

KOHIMA COLLEGE, KOHIMA
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
REPORT WRITING

TOPIC- VALUES OF BIODIVERSITY

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the very first place we would like to thank our Respected Principal and Vice Principal for granting us the authority to conduct this field trip and also allowing us to use the college transportation. Also our heartfelt gratitude to our two professor Ma'am Petevino Chase and Ma'am Medoseno Thapo for the wonderful initiative and guidance without which this trip will not be successful. We also convey our gratitude to the people of Khonoma for willingly granting us the permission to explore their place without any restrictions. We also express our thanks to each and everyone who has helped us draft the final project.

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INTRODUCTION

Under the banner of **Kohima College, Kohima Environment Studies department** and initiative of our two Environment Studies professor Ma'am **Medoseno Thapo** and Dr.**Petevino Chase** a one day field trip to **Khonoma** was successfully conducted on March 24,2023. The said trip was conducted as a part of the internal assessment of the college end semester examination of the college.

Hundreds of students from 6th semester (section B) and the two professor departed from the college at around 10 A.M in the morning. On reaching the spot we were divided into different groups and topics was divided among the groups.

Our group is group number 6 and we choose our topic as “ **VALUES OF BIODIVERSITY** ”The study of the place took around two hours with the students interacting with the village folks, taking photographs of the environment and studying them and visiting the famous terrace cultivation. We had lunch after and went back home.

ABOUT THE KHONOMA VILLAGE



Khonoma is an Angami-Naga village located about 20 KM from the state capital, Kohima in Nagaland, India. The village is referred to as Khwuno-ra. Khonoma is also known for initiatives in wildlife conservation. In 1988 the Khonoma Nature Conservation and Tragopan Sanctuary Blyth's Tragopan and other wildlife and rare plant species in their natural habitat. In 2005 due to the successful conservation efforts of the village, the village was named **India's first Green Village.**

VALUES OF BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity may be defined as the variety and richness in which life presents on the earth. It refers to the diversity in all species such as plants, animals and microorganisms. Since all species in an ecosystem are interrelated and dependent on one another, biodiversity has enormous value in the lives of all organisms, particularly for human beings. It would be difficult for life to continue and sustain without biodiversity.

Biodiversity serves a dual purpose in providing ecological functions. Biodiversity helps living beings procure food, fuel, fiber and other extractable commodities. Biodiversity is vital for the ecosystem because it provides regulatory, cultural, and sustaining functions.

Vegetation cover ,for example protects the land against erosion by binding soil particles and decreasing the impacts of water runoff. Similarly, crop cultivation is strongly dependent on the presence of pollinating insects.

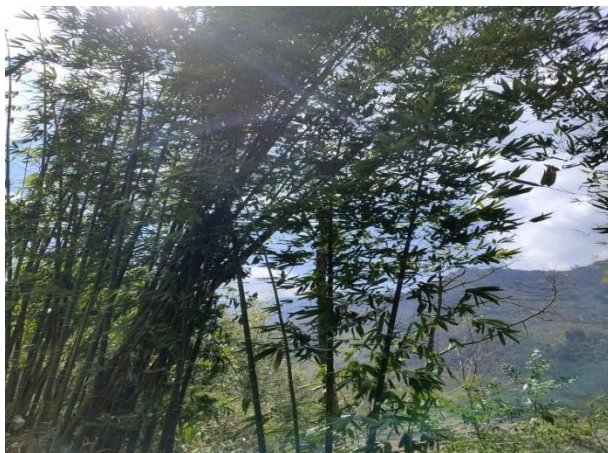
VALUES OF KHONOMA VILLAGE BIODIVERSITY

ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES



Khonoma village is a place surrounded by beautiful landscapes and mesmerizing environment. The overlooking mesmerizing paddy fields and hills covered with lush forest is an addition

to the beautiful environment. The environment of Khonoma Village is very diverse, blessed with rich resources ,intriguing history and rich culture. As we stroll along the village we witnessed how water was conserved and utilized for different purposes. The people are very conservative towards the nature and live in harmony with their environment. There were several boards and signs of forest conservation and natural resources all throughout the village.



CONSUMPTIVE VALUES

Right after reaching the spot our group as we selected the topic Values of Biodiversity we went ahead to explore the famous terrace cultivation practiced by the people of Khonoma. Through the exploration of the agricultural practice of the folks we were enlightened on how much they were dependent on it and how it serves as a consumptive value. They depended on natural resources for consumption. Majority of the people are directly dependent on the natural resources and agriculture for survival. We saw a spectacular view of the people growing varieties of crops which are used for consumption. Edible plants are also grown along the sideways of the field road. Varieties of medicinal plants and fuel are also found in Khonoma which serves as a very crucial consumptive values.

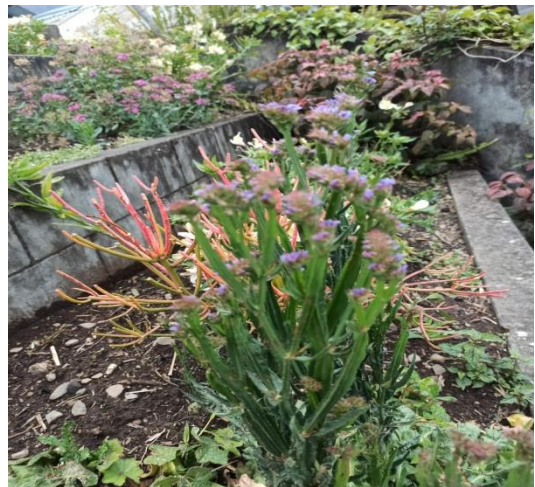


AESTHETIC VALUES



The aesthetic values of biodiversity is the act of appreciating ,preserving and feeling beauty through the observation of a species, an assemblage of species or an ecosystem. The aesthetic value of biodiversity is recognized as a cultural ecosystem service. The Khonoma forests host a stunning biodiversity including 72 mammal and 200 bird species. The sanctuary is nestled in the northern foothills of the breathtaking Barali mountain range, one of the tallest in Nagaland. Its aesthetic values is also the reason the village attracted tourists from all over the states as well as many from the country. It

also has received many recognition for many categories in the state. The Khonoma village because of its aesthetic values has become a hub for recreational picnics and environmental field trips and studies. The visitors to the village as well as the village folks are very familiar with the tourist vehicle plying the village road every now and then.



PRODUCTIVE VALUES

The Khonoma village is not only rich in flora and fauna nor is only known for its diversity but it is also known for its economic strategy. As we explore through the village and other places we were amazed to see the inter-relationships of the people and its resources. The people are very dependent on the natural resources for the productive values. We saw many sights where the people were using woods for carpentry purposes. They also practiced crafts using the natural resources from the environment. Firewood also serves as one of the most productive values of the environment to the people of Khonoma as they sell it to the markets. The vegetables and other species and plants they grow in their fields are also sold in the markets as well as their handi-work made from crafts are also sold in the market which is really profitable



CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY BY KHONOMA VILLAGE



*With the presence of the rich flora and fauna the people of Khonoma realized that there is a need to conserve their environment more than ever. The village is known famously in the state for being very cautious in exploiting their natural resources and taking drastic changes when it comes to taking care of their environment. With the collective effort of the people the KHONOMA VILLAGE formed the **Khonoma Nature Conservation and Tragopan Sanctuary** on December 11, 1998 which was a purely community based organization. The organization was formed with the motto “**Care for Nature**”. The organization has been instrumental in organising, monitoring, conserving and preserving the biodiversity in the village. The organization after its hard work all through the years eventually got the recognition for its efforts towards conserving nature. It was in 2021 that the KNCTS was conferred with the National Biodiversity Award under the institutional category “sustainable use of biological resources” on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22. It was a collective effort of the people who abided by the rules of conservation thus far and therefore the Chairman of KNTCS said that “KNCTS” represents the people. He assured that the citizens of Khonoma*

would continue to 'do good towards nature ,humanity and environment'. Through this initiative, 'we are also trying to set an example for the people of Nagaland, to India and the outside world'. The people of Khonoma has truly lived upto their words of commitment and has taken steps to conserve forest and the environment to greater heights. They practiced afforestation and the visitors could visibly see the signboards , placard and posters, be it for informative or conservative purpose, displayed throughout the village and roadways.

CONCLUSION

The field trip to Khonoma was a very educative day as well as something which we enjoyed a lot. We spent half of the day exploring and learning about Khonoma and its environment. We have heard about the place very often but the field trip and on-ground study of the place just gave a different insight of the environmental-oriented village. It has obviously opened our eyes to the efforts of conservation the people practiced and how it is done. We were also very fortunate to make a quick stop exploring the village and the beauty of the village is indeed surreal. The roads in the village were constructed with fine rocks and the people were very hygienic. It was truly an enjoyable, memorable and very educational trip for each and everyone of us.



Pic: Student's interacting with the farmers in the field.



GROUP SIX (TEAM VALUES OF BIODIVERSITY)