

**Proceedings of the
National Conference on
Biodiversity : Status and Challenges in Conservation
'FAVEO 2013'
29th and 30th November 2013**

Organized by

**Department of Zoology and Environmental Science
Vidya Prasarak Mandal's**

B. N. Bandodkar College of Science

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Coimbatore, Tamilnadu.

And

World Wide Fund for Nature-India

Maharashtra State Office,

Mumbai, Maharashtra

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Chairman's address

It gives me immense pleasure to hand over the proceedings of National Conference on “Biodiversity: Status and Challenges in Conservation FAVEO 2013” to be held under the auspices of V.P.M.'s B. N. Bandodkar College of Science, Thane.

Twentieth century saw some revolutionary scientific break through leading to huge consumer industry growth. Every available opportunity was used to exploit the natural resources beyond its sustainability. Success was measured in terms of per capita consumption of natural resources. Modernity and development became synonymous with this consumption model, which totally ignored the interconnectedness of the nature and man. A new economic model and life style to suit this consumption model became *mantra* of progress and modernity. Respect to mother earth was the basis of traditional society. Every member of family was taught to make compromises at every stage of life in the traditional model of the society. This fabric was destroyed and society was nurtured to become self-centered to suit the consumer model. Obviously this model led to disastrous environmental consequences. Biodiversity became its first victim.

Scientific community did recognize this environmental impact of human life style and consistently advocating a sustainable model of development with respect to biodiversity. Ideologically committed environmental moments have done more damage and all efforts should be made to isolate them from science-based activity. Reform does not mean reckless change in traditional way of life. Indian culture did respect biodiversity, and all efforts to restore that fabric of the culture should be done with all priority as a part of biodiversity restoration moment.

I am sure deliberations of this conference will throw light on many dark corners of this subject and participants will be richer in knowledge by the end of the day.

I wish this conference a grand success.

Dr. Vijay V. Bedekar
Chairman
Vidya Prasarak Mandal, Thane

Convener's note

Biodiversity is the word which has gained a lot of importance in the last decade. When we talk about biodiversity, it includes the diversity of all living beings. But it also indicates the need for conservation of same.

The biodiversity on the land, water or air varies due to the adaptations of various organisms for the specific environment. Hence, we can see the biodiversity varying in different ecological conditions, climatic conditions as well as geographical conditions.

Thus, to conserve this we need to protect the environment; else the diversity of organisms will perish one day. Therefore, we have to bow in front of goddess 'Faveo' to bless the earth and the biodiversity existing on earth. An attempt is made by staff and students of departments of Zoology and Environmental Science for praying to the Goddess 'Faveo' to bless us.

I am thankful to both the departments for taking all possible efforts to make this conference successful and happy to hand over the proceeding to you.

Principal Dr. (Mrs.) Madhuri K. Pejaver
Convener
B. N. Bandodkar College of Science, Thane