

FATIMA MATA NATIONAL COLLEGE KOLLAM

ECO/NATURE CLUB ACTIVITY REPORT

(2014 -2015)

INTRODUCTION

Our planet which is rich in biodiversity, have millions of species including beautiful, intriguing, towering trees and other coral reefs where all types of animals live together. All animals depend on plants for their food & plants on animals. Human beings are the creations of nature. They drew everything needed for their very survival from nature. The air they breathe, the water they drink, the food they eat and thousands of articles they use daily-all come from nature. Environment is responsible for creating conditions suitable for the existence of a healthy biosphere on this planet. Our life is dependable upon the environment, its absence causes many adverse and harmful effects. Without sustainable environment and natural resources, one cannot survive. Human existence on the earth will be endangered if we do not change our hostile attitude towards nature. Therefore, it is better to mend our ways and live in harmony with nature. People today, especially the young people, are concerned about the environment. So it is important to conserve our nature by academic co- curricular activities.

Eco Club – A co- curricular activity with a mission. which promotes the participation of students in learning about, and improving their environment. People today, especially the young people, are concerned about the environment. An Eco Club is a means by which students and youth can organize themselves to learn more about this issue, and also take action to improve their immediate environment. An Eco Club can thus help to extend the boundaries and scope of the formal educational system, encouraging creativity, and empowering students for constructive action. Create awareness and sensitivity among individuals and social groups to the total environment and its allied problems. For teachers, it is a wonderful opportunity to create awareness, build attitudes and help

students take up activities in real world, in a way in which the constraints of the classroom and curriculum will not allow.

OBJECTIVES OF ECO CLUB

- To create awareness of biodiversity conservation and local environmental issues among college students
- To create a 'clean and green consciousness' among students through various innovative methods.
- To involve Eco Club students in open-orientation programmes in college and public areas.
- To promote interest and knowledge about wildlife, forests and the environment among us.
- To foster concern to protect the fauna ,flora and undisturbed examples of the state's natural heritage
- To increase awareness of the economic, cultural, scientific and aesthetic values of fauna and flora
- To provide opportunities to acquire attitudes, values and skills needed to protect and improve the natural environment.

Importance of Eco Club

- ❖ An acquaintance with nature and the conservation of bio diversity
- ❖ An exposure to the fauna and flora of the local hills
- ❖ An impression of the degradation of forests caused by human interference
- ❖ An awareness of how to protect and preserve natural forests

ACTIVITIES (2014-15)

In order to undertake the programme in a systematic way the Eco Club of Fatima Mata National College, was organized with six staff members as, Dr. Sherly Williams convenor from Dept. of Zoology, Dr. Suma from chemistry Dept., Mrs. Kochu Thressia from physics Dept., Dr. Maria Bridjit, Mrs. Merylin and Dr. Shaiju from Dept. of Botany .

Total 64 student members were enrolled in the Club from Dept. of Commerce, Dept. of English, Psychology, Chemistry, Polymer Chemistry. Mathe Matics, Physics, Botany, and Zoology.

The programme conducted by the Eco Club were as follows,

Eco Club members of FMN College in collaboration with Harithagheham, Environment wing of Catholic Welfare Association, Diocese of Quilon were organized a one day cleanliness programme on October 4th Saturday 2014. It was conducted at Tsunami residential colony Moothakkara Kollam. The programme was blessed by the Parish Priest Fr. Sebastian Andrady and inaugurated by the counselor Sri Robin, Dr. George F D'cruz, Chairman Harithageham, Dr. Sophiammal Nettar (HOD of Botany, FMNC and Secretary Harithageham) Sri Robert S Pattakadavu (President (CWA), Sri Basil Nettan (G See, (CWA), and Ecoclub Convener (Dr. Sherly Williams, Associate Professor Dept. Zoology , FMNC) were conducted the programme. Forty five Ecoclub members students were participated. They were made into 6 groups and they have taken awareness classes on domestic waste management from 10.30 - 11.30 for the resident members of the colony. Followed by they cleaned the entire area.

From this programme the students acquired details of the problems of residents in related to various kinds of wastes, lack of its management, and their suggestions as well as complaints regarding the aspect. It was also decided to submit a detailed report to corporation mayor in this regard.

5 OCTOBER 2014

A one day seminar was organized by Catholic Welfare Association, Diocese of Quilon on “**Harithagehaam activities and Modus Operandi**”. The seminar was focused on ‘Waste management and Reforestation. The resource person for the seminar was, Dr. F.George D’Cruz, Chairman, Harithageham. Eco Club student were participated in this seminar

31 JANUARY 2015

Eco Club organized a seminar for the students on ‘Domestic and Municipal Solid Waste Management’. The speakers for the seminar were Dr. Razeena Karim, for the first session followed by Dr. Sherly Williams Associate Professor, Dept. of Zoology for the second session. The seminar helped to create awareness among the students about various environmental issues. The Seminar also helped the students in understanding and managing the household waste through simple and easier methods, by which to protect and preserve our environment. The seminar was interactive and allowed room for the participants to discuss with the Speaker.

7 MARCH 2015

Eco Club coordinators of Fatima Mata National College have organized a one day Nature friendly tour programme to Thenmala ecotourism. It is the India’s first eco tourism project . Thenmala is a small village at the foothills of Western Ghats and predominantly a forest area. The famous Shenduruney Wildlife Sanctuary is the most important ecotourism resource of Thenmala Ecotourism. This Wildlife Sanctuary is of about 100 sq. km. and harbors large varieties of flora and fauna. Thenmala Eco-

tourism is a unique destination from a visitor's point of view. We left college at 6.30 am had breakfast on the way and reached Thenmala at 9.30am. It was a pleasant experience to walk through the conserved area. Deer park is a beautiful place at Thenmala with lots of trees and deers. A visit to the Deer Rehabilitation Centre, we could had a look at a group of spotted deer, the sambar deer and the barking deer, which have been given protection after straying out from the forests.

After that we visited The Leisure Zone. The Leisure Zone is a small forest, dotted with more than 20 thematic sculptures. The main attractions of the leisure zone and sculpture park are, as the names implies sculptures and interesting resting points inside the forest outskirts of Schenthurinny [wildlife](#) sanctuary beside the [dam](#). The [sculptures of animals](#), cosmic flying men, depiction of ideas and thoughts, mythical characters like Vikramaditya and vethala, lord shiva, parasurama the [Hindu avatar of God](#) etc are arranged in various points of this sculpture park. We have to walk through the eco nature trail to have a sight of these sculptures and in the middle there are nicely designed.

The visit at Butterfly Safari Park offered our members a better opportunity to see a wide variety of butterflies at close quarters, so as to create enthusiasm among students regarding issues pertaining to Plants, Forest, Wildlife, Bio-diversity and Nature.

The Park is said to house around 125 species of butterflies besides birds such as hornbills. It has been realised by planning a wide variety of shrubs and trees that would attract butterflies— for feeding and breeding. Clerodendrum, Mussaenda, Lantana and Cassia species produce the nectar for them. Curry leaf, citrus, cinnamon, cherry and ficus plants, besides *Wattakaka volubilis*, *Thottea siliquosa*, *Tylophora indica*, *Mussaenda uteola*, and *Aristolochia indica*, serve as host plants for larvae of specific butterflies. Artificial streams, ponds and puddles maintain humidity and help

the butterflies in mud puddling (butterflies obtain salt and amino acids from mud). Models of butterflies and display boards dot the garden that could be a great learning experience for students. The Park is touted as Asia's first Butterfly *Safari* Park.

We had lunch at 1.300 pm from KTDC restaurant Thenmala.

Next visit was to the Deer Rehabilitation centre located at Thenmala

This deer park of Thenmala is a distant part of Thenmala eco tourism and is built within the Kallada river side forest. Apart from various varieties of deers what you can see interesting here is a Tree House and a small Children's park with some ecologically blended resting places. Various walking routes into the forests can be seen and if you a group of people with plenty of time to spend here no harm in walking into the park forests.

Tour to 'Thenmala ecotourism' was a very good learning experience for the Eco Club members . The strength of the one-day programmes is that, for many students, this is their first time out of their classroom in a more informal learning environment. For them it is an unusual and exciting experience. It is important to us that we treat each student as our friend and encourage him or her to interact with us freely.

The activities of the Eco Club on each year were very satisfactory and benefitted to the student community extensively. We are planning to do more activities in the coming years.

27/03/2015

Dr. Sherly Williams (Convenor)