

KOHIMA COLLEGE

KOHIMA - NAGALAND

PROJECT WORK
ON
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

TOPIC : REPORT ON FORESTS CONSERVATION

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1. INTRODUCTION

Forests conservation is the practice of planting and maintaining forested areas for the benefits and sustainability of future generations. The conservation of forests also stands and aims at a quick shift in the composition of trees species and age distribution.

Forest conservation involves the upkeep of the natural resources within a forest that are beneficial to both humans and the environment. Forests are vital for human life because they provide a diverse range of resources: Environmental, economic and social benefits.

They provide a variety of valuable products, such as timber, fuelwood, fibre and other wood and non-wood forest products, and contribute to the livelihoods of rural communities.

Forests can also play a significant role in addressing global climate change concerns. For example, they absorb carbon from the atmosphere and store it in trees and forest products. Properly managed forests can also provide wood, a renewable alternative to fossil fuels.

2. Current Status of Kijimetouma village

Poverty is a serious problem in Kijimetouma village under Chiephobozou district, where eighty percent (80%) of the population and family depends on agriculture.

Approximately forty percent (40%) of natural forests in Kijimetouma village are covered with Sawtooth Oak trees. In addition to the high value wood products, Oak trees and Mahogany tree has great value for local people fuelwood and to build something.

However, forests in this village is not well managed. The situation of forests fire in Kijimetouma village is worst in its district; 6-7% of forests area is annually damaged by fire in Kijimetouma village either for agriculture purposes.

3. Wildfires and fire Management in Kijimetourma village

3.1 Use of fire in this region
Wildfires are mostly human-induced, and the use of fire is customary in the preparation of land for agriculture, chasing animals for hunting, charcoal making, removal of green grass etc.

3.2 Fire Management with community involvement

Fire Management is an essential part of forest Management and conservation. Although fire is commonly used, it is said that uncontrolled fire are largely prohibited in Kijimetourma village. In order to Manage fire efficiently, the village leaders along with the village community brought up terms and conditions, following extreme prohibition for the past years to ensure Forest Improvement. Though this policy brought huge Impact in the improvement of forests and wildlife in its region, it is not well managed and need further recommendation.

4. Afforestation

4.1 Tree bean plantation:

Afforestation is an increasingly sought-after method to fight climate concerns, as it is known to increase the soil quality and organic carbon levels into the soil, avoiding desertification.

Practising of Afforestation is said to be common in Kijimetouma village, where different seed bearing trees are plant seasonally like the Oak trees,

Patkin speciosa (bitter bean) etc. Every household own huge plot of lands, including the fields & garden. It is said that, bitter beans plantation provide not only contribute to the conservation of forests, but also provide financial backup that every household are actively involved with the practises. In addition, Oak trees and bitter bean (stink tree) are among different varieties of trees/plant that grow faster and add up in covering the loss of trees that has been cut for fuelwood.

5.

CONCLUSION

Forests area plays important role for human beings and the environment. The provision of daily commodities (firewood, non-timber forests product etc), soil conservation, habitats for flora and fauna, and absorption of carbon dioxide.

Economic values of hijimelouma forests for local people are not well recognized not only by government but also by local people themselves.

Fire Management is the essential part of forests Management. Traditional practices on fire Management including governance structure need to be reviewed and incorporated into fire Management strategies.

Plantation of trees such as bitter bean and Oak trees should be encourage and proper guidance for Afforestation is needed.