

Individual Distinctiveness: Promoting Coastal Sustainability

St Xavier's College, Thumba

1. Environmental Awareness Campaigns Promoting Coastal Sustainability

Event: "Voices of Nature 'n' Sounds of War"

Date: November 6, 2023

Venue: Lecture Hall Room No. 169

Time: 11:00 AM

The Department of English and Media Studies at St. Xavier's College, Thumba, observed the **International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict** with an impactful event titled "**Voices of Nature 'n' Sounds of War.**"

Aligned with the college's ongoing commitment to **Coastal Sustainability**, the event emphasized the interconnectedness of environmental preservation and global peace. The program featured a screening of a UN documentary that highlighted the often-overlooked environmental consequences of warfare.

Through its compelling visuals and narratives, the documentary shed light on how conflicts devastate ecosystems, disrupt marine biodiversity, and undermine efforts toward environmental sustainability. Students were encouraged to reflect on these challenges and explore ways to advocate for environmental conservation, even in the face of adversity.

This initiative resonates deeply with the college's flagship **Coastal Sustainability Program**, reinforcing the importance of protecting fragile ecosystems like coastal areas during times of conflict. By fostering awareness about the critical need for environmental preservation, the event not only educated participants but also strengthened the college's vision of promoting a sustainable and peaceful future.

Beach Cleaning Environmental protection campaign

St. Xavier's College, Thumba, situated in a coastal region, takes pride in its commitment to addressing the unique environmental and socio-economic challenges faced by coastal communities. Through its **Coastal Sustainability Program**, the college integrates academic learning with practical community engagement, promoting ecological preservation and sustainable practices. The following initiatives by the **NCC Naval Wing** exemplify the institution's distinctiveness in fostering environmental consciousness and public welfare.

1. Beach Cleaning Drive: St. Andrews Beach

Date: September 30, 2023

As part of its commitment to preserving the coastal ecosystem, the **NCC Naval Wing** conducted a **Beach Cleaning Drive** at **St. Andrews Beach**. The event was flagged off by **Mr. Sheen Jose**, Office Superintendent, and **S/Lt. Rajesh M**, ANO of NCC Navy. Despite inclement weather, 37 cadets collected three bags of waste, including plastics, bottles, and other harmful pollutants.

This initiative emphasized the importance of maintaining clean and sustainable beaches while educating cadets on environmental stewardship. By actively participating in such drives, cadets gained firsthand experience in addressing marine pollution, a critical issue impacting coastal ecosystems and communities.

2. Beach Cleaning Drive: Pallithura Beach

Date: November 20, 2023

Continuing the mission of environmental sustainability, the **NCC Naval Wing** organized a second **Beach Cleaning Drive** at **Pallithura Beach**. Thirty-two cadets participated, collecting five bags of waste that included plastics, bottles, and other pollutants harmful to marine life.

This activity further reinforced the college's dedication to protecting coastal regions. It provided cadets with a platform to advocate for sustainable practices and instilled in them a sense of responsibility toward preserving natural resources, aligning with the college's vision of ecological sustainability.

2. Marine Conservation Seminar: Raising Awareness on Coastal Ecosystems

As part of its commitment to fostering ecological consciousness and in tune with the **Coastal Sustainability Program**, the **Nature Club** of St. Xavier's College, Thumba, organized a **Marine Conservation Seminar** on **World Environment Day, June 5, 2023**. Conducted in collaboration with the Department of Botany and Biotechnology, the seminar was held at **Fr. Stan Swamy Auditorium** at 10:45 AM.

The event featured **Dr. K. Murugan**, Director of the Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA), as the resource person. His insightful session highlighted the significance of **marine biodiversity**, **sustainable fishing practices**, and the **impacts of climate change** on coastal ecosystems.

The seminar was inaugurated by the College Principal, **Fr. Dr. V.Y. Dasappan, SJ**, who emphasized the importance of integrating environmental stewardship into education. A total of **76 students** actively participated, gaining valuable knowledge and inspiration to contribute to marine conservation and coastal sustainability.

This initiative reflects the college's dedication to creating informed stakeholders who are equipped to tackle pressing environmental challenges, particularly those affecting fragile coastal regions.

3. Community Empowerment Programs under the Coastal Sustainability Initiative

St. Xavier's College, Thumba, integrates its mission of empowering coastal communities with its vision of holistic education through a range of dynamic and impactful programs. These initiatives, conducted under the banner of the **Coastal Sustainability Program**, reflect the college's commitment to uplifting the socio-economic and educational standards of the region while fostering leadership, skill development, and ecological awareness.

1. Elementary English Training for Children

On **September 21, 2023**, the Xavier Outreach Services (XOS), in collaboration with the Department of BEAMS, organized a **one-day Elementary English Training session** for 40 schoolchildren at **St. Andrews UP School**. This program aimed to bridge language gaps in early education, equipping children from coastal communities with essential English skills to enhance their academic and communication capabilities.

2. Life Skills Orientation for Higher Secondary Students

The **Life Skills Orientation** held on **October 22, 2023**, at **Pallithura School** empowered 20 Plus Two students with essential skills for personal and social development. Conducted by Fr. Saji Joseph SJ, Assistant Professor of Social Work at Loyola College of Social Sciences, and Fr. Dominic Joseph SJ, the session aligned with the college's mission of nurturing well-rounded individuals prepared to face life's challenges.

3. Youth Leadership Program for College Students

On **October 28, 2023**, a transformative **Youth Leadership Program** was organized by XOS in collaboration with AICUF at the **AICUF Centre**. Inaugurated by Fr. Baby Chalil, the program featured resource persons Dr. Fr. Biju Joy and Fr. Dominic Joseph. Attended by 60 college students, this initiative focused on leadership, social responsibility, and fostering a sense of community engagement among the youth.

4. Training on English Pronunciation

On **November 9, 2023**, XOS, with support from the Department of BEAMS, conducted a **Training on English Pronunciation** for the students of **St. Andrew's UP School**. Led by Mrs. Franshine Francis and her team, the session aimed to refine the linguistic skills of young learners, helping them gain confidence in their communication.

5. Orientation on PSC Registration and Exam Preparation

To support career aspirations in public service, XOS organized an **Orientation on PSC Registration and Exam Preparation** on **January 17, 2024**, with **Mr. Sunil John**, PTA President, as the resource person. Attended by approximately 100 students, the session included an engaging Q&A segment, equipping participants with practical strategies for success in the PSC examinations.

6. Civil Service Examination Orientation

On **March 19, 2024**, XOS, in collaboration with the Department of BEAMS, hosted an **Orientation on Civil Service Examination** led by **Ms. Anu Krishna**, a former BEAMS student and aspiring civil servant. This insightful session introduced participants to the intricacies of civil service preparation, inspiring them to pursue excellence in competitive examinations.

Impact and Alignment with Coastal Sustainability Goals

These empowerment programs not only enhance the academic, professional, and personal growth of the coastal community but also contribute to the overall vision of St. Xavier's College to foster education, leadership, and ecological awareness. By addressing the unique challenges of the coastal population, the college exemplifies its role as a catalyst for sustainable development and community empowerment.