



# MES ASMABI COLLEGE, P. VEMBALLUR

Aided College Affiliated to University of Calicut

P. Vemballur PO, Kodungallur, Thrissur District, Kerala, 68067

## Best Practices 2 :

**1. Title of the Practice:** Social intervention through academic outreach to safeguard environment and support marginalized community including Indigenous people

### 2. Objectives of the practice

This is an opportunity to use academic proficiency of the faculties, students and various research and outreach units to work along with various government and non-government bodies for safeguard the environment and empowerment of marginalised people.

### 3. The context

The various departments, research and outreach units of the MES Asmabi College developed this practice to have a platform for learn and experience academic proficiency while engaging in some real time activities for the benefit of the environment and the marginalised section of the community. Even though we were passing through the serious COVID-19 pandemic situations, the campus was running in an online mode, still we were able to continue activities of this best practice. The Centre for Ecology Taxonomy Conservation and Climate Change (CETC) is a research and extension wing of MES Asmabi College in Collaboration with Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation since 2011. The (CETC) has taken lead in this best practice providing assistance, consultancy and expert support to various state agencies in nature conservation, environmental management, sustainable livelihood, climate change resilience and indigenous community rights in which research and masters students, faculties and inters from various other institutions including TATA institute Social Science (TISS) to work together and experience.

### 4. The practice

We had conducted three webinars and workshop on Environmental issues beneficial to regional as well as national context where the faculties and students had a serious role. Dr. K.H. Amitha Bachan, faculty of our college is an Expert member of Habitat rights of PVTGs constituted by Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), Government of India. His expertise has been used in three

occasions to provide support to indigenous communities across south India. The (CETC) has conducted a series of talks „The „Conservation right debate series” where the students has got opportunity to organise and be part of discussions by international experts (10-20<sup>th</sup> October 2020). The centre also had a consultancy with Indian Institute of Plantation Management (IIPM) Bangalore for preparation of „Gap analysis for conservation planning of the plantation sector in the Munnar High range landscape for the betterment of Biodiversity” where Dr. K.H. Amitha Bachan and Ms. Devika M. Anilkumar were the consultants. The centre and the team has an MoU with BMC, SN Puram panchayat supported by Kerala state Biodiversity board to study and profile various ecosystems of the coastal grama panchayat and implement it for disaster hit areas involving local community.

## 5. Evidence of success

Following webinars and online discussion series were conducted using expertise of our faculties, our centres where students were involved as organisers to provide technical support to outside community. Dilution happening to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in India (25/08/2020), „Rainforest and Hornbills” for social forestry wing Palakkad (14/11/2020) and “Ecorestoration and management of Ecosystems” for Pulari people group in Kasargod. “The trajectory of conservation and justice in the context of FRA 2006 (12/11/2020)” for social work students association for Kerala hosted by Sanskrit university, also an expert talk „Habitat rights of PVTG” for various indigenous Grama Sabha members across south India organised by Keystone foundation (23/03/2021). An “Social exclusion and land issues of Adviasis in Kerala” held at Kerala Sahithya Academy, Thrissur (23/01/2021) offline.

**ONE DAY WORKSHOP  
ECO RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT  
OF COASTAL  
ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY  
INVOLVING LOCAL COMMUNITY**

**30th March 2021  
at M E S Asmabi College  
9.30-4.00**

Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation  
MES Asmabi College  
BMC SN Puram Grama Panchayat

**Changes and Issues of Coastal Zone**  
Dr. Martin Gopurathingal  
Senior Research Associate - CUSAT

**Ecorestoration and Management Protocol  
for Coastal Ecosystems**  
Dr. KH Amitha Bachan

**BMCs and Biodiversity Governance**  
Adv. Alphonsa Jojan  
Assi. Prof. (Ad hoc), Dept of Law Calicut University

**Contact - 8921473910**



An offline workshop was organised on „Ecorestoration and Management of Coastal Ecosystem Involving local communities“ on 30-03-2021 at college involving nearly 100 participants including students, researchers from other institutions and targeted local communities.







A preliminary report including a profile and status of ecosystems provided to the SN Puram Gram Panchayat and detailed study on the sacred groves and ecorestoration of streams draining to the sea „Arappathodu“ has started based on niche profile involving women in the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward of the Panchayat. Later Mr. Saji Cheriyan, Hon: Minister of Fisheries, Government of Kerala has announced it as a model program for the state.

## 6. Problems encountered and resources required

The COVID-19 pandemic situations proved a barrier where many offline programs had to be postponed due to regional lockdowns. The resources such as basic travel support for students, research and basic requirements for such outreach including developing nurseries of plants, meetings with community etc. had to be met from various sources.

## 7. Notes

Such practice is essential in providing commitments to safeguard our environment and beat climate change ensuring right and sustainable livelihood of the local community. Use and practices of expertise, research output and the student’s capacities together in collaboration with various agencies and communities is the key factor.

