

Impact of local activities on vegetation in Patur Tahsil Akola, (M.S.)

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Abstract

In many developing and developed countries, including India, the conservation policies have been centered upon the protected areas. The natural areas are either undisturbed or highly exploited by human activities. Patur is a small town near Akola in Maharashtra where diversified vegetation is observed. But the local developmental activities as well as illegal cutting affects the vegetation. The present study is focused on, to control such activities and to look after the local development. The governments or nongovernment organizations should come forward for systematic conservation planning. Through this study we propose certain conservation approaches to explore the conditions that bring about the integration of the human society with the local biodiversity. The study will also promote sustainable development.

Keywords: Sustainable development, Biodiversity, Systematic Conservation, Patur, Diversified, Akola

1. Introduction

The principles of proper conservation are now widely used by government and non-government organizations. This is to develop biodiversity conservation plans for countries, state, regions and subsequently the eco-regions. In many developing and developed countries, including India, the conservation policies have been centered upon the protected areas. The natural areas, rather we would say the local areas either be undisturbed or highly exploited by human activities. The local floristic development is equally important which is similar to conserving the protected areas. It has been observed that, the natural areas are covered with good density of small trees, shrubs and herbs. This gives immense ecological importance to several such regions which are near to village, town, city, etc. But this simple issue of protecting the wild animal and plants from forces beyond control, becomes day by day more complicated because of human co-existence with wild life^[1]. There is need to change the conservation policies and to give more emphasis on natural undisturbed land, so as to look after the local development.

The conservation planning is more important as millions of people, depend on protected areas. Moreover, the rich and conserved biota provides many services to the human population. The few of them are honey collection, gum collection, timber and medicinal plants collections^[2]. Apart from this many plants yields tannin, resin, dyes and oil which is having high commercial value. Excessive use of forest is leading towards destruction. This must be checked in time otherwise the top soil fertility would be lost. If it is so, then neither agriculture nor horticultural practices will be able to sustain human life.

2. About Patur Region

The present study is an effort to stop the local violence so as to promote the local development. Patur is a small town near Akola in Maharashtra where diverse floristic wealth is observed. The most dominating species belongs to Fabaceae, Malvaceae, Moraceae, Verbenaceae, Fabaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Caesalpinaceae, Mimosaceae, Santalaceae, Solanaceae and Papaveraceae.

The plants with great economic values are *Santalum album*, *Jatropha curcas*, *Vitex negundo*, *Eucalyptus globulus*, *Argemone mexicana*, *Solanum virginianum*, *Physalis minima* and many others.

3. Real Life Problems

Due to the conservation strategies enforced by the forest departments the population loses their economic base of survival. Moreover, there is very less job prospects for the local people. The community unfortunately subjected towards eviction. Thus, the local areas are highly affected by unfair activities. The people even did not protect their cultural heritage and not bother about their institutions and symbols. For sake of earning, illegal activities like tree cutting, removal of herbaceous cover up from acres of land for vegetable plantation are the regular practices. There is an encroachment of increasing human population towards the hills thereby removing and disturbing the natural flora.

4. Conservation strategies

The successful model is presented to promote the sustainable development and enrichment of the valuable flora. We have proposed certain conservation approaches to explore the conditions that bring about the integrations of the human society with the local biodiversity^[3].

1. The government and non-government organization must work hand in hand.
2. Going for regional connectivity.
3. Capitalizing on local flora of great economic values.
4. Creating Public awareness about local biodiversity.
5. Regional ecological education

With these few steps it can be possible to stop the destruction of flora to some extent. The positive co-operation of the human population can significantly maintain the species diversity in the environment. Government of India has long before initiated the National Service Scheme (NSS) through universities for students. Through such practices, it is easy to educate the rural people and make them aware about the traditional remedies to cure various diseases. Many modern medicines are available in market but rural and local people depend on plants and prepare personal remedies to cure the diseases^[4]. Apart from medicinal values big number of species are having great economic scope. There are many alternative methods through which we can take advantage of these natural resources rather than demolishing the nature's beauty.



Fig 1: Destruction of Hilly Range Habitats.

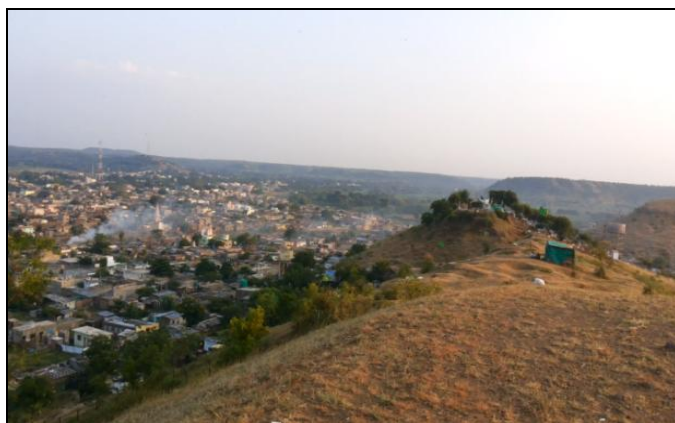


Fig 2: Expansion of Human Colonies towards Mountain Ranges



Fig 3: Illegal Destruction of Local Forest Areas.



Fig 4: Illegal Destruction of Local Forest Areas

5. Acknowledgement

The authors express their sincere thanks to the President of the Institution Shri Subhashrao Bochare and Principal Dr. P.M. Band of Mahatma Phule arts and science college, Patur, Dist. Akola.

6. References

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