

**Report on field trip to
Khonoma, Kohima Nagaland**

Topic: Natural resources

Introduction

A field trip is a journey by a group of people to a place away from their normal environment. On 24th march, we the students of Kohima College, Kohima B.A 6th semester, section C and D went on a field trip to Khonoma with our Ma'am MEDO and PETE. And students were divided in to groups and each groups were given a topic where students were supposed to learn more about the given topic.

In our group there were five of us and we were given the topic on Natural Resources.

A brief report on Khonoma

The Khonoma is renowned for its efforts to conserve the bio-diversity of its surrounding forest. Khonoma is India's first green village, situated near the Indo-Myanmar Boarder, in the Indian state of Nagaland, Khonoma is a Bio-diversity hotspot and has rich flora and fauna, and also Khonoma is one of the most visited places in Nagaland. And the people of Khonoma they avoid using of chemical pesticides and fertilizers and instead they use organic manure which is actively sourced from composting that is done using kitchen waste.

Almost every home in the village has an organic kitchen garden in its backyard, front yard or in some proximity colorful fruits and vegetables in the garden.

To ensure cleanliness and solid waste management, garbage bins are placed every few steps. Community water tank are constructed at different location to supply water to houses.

Natural resources

1. **Water resources:** Water resources are natural resources of water that are potentially useful for human, for example, as a source of drinking water supply or irrigation. 97% of the water on the earth is salt water and only 3% is fresh water slightly over two thirds of this is frozen in glaciers and polar ice caps. The remaining unfrozen fresh water is found mainly as ground water, with only a small fraction present above ground or in the air. Natural sources of fresh water include surface water, under river flow, ground water and frozen water.



2. **Water management in Khonoma village:** Each house is connected with a fresh potable water pipe line through Government scheme like MGNREGA. Community water tank has been constructed at different location for the proper supply of water to houses. Community also practices the rain water harvesting system, reuse of water and underground water recharge through pond and well.

Natural surface water can be augmented by importing surface water from another watershed through a canal or pipe line.



Of all the fresh water resources, groundwater in the water natural resources is perhaps the most abundant part of the water that filters down in to the soil via layers of dirt, clay and rock stacks to the uppermost layers, providing water to the plants.

Forest conservation in khonoma

Twenty years ago, residents of Khonoma, Nagaland did something that no one else in the country had ever done before. They declared a chunk of their forest as a conservation reserve-the Khonoma nature conservation and Tragopan sanctuary. In the same manner as the administration protects such jungles, the village managed its chunk of protected wilderness. Hunting is a cultural practice in some communities of the northeast, making this endeavor even more remarkable. For centuries people have killed animals and birds not only the pot, but also for medicinal concoctions, rituals, ornaments, sale and recreation. Much more of the regions forest belong to communities who don't have the same job opportunities as the rest of the countries. All though Indian wildlife laws prohibit killing wild animals, the majority aren't aware of it. The dense evergreen forest are shorn of wildlife.

Gun control

The Angami tribal resident of Khonoma, 20 kms from kohima decided to buck the trend. TSILLIE SAKHRIE a contractor and a few other villagers learned about conservation from a forest department officers and awareness program conducted by the northeast sell of the centre for environment education. SAKHRIE proposed setting a side apart of the village's forest as a sanctuary back in the 80's.

All though some of the elders supported had more than 1000 guns according to the publication. The turning point came when the villagers killed 300 pheasant like Blyth's Tragopan in 1993.

Kindling conservation efforts

SAKHRIE and minded elders began campaign to curb the large scale destruction of nature and natural resources. They mobilized people and held extensive discussion with the youth village council, tribal leaders and women. Some villagers did raise objection since their livelihood depends on the forest. For the traditional hunters, it meant not only an end to their professional but a lose of their dignity and identity.

When SAKHRIE became a member of the village council he pushed a new proposal to create a sanctuary and again found little support. The Khonoma nature conservation and Tragopan sanctuary Trust was formed in 1998.

Importance of forest resources

Forest are great important to mankind. We depend on forest for our survival from the air to breath, to the wood we use and livelihood for humans. Forest also offer water shed protection, prevent soil erosion and mitigate climate change. Following are some point illustrating the importance of forest.

1. Forest help in maintaining the water cycle of earth and bring rain.
2. Forest help in maintaining the temperature and oxygen level of the atmosphere. Plants release oxygen in the atmosphere and consume carbon dioxide.
3. Forest help in the prevention of global warming.
4. Forest help in prevention soil erosion.
5. Forest help in providing of food and medicine.



Conclusion

Khonoma is the successful example of such initiative and became the first green village of India. The village has been placed on the tourism map of the country and has attracted many wildlife enthusiasts, birders, conservationists, researchers and tourists. The green village initiative has firstly taken but the indigenous inhabitant of Khonoma and further supported by the government. There is some setback also which Khonoma is facing like reduction in population during last decade, since the people are migrating from village to town in search of job, as the village economy is concentrated to a group of people who are engaged on tourist guides, home stay owners and performers of cultural songs and dance, agriculture on hunting, though they are confined to a small number of the people. Thus there is a need to distribute the benefits among all the stakeholders so that the conservation activities can be promoted by everyone.

During the field trip, we get to know more about the rich culture and biodiversity at Khonoma. The environment is calm, we also get to see varieties of flora.

Our group consists of 5 students from section c bearing a roll number of 149(AGWALE), 150(BESUTALU), 152(DZUVENO), 153(HELIKA), 154(HILETEP).



