



A stream in Lohom village

To ensure long term sustainable growth of the region, it is very important that the local dwellers have knowledge of the environment around them. A realization that regions environmental assets have become problems and a requisite set of skills is required to deal with these problems to initiate action at a local level.

A comprehensive environment education program based on the three pillars of sustainability namely economic, social and environmental can act as a catalyst for the Initiatives that can be taken by community to better their own environment. Schools and school children's are doorways to the community. A well designed environment action program not only facilitates knowledge from the schools to the community but also intergenerational transfer of traditional knowledge and practices.

The schools selected for the program are located in and around the Shirval and Khandala town. 650 students from 10 schools are involved in this environment action programme. The Stream watch module and making of children's biodiversity register were conducted in the month of September 2014

Stream watch

Streams are lifelines for any landscapes, urban or rural. Owing to the greater demands of a burgeoning population this resource today is diminishing in quality and quantity. The growing use of chemical pesticides, fertilizers and in general increasing chemical use has resulted indiscriminate disposal into our water bodies polluting them heavily.

The stream watch module was designed to develop skills and documenting water quality changes over time in respective streams of villages by school students. Parameters like, dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity and temperature were recorded. Along with chemical parameters bird species diversity, vegetation types and ecosystem services provided by the stream were also recorded. Students were asked to map the stretch of stream from their respective villages indicating different pollution sources.

Such a stream study lead to enhance awareness among the local community or stream users and will encourage to prevent pollution and support environmental stewardship .



Students of Rajendra Vidyalaya, Bavda performing the water quality tests on the bank of stream.

Project team

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Stream watch session at Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule Vidyalaya, Naigaon

Children's biodiversity register (CBR)

India being signatory of convention on biological diversity it is mandatory to document traditional knowledge about the biodiversity at local level under the Biological diversity act 2002. Traditional knowledge transferred from generation to generation orally, but never been documented at the school level or community level. Such documentation helps local sustainable resource management in restoration of traditional crops, wildlife habitats, locally endangered wild species and patenting supports claims of local ownership of biodiversity and traditional knowledge. Children's Biodiversity Register is an innovative approach for documenting biodiversity at school level which will provide information on the current utilization patterns of biodiversity, its economic benefits to the local communities and also support the official database about the biodiversity in local environment, through this, students will have an enhanced awareness about biodiversity, animal and plant habitats, ecosystems, food chains, food webs and most importantly their economic importance. It will also ensure intergenerational transfer of traditional knowledge. Action taken at local level for documentation can contribute immensely to biodiversity conservation.

Outputs

Surprisingly apart from making of clay idols of Ganesh, students of Sushilatai Paranjape Vidyalaya, Atit also made use of same shadu soil for making different artifacts of soil for ahead of Navratri and Diwali festival. Seed germination module was also resulted in sapling with 80 percent survival rate of seeds which were collected in previous month.



Artifacts made by the students of Sushilatai Paranjape Vidyalaya, Atit



Sapling developed by students



Each students has successfully developed a sapling from seeds collected in previous month in Naigaon School