

Monthly Programme Report
Sir Syed College, Taliparamba BMC

Institution Name: Sir Syed College, Taliparamba

BMC Code: KNR/2013/16

Programme Title: PBR updation- Sacred grove study of Kurumathur Panchayath

Program Category: Studies/Research
Projects

Activity Type: Action Program

No. of participants: 10

Planned Date: 13-09-2025

Renewed date: -

Program Date: 23-03-2025

Budgeted Amount: Rs 0/-

Total expenditure: Rs 0/-

Balance: Rs 0/-

Brief Report

STUDY REPORT ON SACRED GROVES OF KURUMATHUR PANCHAYATH

Introduction

Kerala is the land of god, mesmerizing in its beauty, enviable in its culture. This land is blessed with a wide and amazing variety of natural vegetation. With flora ranging from Indian Rose wood and Cassia in Western Ghats to Bamboo and wild Cardamom in plains, Kerala has an immense cover of vegetation. An interesting feature in Kerala, which emphasizes that culture is inevitably interwoven with nature, is its sacred groves. The *Kavu*, sacred groves are famous land of thriving vegetation. The fear of violating religion and age old tradition have kept people away from these groves allowing them to flourish. These contribute a lot to conservation of ethnic biodiversity. There are about 1272 species of endemic angiosperms out of 3800 species occurring in Kerala, which is 33.5% of its flora. Out of 5725 endemics in India, endemics of Kerala constitute 22.6% of Indian endemics. The endemic flora in Kerala is mainly palaeotropic in composition, which is a part of the peninsular Indian endemic flora of Gondwanaland origin. Though there are common elements, the characteristic endemic flora of Kerala and Sri Lanka was developed from a common stock, but isolated due to temporal or geographical barriers. The hill top flora of Nilgiris, Palani and Cardamom hills in peninsular India and Adam's Peak in Sri Lanka show similarities, which indicate that they are derived from a common stock. Three 'hot spots' of endemic centres in Kerala are: Agasthyamala, Anamalai- high ranges and Silent Valley- Wayanad. Extinction or rarity of species may be due to environmental factors, ecological substitutes, biological factors, pathological causes and habitat destruction. The state of Kerala habitat destruction through conversion of forests into plantations and diversion of forests for non-forestry purpose such as hydel and irrigation projects took place to a great extent. As a result of the large area of forests became fragmented into isolated patches. Each such isolated patches act like an ecological island.

In Kerala, Kannur can be considered as a district of Kerala that is rich in different plant vegetation. Being known as 'District of *Theyyam and Thira*' it's obvious that there are numerous sacred groves in Kannur, Sacred groves are relic forest patches protected by local communities in reference of deity. These are the representatives of climax vegetation and

exhibit the diversity of species such as trees, climbers, epiphytes, and other shade loving herbs. The groves are not only important sites for regional biodiversity but also provide vital ecosystem services to local people. One of the most important traditional uses of sacred groves was, it acted as a repository for various Ayurvedic medicines. Sacred groves can be used as an indicator for potential natural vegetation and are vital for well-being of society. Some of the famous sacred groves of Kannur are Chama Kavu, Kuttiaoor Kavu, Madayikavu etc. Madayippara is another biodiversity centre in Kannur, it is flat topped hillock located in Madayi, of Kannur district of Kerala. Payangadi town on the northern bank of Kuppam river. The aquatic and semi aquatic plants form extensive carpets of blue, pink, white and yellow during monsoon season. It is typical of the Laterite foothills of Western Ghats. The area is notable for the presence of the rarest plants of the world such as *Neurachoides krishnakasara*, *Petalostemum*

Photographs

