

# REPORT

## Screening session of the stories of butterflies

Butterflies play a vital role in the ecosystem, there is a co-evolutionary relationship between butterflies and plants, their lives are interlinked. Butterflies are also called **flying flowers**, displaying their beauty. These insects enhance the aesthetic value of the environment by their exquisite wing colors. Butterflies are the **wild indicators of the ecosystem**; these insects tell us everything about the healthier ecosystem. These are effective pollinators, butterflies visit the flower to eat nectar and this is a mutually beneficial relationship. Some species of butterflies migrate over a long distance; carry pollen (**pollinators**) to be shared across plants that are far apart from one another. This migration of pollens induces genetic variation in plants species and give a better chance at survival against different disease. These insects also provide food for other organisms, for example; birds, reptiles amphibians, and also **act as biological pest control**. Unfortunately, the butterfly population is at risk due to human activities, habitat destruction, uses of pesticides, and the unawareness of people about the importance of flying flowers.

The department of Zoology took a small action that will help to ensure butterfly survival. A screening session of the stories of butterflies -A peep into the fascinating life of flying jewels, a documentary capturing butterflies and their behavior was introduced. The screening session was held on November 21, 2021. This program was designed as a documentary especially for the nursery and school children where they were made aware of all about butterfly conservation and how they can help right from home. The importance of butterflies to the ecosystem, its host plant both for the larval and adult stages, and steps to rear them were discussed through sharing the experience by senior students of the Department of

Zoology, Ms. Sona, and Anagha. K.K. The program was introduced in the regional language and in English considering the medium of Education for the children who participated in the session by Parvana and Darshana of second-year Zoology. Ms. Abhimanya of first-year zoology recited a poem related to butterflies, their beauty, and their role in the environment. The documentary mainly focussed on the special host plants, where the butterflies deposit their eggs and on which the caterpillars feed. The life cycle of a butterfly and the host plant's availability, its conservation. Also, the methodology to rear the species was shared with the participants and motivated them to create butterfly habitats in their home yard and easy ways to supply water, food, and safe space to lay eggs. There were about 116 participants from various schools. All of them interacted very well and were delighted to watch the videos of the life cycle of butterflies. During the interaction, many of the kids ensured that will provide the natural habitat by planting many native plants for the butterflies and it will be a step to conserve the species. The documentary was aimed to motivate the young mind to conserve the natural habitat of butterflies

