| Avani Academy For Nature | C:\Users\Prasanna\Downloads\Avani.jpg |
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**Introduction to Avani Academy for Nature**

Avani Academy for Nature is engaged in developing programs and material to increase awareness and concern, leading to action, regarding the environment and sustainable development. Academy came in existence in the year 2017, as an implementing agency of larger group, Wildlife Aware Nature Club that caters to conservation needs of Tumkur district since 1990.

The Academy has designed, developed and implemented innovative programs to cater the needs of different target groups from students to public. Outdoor education is one such approach towards reaching students teachers and other interested groups to make conservation education more interesting and effective. Anveshane - Basic orientation to ecology; Anubhava - Nature walk and trekking; Adhyayana – Projects on wildlife and ecology.

**Core purpose**

Purpose is to create platforms for collaborative learning and to promote sustainable practices, help education institutes to bridge theoretical and practical knowledge, encourage youths and community to participate in conservation movement

**Thrust areas**

* Explore – journey to untraversed areas of knowledge
* Experience –hands on experiences to feel and understand nature
* Educate –activities to promote green thinking and to create green mind set.

**Some of the programs we are doing for students and general public are;**

* Heritage walk in Devarayanadurga State Forest
* Day with Butterflies, Birds, Reptiles – lifecycle journey
* Walk on the banks of tanks– migratory birds
* Wilderness in Tumkur – visit to wild habitats
* Explore and experience nature – Camping

**Devarayana Durga:** Located at a stone’s throw distance from Tumkur city towards east, it is a place which gives a sense of joy to varied people. To a Hindu pilgrim it is abode of the many gods well-known of which is Lord Narasimhaswamy. To a history buff, it is home to structures like the Devarayanadurga fort which is eye witness to the happenings here for the last few centuries. For a meditator, the ambience of the place at a height of almost 4,000 feet above sea level is perfect to spend some peaceful moments away from the noisy and polluted cities. To a wildlife lover Devarayanadurga state forest that surrounds this village and the hill is a local biodiversity hot spot where rare mammals, birds, reptiles, insects, amphibians, trees and shrubs thrive in plenty. This wonderful woodland is home to mammals like Hanuman langur, spotted deer, leopard, wild boar, slender loris as well as nearly 200+ species of birds and more than 150+ butterfly types. Over 200 species of plants and shrubs have been recorded here by botanists. It is an oasis of moist forest species - some plants and animals mainly found in the moist forests of Western Ghats can also be come across here unlike the surrounding plains.

**Community Awareness Program**

As the tourists and visitors are visiting this place in large numbers, the place is now feeling the pressure of development and other related activities. One such mess is plastic and solid waste pollution. BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION being the theme of 2018 World Environment Day, we request your support in creating awareness amongst public, students, shop keepers and visitor.

**World Environment Day**

World Environment Day is the UN's most important program for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment. It encourages people to participate in conservation actions locally and globally. Theme being Beat Plastic Pollution, India is the host country for the current year and world is coming together to combat single-use plastic pollution.

Hence we have planned to undertake,

* Clean up campaign in the village on top of Devarayana Durga hill
* Awareness drive to temple visitors, shop keepers, students and general public