT ON
NATIONAL SEMINAR
ON
CONSERVATIONAL STRATEGIES & SOCIAL
EMPOWERMENT IN WESTERN GHATS



09/11/23 & 10/11/23
Government College Kariavattom

We delighted here to present the report of the 2 day National Seminar on Conservational Strategies and Social Empowerment in Western Ghats jointly organized by Dept. of Geography and Zoology. Eventhough, this may be an official or a formal way of presenting a report, it also takes us to recall and review a glimpse of the events that happened here in the last 2 days.

The National Seminar on Conservational Strategies and Social Empowerment in Western Ghats by the Dept. of Geography and Zoology began with a grand ceremony on 9/11/23 at 10am. The minister of forest and wildlife, Govt. of Kerala Shri. AK Saseendran inaugurated the event in the presence of Shri. kadakampally surendran, the member of Legislative Assembly, Dr. PS Easa, Chariman, Aranyakam Nature Foundation and Former Director KFRI, Principal Dr. Sandhia GS, Vice Principal, IQAC Coordinator, staffs, student representatives and all the participants. The key note address by Prof. Jayachandra Kumar, Geographer and Retd. Principal Govt. College Munnar gave a detailed sight on the physiography of Western Ghats and its significance. Dr Easa inaugurated the exhibition hall in the B block that covers the theme of the seminar.



Receiving The Chief Guest by College Principal Prof.Sandhia



Inauguration of Seminar by Hon. Minister for Forests and Wild Life Shri AK Shasheendran. Shri Kadakampally Surendram MLA Presided the function.



Honouring Prof. Jayachandrakumar Retd. Principal Govt College Munnar



Inaguration session of seminar

The resource person for our next session was Dr. PS Easa, the former director Kerala Forest Research Institute on the topic “Biodiversity conservation challenges”. He has taken the audience to a higher level to think being a responsible citizens in addressing to conserve the genetic diversity of Western Ghats, the challenges in identifying the hot specs among the hotspots, changes in the land use and habitat shrinkage and the need of ecosystem resilience.



Session 2 by Dr PS Easa

The afternoon session began with Dr. T R Jayakumari, Retd. Professor in Botany, Govt. Womens' College on "the Endemism in Western Ghats". The session focused on plant diversity, the endemic plant species of Ghats and how sanctuaries are designated for a particular species in our country.



Session 3 by Dr. TR Jayakumari

The fourth and the last session of the day was on the “Sustainability of tourism destinations in Western Ghats” by Dr. Sindhu Joseph, Assistant Professor of Travel and Tourism Management, Govt. College Manjeshwaram brought before the audience many successful examples of various well known highly packed tourist destinations that were able to preserve the naturality of the region along with wealth by implementing ‘world based certified destinations rank’. She stressed that the more practical way to preserve the tourist spots in Western Ghats is to move with “A carrying capacity focused tourism planning”.



Session 4 by Dr Sindhu Joseph

On 10/11/23, the session began with “Discovering and conserving Soil biodiversity: the Case of Western Ghats” by Dr. Ramachandram Kotharambath. The central point of the session is on the soil being the main global reservoir of biodiversity and need to include geography as a paper for the zoologist and vice versa, if one moves on with a focus of biodiversity conservation. He took the participants to a much interesting height through willow tree experiment in alaysing the wonders of the soil.



Session 5 by Dr Ramachandran K

Dr. Richard Scaria, Expert member of Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority taken the next session on Challenges and facts of Zone Management in Western Ghats. The showed us how with ages the studies and knowledge changes from information to interpretation and from subjective to critic taking the site of ghats in a subjective manner. He also shared his research experience in Attapady and need of an individual to understand spatial, socio-cultural and functional morphology in meeting the challenges on ghats.



Session 6 by Dr Richard Scaria

The 7th session by the Assistant Conservator of Forest, Govt. of Kerala Sri. Baiju Krishnan exposed us on the Participatory Forest Management through Socially empowering the people particularly focusing on the Western Ghats Management in Kerala. He discussed the different approaches of forest management, the concept of ecodevelopment and tribal welfare and the pros and the cons of current forest policies.



Session 7 by Shri Baiju Krishnan

Keynote address for the valedictory function by our Guest Sri. James Jacob, President of Upputhura Grama Panchayat and also the alumini of our college. In the keynote address, he mainly focused about the social strategies which are aimed for better planning action in Ecologically Sensitive zones. He made a special focus on the plans and actions which are under implementation in Upputhara Panchayat in Idukki district. The report presentation about the seminar was done by Dr. Karthika (Assistant Professor in Geography) and seminar ended with vote of thanks from Dr. Dhanush, co-ordinator of the seminar. The National Seminar was ended successfully by entrust that

the sessions met the expectations of audience and the topics did its justice to the theme of seminar.



Session 8 by Shri James K Jacob



Valedictory Function of 2 days Seminar

Events organized associated with the Seminar

1. Competitions for School and college students

In connection with the national seminar, four different types of competitions were organized for students outside the campus

They were

- a) Essay writing competition for Higher secondary and high school level students on 6/11/23 Monday
- b) Quiz Competition for Higher Secondary and High school level students on 6/11/23 Monday
- c) Poster Making Competition for Graduate and post graduate students on 7/11/23 Tuesday
- d) Elocution competition for Graduate and Post Graduate students on 7/11/23 Tuesday



Awards were distributed to winners on the inaugural ceremony of the seminar by Hon. Minister Shri AK Shasheendran on 9/11/23 Thursday

**NATIONAL SEMINAR ON
"CONSERVATIONAL STRATEGIES AND SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT
IN WESTERN GHATS"
09 & 10 NOVEMBER 2023**

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION



A. ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION

Eligibility- Higher secondary/High school level students

B. QUIZ COMPETITION

Eligibility- Higher secondary/High school level students

EVENT DATE- 06/11/2023



C. POSTER MAKING COMPETITION

Eligibility- Graduation/Postgraduation students



D. ELOCUTION COMPETITION

Eligibility- Graduation/Postgraduation students

EVENT DATE- 07/11/2023



- Only one team per institution, with two-member team allowed to compete in the quiz competition.
- A maximum of two participants from a single institution may compete in the essay writing, elocution and poster-making competitions.



Scan the QR code to register

FREE REGISTRATION

CASH PRIZES



**GOVT. COLLEGE
KARIAVATTOM**

Register before **05/11/2023** to participate in competitions
For more details and for registration, Kindly visit -
<https://govtcollegekariavattom.ac.in>

2. Exhibition

In connection with the seminar a special attention focused on an exhibition with relates sub themes. Models , Charts, Posters etc are prepared by students from department of Geography and Biotechnology in this institution for past two weeks laborious as well as enthusiastic work. Dr Karthika K, Assistant Professor from Department of Geography coordinated the task.

The exhibition hall/event inaugurated by Dr P S Easa Member of Zoological Survey of India (Former Director, Kerala Forest research Institute). More than 1000 students and research scholars visited the pavilion.



Dr PS Easa Inaugurating the Exhibition hall

3. Field Trip

Field trip were carried out to Thellickal Village of Pullampara Panchayath, Vamanapuram. The main aim of the visit is to showcase the activities carried out by authorities of this village and government college Kariavattom in preserving the conservation of Vamanapuram River and its banks.



Conclusion

We call this seminar as inter disciplinary as well as inter zonal as with the collaboration of Geography and Zoology Departments and the participants from outside the campus. They were mainly from Farooq college Calicut, Department Of Geography Kannur university, Sree Sankaracharya University kalady Ernakulam, NSS College Cherthala Alapuzha, NSS college Pandalam Pathanamthitta and a number of colleges within Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam district. Rather than proud we bend our hearts with the participants and overall supporter Dierctor, Collegiate Education, Government of Kerala.



Preparation for the Seminar

NATIONAL SEMINAR
ON
"CONSERVATIONAL STRATEGIES AND
SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT IN WESTERN GHATS"

09/11/2023 & 10/11/2023

ORGANIZED BY

DEPARTMENTS OF GEOGRAPHY & ZOOLOGY
GOVERNMENT COLLEGE KARIAVATTOM

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
DIRECTORATE OF COLLEGIATE EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT OF KERALA



**Directorate of
COLLEGIATE EDUCATION**
Government of Kerala

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The college was established in 1993 as an annexe of the Undergraduate Wing of University College Thiruvananthapuram. Later, in 1997, these courses were shifted back and the college was renamed Government College Kariavattom. The college introduced undergraduate courses in the Choice Based Credit and Semester Scheme (CBCSS) of University of Kerala. Today, the college offers seven undergraduate programs and two postgraduate programs. The college is located in the northern part of Thiruvananthapuram city and is about 14 km from the city center.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENTS

The National Seminar has been jointly organized by Department of Geography and Zoology. The Department of Geography proudly crosses its 25th year of academic cherishment with a good alumni as well as scholars in earth sciences and environmental management. The department invites and offers physical and human components and their interactions on Earth space. The department can offer good technological innovations in geospatial technologies and employment opportunities due to its proximity to the district's IT hub (Technopark). The Department of Zoology was established in 1997 at Government College Kariavattom which offer Zoology major and minor courses to undergraduate students. The department possess ICT enabled classroom and well equipped research laboratories. This course inspires students to take a journey into and investigate the field of science and enables them to study the animal kingdom, its diversity, evolution, behavior, taxonomy, habitats, embryology, physiology, genetics, etc., down to the molecular level.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The seminars focus on progressing in an Interdisciplinary manner as we intend to organize this event jointly with the Departments of Geography and Zoology of this institution. The main theme of the program fits well with the subject matter in both these disciplines. The coordination and delimitation of the elements of biodiversity and the conflicts of the social elements can be discussed on good platforms of these two disciplines. We, particularly every life form residing in the South Indian region, have been benefiting in one way or another from the western ghats. Therefore, we intend on setting up this seminar on a larger platform so that presenters and audience members from diverse backgrounds can participate and express their opinions.

The Western Ghats are a mountain range that stretches along the west coast of India and is considered one of the 8 hottest biodiversity hotspots in the world. The region hosts an incredible diversity of flora and fauna, provides water for irrigation and domestic use, contributes to climate regulation in the Indian subcontinent, has cultural and historical significance, and is a popular ecotourism destination. The Western Ghats are home to a vast array of flora and fauna, with over 7,400 species of flowering plants, 139 species of mammals, 508 species of birds, 179 species of amphibians, and 290 species of freshwater fish. The Western Ghats are the source of many of India's great rivers, including the Godavari, the Krishna, the Cauvery, and the Tungabhadra. These rivers provide water to millions of people for irrigation, drinking, and other domestic purposes. Given their critical role in India's biodiversity, water resources, climate regulation, and cultural heritage, it is important to protect and conserve the Western Ghats for the benefit of the people who depend on them.

The Supreme Court passed a judgement in June 2022 in connection with the conservation of the Western Ghats. It declared one kilometre around protected forests as ecologically sensitive zones (ESZ). It also banned permanent constructions within ESZs. Mining within national wildlife sanctuaries or national parks was also prohibited. The court noted that a complete ban was not right and would interfere with people's daily activities. **"What should be banned should be banned. What needs to be controlled must be controlled,"** the court said.

THRUST AREAS

ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT IN WESTERN GHATS

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

SOCIAL AWAKENING IN WESTERN GHATS

ZONE MANAGEMENT IN WESTERN GHATS



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Day 1 09/11/2023 Thursday

Registration starts from 9.00 am

Session 1 - Inauguration by **Shri A K Saseendran**

(Hon. Minister for Forest and Wildlife, Govt. of Kerala)

Key Note Address - Prof. Jayachandra Kumar, Principal (Retd), Govt. College Munnar, Idukki.

Session 2 - Invited Talk on "*Biodiversity Conservation Challenges*" -

Dr PS Easa, Chairman, Aranyakam Nature Foundation & Director (Former) Kerala Forest Research Institute

Session 3 - Invited Talk on "*Western Ghats and Endemism*" -

Dr. TR Jayakumari, Head (Retd.), Dept. of Botany, Government Womens College, Thiruvananthapuram.

Session 4 - Invited Talk on "*Sustainability of Tourism Destinations in Western Ghats*" -

Dr Sindhu Joseph, Head, Dept. of Travel and Tourism Management, GPM Govt. College, Manjeswaram, Kasaragod

Day 2: 10/11/2023 Friday

Session 5 - Invited Talk on "*Discovering and Conserving Soil Biodiversity: the case of Western Ghats*" -

Dr Ramachandran Kotharambath, Asst Prof., Department of Zoology, Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod.

Session 6- Invited Talk on "*Zone Management in Western Ghats: Challenges and Facts*" -

Dr Richard Scaria, Expert Member- Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority, Government of Kerala & Asst Prof., Department of Geography, Govt College Chittur, Palakkad.

Session 7: - Invited Talk on "*PFM & Social Empowerment in Western Ghats: Special Scene in Kerala*" -

Sri. Baiju Krishnan, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Kerala Forest Department.

Session 8: Valedictory Function

Keynote address - Sri. James K Jacob, President, Upputhara Grama Panchayat, Idukki District.

CALL FOR COMPETITION

The following activities were planned related to the seminar's theme to increase student awareness and interest:

Competitions in ESSAY WRITING and QUIZ are offered for higher secondary/ high school level students.

POSTER MAKING and ELOCUTION COMPETITION are offered for graduate/postgraduate students.

Only one team per institution, with two-member team allowed to compete in the quiz competition. A maximum of two participants from a single institution may compete in the essay writing, elocution and poster-making competitions. Last date of registration to competitions is 05/11/2023. The winners' medals and cash awards will be presented out on 09 November 2023, during the seminar's inauguration. For participation and further details about competitions, Kindly visit <https://govtcollegekariavattom.ac.in> or mail us at cssewg@gmail.com.

FIELD TRIP

In connection with this National Seminar, a field trip has been organized on 11/11/2023 (3rd Day of the seminar) to visit the activities in conserving Vamanapuram River at Pullampara Grama Panchayat near Venjaramoodu, Thiruvananthapuram District for creating a sense of reality in a real awareness for the participants. The Vamanapuram river has its origin in the ChemunjiMotta hills on the Western Ghats at about 1,860m, above MSL. The river has length of 88 km and ends up in Anjengo lake in Varkala which spreads along the Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam districts. Field trip will be between 8.00 am - 01.00 pm.

Interested participants can register for the trip on the first day of seminar.



Registration

Prospective participants are requested to register in advance for the seminar. Registrations can be made by completing the online registration form available in the following link - <https://forms.gle/XvrXa67iMb5SZy8A6> or by scanning the barcode. Limited number of spot registrations may also be available.



Venue & Accommodation

The venue of the seminar is at **Seminar Hall, Government College Kariavattom** at Kariavattom, Thiruvananthapuram. Accommodation for the registered participants may be arranged on request. For Tariffs and other details, please contact the convener, National seminar on "conservational strategies and social empowerment in western ghats"

For more details, Kindly visit our web site <https://govtcollegiekariavattom.ac.in> or mail us at : cssewg@gmail.com

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Advisory Committee

Prof. (Dr.) Sandhia GS (Principal, Government College Kariavattom)
Dr. Tina Elizabeth Mathew (Vice Principal, Government College Kariavattom)
Dr. Radhika A (IQAC co-ordinator, Government College Kariavattom)

Co-ordinator

Dr. Dhanush DM (Asst. Prof. & Head, Department of Geography, GCK)

Convener

Dr. Raghul Subin S (Asst. Prof., Department of Zoology, GCK)

Organizing Secretaries

Sri Jayaram V S (Asst. Prof. & Head, Department of Zoology, GCK)
Dr. Sabeen HM (Asst. Prof. & Head, Department of Geology, GCK)
Dr. Nishad N (Asst. Prof., Department of Geography, GCK)
Dr. Karthika K (Asst. Prof., Department of Geography, GCK)
Smt. Mereena CS (Asst. Prof., Department of Geography, GCK)
Dr. Abhilash A (Asst. Prof., Department of Zoology, GCK)
Dr. Prakash A (Asso. Professor, Department of Hindi, GCK)
Sri. Manoj KS (Asst. Professor, Department of Malayalam, GCK)
Sri. Aneesh Kumar (Lab Asst., Department of Geography, GCK)
Sri. Shibin Raj (Lab Asst., Department of Zoology, GCK)



Directorate of
COLLEGIATE EDUCATION
Government of Kerala

CONTACT DETAILS

Co-ordinator

Dr Dhanush DM
Head, Department of Geography,
Government College Kariavattom
Phone-6282853846, dhanushdm@gmail.com

Convener

Dr Raghul Subin S
Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology,
Government College Kariavattom
Ph: 9447701756, raghulzubin@gmail.com

For more details, kindly visit our web site <https://govtcollegiekariavattom.ac.in> or mail us at : cssewg@gmail.com

Our speakers (DAY 2)



Dr Ramachandran Kotharambath,

Asst Prof., Department of Zoology,
Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod.



Dr Richard Scaria

Expert Member- Kerala Coastal Zone
Management Authority, Government of Kerala &
Asst Prof., Department of Geography,
Govt College Chittur, Palakkad



Sri. Baiju Krishnan

Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Forest Department, Government of Kerala



Sri. James K Jacob

President, Upputhara Grama Panchayat,
Idukki District.



Inauguration



Shri A K Saseendran

Hon. Minister for Forest and Wildlife,
Government of Kerala

Our speakers (DAY 1)



Dr P S Easa

Chairman, Aranyakam Nature Foundation &
Director (Former)
Kerala Forest Research Institute



Prof. Jayachandra Kumar

Principal (Retd),
Govt. College Munnar, Idukki



Dr. T R Jayakumari

Writer, Environmentalist and
Head (Retd.), Dept. of Botany,
Government Womens College,
Thiruvananthapuram.



Dr Sindhu Joseph

Head, Dept. of Travel and Tourism
Management, GPM Govt. College,
Manjeswaram, Kasaragod