



SAFA | COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

(Affiliated to University of Calicut)

Pookkattiri, Edayur P.O, Valanchery, Malappuram Dist. Kerala - 676552

☎ 0494 2988810, 2988808 ✉ safacollegeoffice@gmail.com

www.safacollege.ac.in



BIODIVERSITY CLUB ANNUAL REPORT (2023~24)

Co-Ordinator: Mujeeb. K

(Assistant Professor, PG Department of Commerce)



INDEX

SL.NO	Description	Page No
1	ABOUT	3
2	OBJECTIVES	4
3	ACTIVITIES	5
3.1	ENVIRONMENT DAY OBSERVATION	5
3.2	VIDYAVANAM PROJECT	6
3.3	HRBAL GARDEN	7
3.4	EDYUR CHILLY CULTIVATION	8
3.5	CAMPUS FLORA EXPLORATION (a biodiversity survey)	9
3.6	PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST	10
3.7	WATER FOR BIRDS	11
4	PHOTOS	12

ABOUT

The Biodiversity Club at SAFA College of Arts and Science is a vibrant community dedicated to exploring, conserving and promoting biodiversity on and off our campus. Comprised of passionate students, faculty and staff from various backgrounds, the club organizes a wide range of activities and initiatives aimed at creating awareness about the importance of biodiversity conservation. Through educational workshops, field trips, research projects, and community outreach programs, the Biodiversity Club fosters a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of all species and ecosystems. By actively engaging in efforts to protect and enhance biodiversity, members of the club contribute to building a sustainable future for generations to come.

The Biodiversity Club has more than 50 student members at present. It works in association with the Kerala State Biodiversity Board. The Club plays the leading role in protection and preservation of the Earth's rich variety of plant and animal life.

OBJECTIVES

- ♣ Promote the conservation and preservation of biodiversity and natural habitats in the local community or region.
- ♣ Increase awareness and understanding of biodiversity and its significance among club members and the wider community.
- ♣ Conduct research projects and studies to document and monitor biodiversity in the local area.
- ♣ Take part in restoration initiatives aimed at rehabilitating degraded ecosystems or habitats.
- ♣ Engage in advocacy efforts to influence policies and practices that impact biodiversity conservation.
- ♣ Encourage active participation and engagement of community members in biodiversity conservation.
- ♣ Collaborate with other environmental organizations, clubs, or initiatives to leverage resources, knowledge, and collective efforts in promoting biodiversity conservation.
- ♣ Organizing and attending seminars and awareness classes, conducts debates and quiz competitions
- ♣ Conducting field visits & nature education camp in ecologically significant areas especially in forest ecosystem

ACTIVITIES

I. ENVIRONMENT DAY OBSERVATION

The Biodiversity Club at SAFA College of Arts and Science commemorated World Environment Day with a dynamic program aimed at environmental conservation and awareness on 5th June 2024. Under the distinguished presence of Mr. PV Nidhin, Principal of the college, the program was inaugurated with great enthusiasm and commitment to fostering a greener future. Led by Mr. Mujeeb, the club's staff coordinator, the event saw active participation from club members who planted a variety of trees both within and outside the college campus. This hands-on initiative not only contributed to enhancing the green cover of the college surroundings but also promoted biodiversity and ecological balance in the wider community.

Through this program, the Biodiversity Club reaffirmed its dedication to environmental stewardship and sustainable practices, aligning with the global efforts to protect and preserve our planet. As a result of the collective efforts of club members, faculty, and the wider college community, the program served as a powerful reminder of the importance of individual and collective action in safeguarding our environment for future generations.

II. VIDYAVANAM PROJECT

The Biodiversity Club of SAFA College of Arts and Science, in collaboration with the Forestry Club, undertook a significant initiative known as the Vidyavanam Project, aimed at creating and maintaining a mini forest within the college campus. Spanning across a 5-cent plot, this project involved the planting of approximately 500 different species of plants, contributing to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity within our college premises.

Throughout the year, the Biodiversity Club has been actively engaged in various maintenance activities to ensure the health and vitality of the plants within the Vidyavanam Project. This includes regular watering, pruning, weeding, and fertilization to promote optimal growth and development of the plant species. Additionally, members of the club conduct periodic inspections to monitor the health of the plants, identify any signs of disease or pest infestation, and take necessary measures to address them promptly.

Apart from making the college campus more attractive, conservation and management of the Biodiversity Club's Vidyavanam project has provided important habitat for local flora and fauna. The club serves as an inspiration to the entire college community by nurturing this small forest ecosystem that exemplifies dedication to environmental protection, biodiversity conservation and sustainable practices.

III. HRBAL GARDEN

By creating a herbal garden on campus, the Biodiversity Club at Safa College has started a worthwhile project to preserve indigenous herbal plants. By actively involving college students, this project seeks to protect and enhance the unique biodiversity of herbal plants. Members of the club invite students to bring different kinds of herbs so that the collection becomes more diverse..

After their collection, the herbal plants are carefully planted in the campus garden area. The planting procedure has been carefully planned by the Biodiversity Club, who make sure that the right conditions are provided for each species to flourish. Students can learn about plant care and ecosystem management through practical experience in the garden. The club has compiled information on the many plant species, resulting in a teaching tool that informs all pupils about the medicinal and environmental advantages of these plants.

To ensure the sustainability of the herbal garden, Biodiversity Club members conduct regular visits to maintain the plants. These maintenance activities include watering, weeding, and monitoring plant health. This ongoing care not only helps in the healthy growth of the garden but also reinforces the importance of consistent environmental management practices. The herbal garden has become a vibrant part of the campus, symbolizing the college's commitment to biodiversity conservation and environmental education

IV. EDYUR CHILLY CULTIVATION

On August 23, 2023, Biodiversity Club organized a significant activity focusing on the cultivation of Edayur chilly, a local cultivar renowned for its unique flavor and quality. Edayur chilly, having received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, holds a prestigious status as a product of geographical significance. The objective of the activity was not only to promote the cultivation of Edayur chilly but also to raise awareness about the importance of preserving and promoting local agricultural heritage.

The cultivation activity inaugurated by Mr. Shafeeq (NSS Program Officer), and Co-ordinated by Mr. Mujeeb (Biodiversity Club Coordinator) Volunteers received training on best practices for chilly cultivation, including soil preparation, seed sowing, irrigation methods, and pest management techniques. With the support of local farmers, selected areas of land were prepared for chilly cultivation, ensuring optimal growing conditions for the Edayur chilly plants.

After preparation of land the volunteers planted Edayur Chilly seedlings collected from Edayur Krishi Bhavan. symbolizing a collective effort to preserve and promote the cultivation of this indigenous crop. Through hands-on participation, volunteers gained valuable insights into traditional farming practices and the significance of preserving local agricultural heritage. The cultivation activity served as a platform for knowledge exchange, community engagement, and the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices.

V. CAMPUS FLORA EXPLORATION (A biodiversity survey)

On the 5th of December, the Biodiversity Club at Safa College successfully conducted a comprehensive survey aimed at identifying various species of plants within the campus grounds. The program commenced with an inauguration ceremony graced by Dr. P.V. Nidhin, the esteemed Principal of Safa College. Dr. Nidhin emphasized the significance of biodiversity and the role such initiatives play in fostering environmental awareness among students. The event was coordinated by Mr. Mujeeb K, Assistant Professor of the PG Department of Commerce, who highlighted the interdisciplinary nature of the project and its importance in promoting sustainable practices within the college community.

The survey was conducted by enthusiastic first-year members of the Biodiversity Club. These students meticulously cataloged over 200 different plant species found within the college premises. This detailed inventory is the first step in a larger project aimed at enhancing campus biodiversity awareness. Following the survey, the club initiated the process of creating QR codes for each identified plant species. These QR codes, once affixed, will provide students, staff, and visitors with instant access to detailed information about each plant, including its scientific name, ecological significance, and care instructions. This innovative approach not only fosters a deeper connection with nature but also integrates technology to promote environmental education.

VI. PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

In celebration of World Birds Day on January 5th 2024, the Biodiversity Club at Safa College organized an engaging photography contest focused on capturing the diverse creatures within the campus locality. This program aimed to enhance students' appreciation for the local wildlife and promote the importance of biodiversity through the art of photography. A total of 20 students participated, each submitting their best shots of various birds and other creatures they encountered around the campus. The event not only showcased the students' photography skills but also highlighted the rich biodiversity present in the college environment.

The contest concluded with Mr. MUHAMMED SAFIN. MK (2ND Sem B. Com) winning the first prize for his stunning capture of a butterfly species, demonstrating exceptional skill and creativity. Mr. Muhammed Sadath (2nd Sem BBA) secured the second prize with his vibrant photograph of a butterfly, while Mr. Shadil (4th Sem B.com) won the third prize for his detailed shot of a Mate crows. The event was well-received, fostering a deeper connection between the students and their natural surroundings, and underscoring the Biodiversity Club's commitment to environmental education and conservation.

VII. WATER FOR BIRDS

In celebration of World Wetlands Day on February 2, 2024, the Biodiversity Club at Safa College organized an impactful activity to support local wildlife and promote environmental awareness. Recognizing the importance of wetlands and the challenges faced by birds during the summer season, the club initiated a project to install mud pots filled with water at various strategic locations around the campus. This effort aimed to provide a reliable water source for birds, ensuring their hydration and well-being during the hot months.

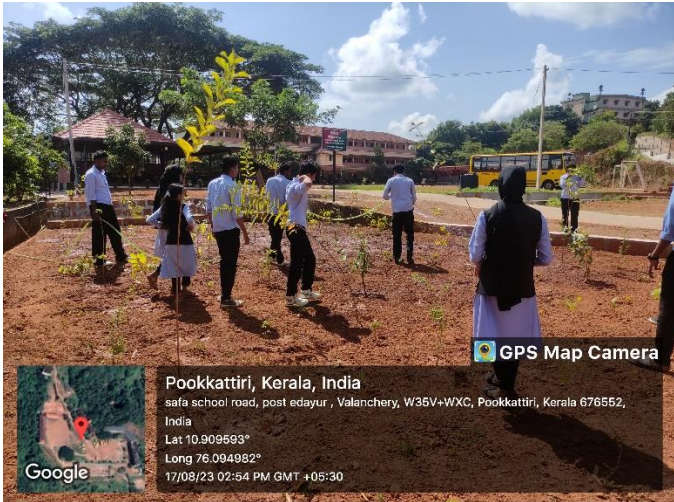
The activity involved the active participation of club members and volunteers who identified key spots on campus frequented by birds. These locations were chosen based on observations and feedback from students and staff, ensuring maximum utilization by the avian visitors. The mud pots, known for their natural cooling properties, were filled with fresh water and securely placed to prevent tipping and contamination. This initiative not only helped birds but also raised awareness among the college community about the importance of supporting local wildlife, particularly during harsh weather conditions.

The Biodiversity Club's initiative received positive feedback from the college community, highlighting the collective effort towards environmental stewardship. Regular monitoring and refilling of the mud pots were scheduled to maintain the water supply throughout the summer. This project underscored the club's commitment to biodiversity conservation and fostered a sense of responsibility among students to contribute to ecological sustainability. The activity served as a practical example of how simple actions can significantly impact wildlife conservation, aligning with the global themes of World Wetlands Day to environmental conservation and serves as a model for other institutions to follow

PHOTOS



Receiving plants for Vidhyavanam Project



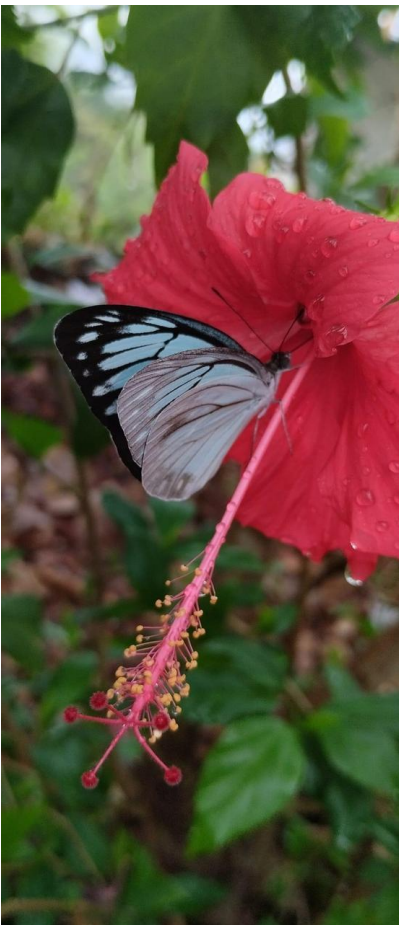
Regular activities in Vidhyavanam Project



Regular activities in Herbal Garden



Edayur Chilly Cultivation



Photos captured for Photography Contest



Biodiversity Survey