

Report of
Late Dr. V.N.Bedekar Colloquium Lecture on
‘Plant Based Culture & Products vis-a-vis Pro-Ecological Economy’

Date: 4th Sept, 2021

Name of the Department conducting event: Department of Botany, VPM's B. N. Bandodkar College of Science (Autonomous), Thane

Total Participants – 28 (23 Females + 5 Males)

Number of Teachers - 10 (8 Females + 2 Males)

Number of Students - 18 (15 Females + 3 Males)

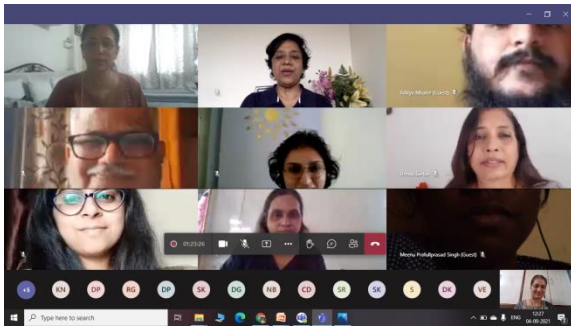
Resource person: Dr. Suchandra Dutta, Asst. Professor, Department of Botany, R.D. & S.H. National College, Bandra (W), Mumbai 400050

Platform: Microsoft Teams

The speaker is an internationally renowned personality in the field of plant taxonomy. She presented valuable information on medicinal plants which have religious importance and are involved in celebration of various Indian festivals such as Ganesh Festival, Guri-Pujan, Durga-Puja, Dashera, etc. The purpose of such rituals is to introduce medicinal plants to laymen through festivals. She nicely narrated the science involved in usage of medicinal plants during festival times which have peculiar climatic conditions. But in recent times, traditional knowledge of medicinal plants is diminishing due to urbanization, deforestation and lack of transfer of knowledge from one generation to another. Such practices will hamper the traditional medicinal knowledge and their applications.

Another interesting facet of the lecture was plant based economy. She showed beautiful artifacts and tribal artwork pertaining to very common plants like Vetiver, Sabai grass, Kora grass. She discussed the role of plants in making creative Bio-Jewellery and Musical instruments. In miscellaneous articles, she gave glimpses of fruit paintings, carving and wood crafts. At the end of the talk, Dr. Dutta elaborated on concerns regarding conservation of traditional culture, appreciating natural articles and promoting plant based economy. She suggested many workable solutions for encouraging entrepreneurship of plant artifacts and improving socioeconomic status of all.

Session Outcomes - The overall lecture was quite motivating for teachers as well as students to undertake research on the role of plants in Indian tradition and rituals, ethnobotany and medicinal plant applications. It also ignited interest in natural artifacts' and plant based entrepreneurship.



**Plant Based Culture & Products
vis -a-vis Pro-Ecological Economy**



Suchandra Dutta
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Hannu International Biodiversity Day 2024