

Sevadal Mahila Mahavidyalaya

Sakkardara Square, Umrer Road, Nagpur- 440 024

Best Practices of the Institution

Best Practice No. IV

a) Title of Practice: "Bird Restaurant in Raj Bhavan Biodiversity Park, Nagpur."

b) Goal:

- This best practice has been started to save the birds in particular and to conserve ecosystem in general. In order to maintain ecological balance of the nature birds need to survive.

c) Context: Due to the excessive deforestation and increasing human encroachments, number of birds are depleting very fast as they struggle for food and natural 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 birds 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. Due to this there was an increased food demand by the grassland birds. During the Ptilochronological study of the bird's shaded feathers we have noticed that, birds are facing the problems in getting the complete nourishment due to scarcity of food availability. Thus this practice was aimed at providing food supplement to these birds to improve the reproductive success of these grassland birds for increasing the abundance of these birds.

d) The Practice: Hon'ble Principal has taken initiative by constituting a committee to start the Bird Restaurant at Raj Bhavan Nagpur. The convener of this practice is Dr. (Mrs.) S. M. Mandaogade, and members are (Mrs.) P. P. Chahande, Dr. (Mrs.) A. S. Mahakalkar and Dr. (Mrs.) H. A. Padole. Committee has also taken active support of staff members, students and alumni association of the college. The activity has been carried out with collection of grains from Alumni, Teaching and Non-teaching staff members. Collected grains has stored in air tight tin container. Earthen pots are used in order to provide grains and water to birds in the bio-diversity park at Raj Bhavan. Recording of bird activities was done by installing the CCTV cameras. On the basis of number of birds visiting at restaurant premises, the daily requirement of grains for these birds was calculated. Approximately 100 kg of mixed type of grains are being donated to Raj Bhavan on monthly basis.

e) Evidence of Success: Richness in avian biodiversity was noted after the start of bird restaurant and compared with the earlier studies. 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. Bird restaurant has attracted the many species of birds in Raj Bhavan premises due to easy availability of food. 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. Positive and encouraging feedback has been received from the staff of the Raj Bhavan Biodiversity Park, Nagpur.

- f) 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 at Raj Bhavan, so the stray dogs and other nuisance causing animals were destructing the eggs as well as young ones of grassland birds as well as the eggs of ground layer birds like Red-wattle lapwing. The increased number of birds has increased the food grain requirement.

g) Contact Details:

Name of the Practitioner:

Dr.(Mrs.) S.S.Mandaogade,
Asso. Professor & Head,
Department of Music

Contact No: 9371490093

Name of the Institution:

Sevadal Mahila Mahavidyalaya

Sakkardara Square, Om Nagar, Umrer Road, Nagpur 440024.

Work Phone: 0712-2705037

Website:www.sevadalmahilamahavidyalaya.ac.in

E –mail: sevamahilamv@gmail.com



Grain Donations to Raj Bhavan, Nagpur.



Grain donation by Alumni of the Institution



Raj Bhavan employees receiving the donated grains



Nest of Red collared dove



Nest of Little brown dove



Nest of Little brown dove



Nest of Yellow footed green pigeon



Nest of Tailor bird



Nest of House crow



Nest of white throated Munia



Nest of Baya Weaver



Nest of Shikra



Young Chicks of Grey Partridge



Nest of Tailor bird



Nest of House crow