Monthly Programme Report

Sir Syed College, Taliparamba BMC

Institution Name: **Sir Syed College, Taliparamba** BMC Code: **KNR/2013/16**

ProgrameTitle: **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

SIRSYEDCOLLEGE, TALIPARAMBA

BHOOMITHRASENA CLUB

STUDY REPORT ON SACRED GROVES OF KURUMATHUR PANCHAYATH

Introduction

Kerala isthe land ofgod, mesmerizing in itsbeauty, enviable in itsculture. This land is blessed with a wide and amazing variety of natural vegetation. With flora ranging fromIndian 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 contributes 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 of5725 endemics inIndia, endemicsofKerala constitute 22.6%ofIndianendemics. 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 offorestsbecame 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 adeity. 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, Kuttiatoor Kavu,Madayikavu etc. Madayippara is another biodiversity centre in Kannur, it is flat topped hillock locatedinMadayi, ofKannur district ofKerala. Payangaditownonthe northernbank of Kuppam river. The aquatic and semi aquatic plants forms extensive carpets of blue, Pink, White and yellow during monsoon season. It is typical of the Laterite foothills of Western Ghats.

Photographs