

Sevadal Mahila Mahavidyalaya

Sakkardara Square, Umrer Road, Nagpur-440024

Best Practices of the Institution

Best Practice No.2

- 1) **Title of Practice:** “Bird Restaurant to save birds and save nature” in the Raj Bhavan Biodiversity park (Residence of Governor of Maharashtra State), District Nagpur.
- 2) **Goal:** To start BIRD RESTAURANT to save birds in particular and nature in general. Birds are the integral part of the ecosystem. In order to maintain ecological balance of the nature birds need to survive all the odds and beats.
- 3) **The context:** Due to the excessive deforestation and growing human encroachment, number of birds are depleting very fast as they struggle for food and proper shelter. Raj Bhavan premises having mainly three types of habitat, grassland, woody shrubs, trees with a small water body. Plantation of many varieties of fruiting plants like berries and sandal wood trees was done in Raj Bhavan premises to increase the biodiversity and to provide ideal habitat for feeding and nesting the birds. This has added to the beauty and greenery of Raj Bhavan. However this has resulted in the depletion of the grassland habitat and thereby affected the sources of food available to the grassland birds like peacocks, Partridges and francolins. Plantation of fruiting trees, drip irrigation in the premises and protection has attracted the more and more species of birds at Raj Bhavan. This has increased the species richness and abundance of birds in Raj Bhavan. Due to this there was an increased food demand by the grassland birds. Ptilochronology is the study of the bird’s feathers. When we studied the shaded feathers of these birds, we noticed that, these are facing the problems in getting the sufficient amount of food and these were not getting the complete nourishment. Thus this practice was aimed to provide food supplement to these birds to improve the reproductive success of these grassland birds for increasing the abundance of these birds.
- 4) **The Practice:** Hon’ble Principal Prof. Pravin Charde has taken initiative by constituting the committee to start the Bird Restaurant at Raj Bhavan Nagpur. The convener of this practice is Dr.(Mrs.) S. M. Mandaogade, and others members are Dr. (Mrs.) H. A. Padole, Dr.(Mrs.) P. P. Chahande. These faculty members have taken support of other staff members, students and alumni association of the college.

The activity is carried out by collection of grains from Alumni, Teaching and Non-teaching staff members and stored in tin and air tight container. These collected grains then kept in earthen pot with water in the biodiversity park of Raj Bhavan. Recording of bird activities was done at Raj Bhavan premises by installing the CCTV cameras. By noting the number of birds visiting at restaurant premises, the daily requirement of grains for these birds was calculated by

the statistical analysis. Approximately 100 kg of mixed type of grains are donated to Raj Bhavan on monthly basis.

- 5) **Evidence of Success:** Richness in avian biodiversity was noted as compared to the earlier studies after the start of bird restaurant. Bird restaurant has attracted the many species of birds in Raj Bhavan premises due to easy availability of food material. Not only the birds but small mammals like squirrels were reported to feed on these food grains. Total 154 species of the birds belonging to 71 genera were recorded from Raj Bhavan. Coffee table book was prepared along with the photographic evidences and was submitted authorities of Raj Bhavan. Protected nesting sites, ideal feeding grounds, canopies of the large trees as a shelter, easy availability of water, natural habitat and supplementation of mixed food grains has increased the abundance of the birds in this area. The artificial nests were installed at Raj Bhavan area, which were occupied by the different species of the birds. Nests of the many birds like Shikra, Collared dove, Little brown dove, Yellow footed green pigeon, Pied myna, Rufous treepie, House crow, Black kite, Tailor bird, Baya weaver, White throated Munia, Grey partridge, Rose ringed parrot and Purple rumped sunbird were observed in large number in this premises. Nesting material like jute fibers were kept at the premises that helped the birds in building the nest. Increase in number of birds belonging to order Galliformes that are Indian Peafowl, Grey partridge and painted francolin was reported that signifies the reproductive success of these birds. Positive opinion is received from the staff of the Raj Bhavan Biodiversity Park (Residence of Governor of Maharashtra State) District Nagpur, from their feedback opinion.

6) **Problems Encountered:**

Insufficient Collection of grains and lack of proper storage system in the college, thus prompt transportation of grains from college to Raj Bhavan is needed without delay. Previously there was no fencing at certain places from where the some dogs and other nuisance causing animals were entering the premises and were destructing the eggs as well as new youngones of grassland birds or eggs of those birds that lays their eggs on ground like Red - watted lapwing. The increased number of birds has increased the food grain requirement at the Raj Bhavan premises. To cope with the increased number of birds, installation of artificial nests was done.

7) **Contact Details:**

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