

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY- EXTENSION ACTIVITY 9

PEOPLE BIODIVERSITY REGISTER SURVEY - Harithamithram Survey
and QR coding as part of Azhaku Project of Kozhikode Municipal Corporation
(nearly 400 houses in ward 12, 14 & 15) (May-June 2023)





Report: People Biodiversity Register Survey - Bsc. I & II Year Botany Students

Location: Kozhikode Municipal corporation

Dates: 13th May 2024 – 16th May 2024

Team Members: 63 Botany students

63 students from the Dept. Botany were taken initiative in the Harithamithram Survey and QR coding as part of Azhaku Project of Kozhikode Municipal Corporation (nearly 400 houses in ward 12, 14 & 15) (May-June 2023)

1. Objective

The biodiversity survey was conducted to document:

- The variety of plant and animal species in Kozhikode Municipality.
- Traditional knowledge and perceptions of the local community regarding biodiversity.
- Traditional occupations, such as pottery.
- Threats to biodiversity and agricultural practices, including fertilizers used and traditional methods in farming.

2. Methodology

- **Field Observations:** Extensive fieldwork to identify and record plant and animal species.
- **Community Interaction:** Structured interviews with local community members to gather traditional knowledge and insights.

- **Cultural Documentation:** Identification and interaction with practitioners of *Thirayattam* and traditional potters.
- **Environmental Assessment:** Evaluation of biodiversity threats and farming practices, including fertilizer use and traditional agricultural methods.

3. Findings

A. Plant and Animal Species Documentation

A comprehensive list of flora and fauna was compiled, highlighting the rich biodiversity of the area

B. Identified Threats to Biodiversity

Key threats identified include:

- **Deforestation:** Expansion of agricultural and residential areas.
- **Unsustainable Farming Practices:** Use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- **Extensive Invasive Species growth (Lantana, Parthenium etc.,)**

C. Agricultural Practices

- **Fertilizer Use:** Predominantly [chemical/organic], farmers using traditional methods.

4. The following Recommendations were given to public

- **Promote Sustainable Agriculture:** Encourage organic farming and reduce dependency on chemical fertilizers.
- **Conservation Initiatives:** Implement community-led biodiversity conservation programs.
- **Cultural Heritage Preservation:** Support *Thirayattam* and traditional occupations to sustain cultural biodiversity.

5. Conclusion

The survey highlighted the rich biodiversity and cultural heritage of Kozhikode municipality emphasizing the need for sustainable practices and community involvement in conservation efforts. Preserving traditional knowledge and practices is crucial for maintaining the region's ecological and cultural balance.