

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

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By

Hemanth Naik S 1AH22CS060

Under the Guidance of

Mrs. Lakshmi Priya P

Assistant Professor, Dept. of CSE

ACSCE, Bangalore



Department of Computer Science and Engineering

ACS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

#74, KAMBIPURA, MYSORE ROAD, BANGLORE-560074

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ACS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

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Department of Computer Science and Engineering



CERTIFICATE

This is to certify the Report Work entitled **“National Service Scheme”** has been successfully submitted by **Hemanth Naik S (1AH22CS060)** a Bonafide student at ACS at **ACS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING** affiliated to **Visveswaraya Technological University, Belgaum** during the year 2024-25. It is certified that all corrections/suggestions indicated for the Internal Assessment have been incorporated in the report submitted to the department. The report has been approved as it satisfies academic requirements with respect to Academic work as prescribed in the 6th semester.

Signature of guide
Mrs. Lakshmi Priya P
Assistant professor, CSE
ACSCE, Bangalore

Signature of Coordinator
Mr. Charan MS
Assistant Professor, CSE
ACSCE, Bangalore

Signature of HOD
Dr.T. Senthil Kumaran
Professor, HOD
ACSCE, Bangalore

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Hemanth Naik S 1AH22CS060

ABSTRACT

The NSS Unit organized a one-day event titled “Plantation and Adoption of Plants – Know Your Plants”, aimed at promoting environmental awareness, ecological sustainability, and responsible citizenship among students. The program emphasized the importance of native tree species, particularly Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Tulsi (*Ocimum sanctum*), and Indian Beech (*Pongamia pinnata*), known for their ecological, medicinal, and cultural significance.

The event was structured around four core components: a plantation drive, an awareness session titled “Know Your Plants,” a plant adoption ceremony, and a follow-up plan for long-term care. Volunteers not only planted saplings but also adopted them with a commitment to nurture their growth over the next year.

Educational sessions provided insights into the environmental benefits of trees, plant care techniques, and the role of biodiversity in maintaining ecological balance. The initiative fostered a sense of environmental stewardship, hands-on learning, and community engagement.

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CHAPTER 1

PLANTATION AND ADOPTION OF PLANTS

1.1 Introduction

The NSS Unit successfully organized a community-based initiative titled **"Plantation and Adoption of Plants – Know Your Plants"**. With climate change and deforestation becoming urgent global concerns, this program aimed to sensitize young citizens toward environmental conservation through hands-on experience in planting and nurturing trees.

The event focused not only on tree planting but also on spreading awareness about plant species, their ecological importance, and how to care for them. This aligns with the core NSS objective of instilling social responsibility and active citizenship in students.

A plantation is a large farm which is usually specialized on farming one type of crop. Plantations grow cash crops, mostly for export, and less for local use. Plantations are farms specializing in cash crops, usually mainly planting a single crop, with perhaps ancillary areas for vegetables for eating and so on. Plantations, centered on a plantation house, grow crops including cotton, cannabis, coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar cane, opium, sisal, oil seeds, oil palms, fruits, rubber trees and forest trees. Protectionist policies and natural comparative advantage have sometimes contributed to determining where plantations are located.

Plantation plays a vital role in maintaining ecological balance and ensuring a sustainable future. It involves the deliberate planting of trees and vegetation in an organized manner to promote environmental, economic, and social well-being. Trees are natural air purifiers, carbon sinks, and biodiversity protectors. With increasing urbanization, climate change, and deforestation, tree plantation has emerged as a simple yet powerful act of environmental conservation.

1.2 Objectives

The main goals of the event were:

- To raise awareness about environmental sustainability among youth and community members through active participation.
- To enhance the green cover in and around the campus/local community by planting native and climate-resilient plant species.

- To educate students on the importance of biodiversity, medicinal plants, and ecological balance.
- To instill a sense of responsibility by assigning each participant a plant to adopt and nurture.
- To promote long-term engagement with nature through follow-up monitoring and care of adopted plants.

The event also served as a platform to integrate theoretical learning with practical environmental stewardship.

1.3 Pre-Planning & Coordination

Prior to the event, the NSS team conducted:

- A **site inspection** to identify suitable planting zones on campus and surrounding areas.
- Coordination with the **local nursery and Forest Department** for the procurement of saplings.
- Scheduling of responsibilities among volunteers for logistics, documentation, plant care guidance, and photography.
- Arrangement of biodegradable materials like coconut husk pots and compost.

The planning phase ensured minimal environmental footprint and efficient use of available resources.

1.4 Activities Conducted

A series of impactful activities were carried out as part of the initiative:

A. Inaugural Ceremony

The program began with an inaugural address by the NSS Programme Officer, followed by motivating speeches from the principal, faculty members, and an invited environmentalist. The guests emphasized the importance of youth participation in building a sustainable future. A short documentary on climate resilience and afforestation was also screened.

B. Plantation Drive

The plantation activity was carried out within the institution premises and nearby community park. A total of [insert number] saplings were planted, specifically chosen for their ecological value, medicinal benefits, and adaptability to local conditions. The three species selected were:

1. Neem (*Azadirachta indica*)

- **Description:** Neem is a fast-growing, drought-resistant evergreen tree widely known for its medicinal properties.
- **Ecological Role:** Neem helps purify air by absorbing pollutants and producing large amounts of oxygen. It improves soil fertility and repels pests.
- **Medicinal Use:** Every part of the neem tree — leaves, bark, seeds, and oil — is used in Ayurvedic and Unani medicine to treat skin diseases, diabetes, inflammation, and infections.
- **Cultural Significance:** Neem is considered sacred in Indian tradition and is often planted around homes and temples.

2. Tulsi (*Ocimum sanctum*)

- **Description:** Commonly known as Holy Basil, Tulsi is a fragrant herb with immense medicinal and spiritual significance.
- **Ecological Role:** Tulsi emits ozone along with oxygen and repels insects naturally. It also acts as a bio-filter in urban settings.
- **Medicinal Use:** Tulsi is known for its antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, and stress-reducing properties. It boosts immunity and is used in treating respiratory and digestive disorders.
- **Cultural Significance:** Worshipped in many Indian households, Tulsi is considered a symbol of purity and well-being.

3. Indian Beech (*Pongamia pinnata*)

- **Description:** Also known as Karanja or Pongam Tree, Indian Beech is a medium-sized evergreen tree native to the Indian subcontinent.
- **Ecological Role:** It improves soil health by fixing nitrogen and is excellent for reclaiming degraded land. Its dense canopy provides shade and habitat for birds.

- **Medicinal Use:** The oil extracted from its seeds is used for treating skin ailments, joint pain, and as an insect repellent.
- **Environmental Use:** Indian Beech is increasingly recognized as a source for **bio-diesel** due to the high oil content in its seeds. It is also planted to prevent soil erosion.

1.5 Awareness Campaign

To expand the reach of the message:

- Posters and banners were displayed around the campus.
- A digital awareness campaign using Instagram stories and WhatsApp groups shared eco-facts and event highlights.
- A group photo wall was created with the theme “**One Student, One Plant.**”

This created lasting visual memories and encouraged others to join the cause.



Fig 1.1: Planting the trees in the college campus

1.6 Outcomes

- **Green Cover Enhancement:** Over [insert number] plants were added to the campus and nearby open spaces.
- **Eco-Education:** More than [insert number] students were educated on botany, biodiversity, and sustainable plant care practices.
- **Behavioral Change:** Participants reported a greater appreciation for green initiatives and a willingness to carry the message forward.
- **Community Engagement:** Several local residents and shopkeepers also participated, enhancing community ownership of public green spaces.
- **Health and Climate Impact:** Long-term benefits include cleaner air, improved mental health for students, and urban temperature regulation.



Fig 1.2 : Planting the trees

**Fig 1.3****Fig 1.4****Fig 1.5****Fig 1.6**

As part of the NSS initiative, a tree plantation drive was organized to promote environmental awareness and sustainability. Volunteers actively participated by planting saplings in and around the campus, aiming to improve greenery and reduce pollution. This activity not only contributed to the environment but also instilled a sense of responsibility among students towards nature and future generations.

CHAPTER 2

Conclusion

The “Plantation and Adoption of Plants – Know Your Plants” initiative was a meaningful and successful step toward promoting environmental awareness, ecological restoration, and individual responsibility among NSS volunteers. Through this program, students not only participated in tree planting but also deepened their understanding of nature and its irreplaceable role in sustaining life.

More importantly, the event transformed passive environmental concern into active environmental action. The adoption model reinforced the idea of long-term commitment, instilling a sense of care and continuity beyond the event itself. Volunteers have now taken up the responsibility of nurturing their adopted plants, symbolizing ongoing dedication to the cause.

This initiative also served to inspire peer groups and faculty to consider their own roles in environmental stewardship. The combination of educational sessions, field activity, and personal responsibility created a holistic learning experience that aligns perfectly with the motto of NSS: “Not Me, But You”—promoting service to others and the environment above self-interest.

As we move forward, this plantation drive will not be seen as a one-day event, but as the beginning of a sustained green movement within and beyond our campus. The NSS unit remains committed to organizing follow-up activities, such as plant health monitoring, eco-awareness campaigns, and further plantation drives, thereby ensuring that this green effort continues to grow—just like the saplings planted.

In essence, we did not just plant trees—we planted hope, health, and a greener tomorrow.