

## Institutional Distinctiveness

Radhanagari Tehsil is very closely located to the famous Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary. The Government of Maharashtra vide its Gazette Notification No. WLP/1085/C. R. 581/V.F.5/ dated 16th September 1985 has declared 351.16 square kilometer area of Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary under the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (53 of 1972) comprising of the Sanctuary in the State of Maharashtra. The said notification states that:

“The sanctuary is known for rich avifauna with about 264 species of birds including migratory, a number of territorial birds of Indian origin stay here around the year, breeding of them have been recorded from this region. Honey buzzard, serpent eagle, hawk eagle, white bellied sea eagle are important raptors in the area.

The area has very high faunal diversity with about 47 species of mammals, about 59 species of reptiles, 20 species of amphibian and 66 species of butterflies are found and the flora of this area is represented by Southern tropical semi-evergreen and west coast semi evergreen forests, southern tropical moist mixed deciduous forests and West coast tropical evergreen forest.

The area also supports important wildlife such as tiger, leopard, sloth bear, wild dog, Indian gaur, sambhar, barking deer and mouse deer.”

The institution feels privileged due to this strategic location. While defining the vision-mission statement and the core values, the institution was very much keen about the social surrounding. The institution has its well defined core values. Institution’s one of the core values is “Inculcating a value system among students” through which the institution aspires to inculcate the universal values among students such as equality, solidarity and respect for Nature. Being located near to the reserve forest is otherwise a major weakness of the institution and the surrounding vicinity as far as the overall development is concerned. But the institution considers it as a challenge and has transformed it into an opportunity.

In tune with the aforementioned core value, the Orchid Nature Club of the institution plays a significant role. The Nature Club organises various activities throughout the year. The planning of the activities is reflected in the academic calendar. The experts in the field of environment are invited to guide the students.

At the commencement of the new academic year, the students are appealed to become a member of the club. A precaution is taken to admit new students every time. Since many of the activities are organised in the reserve forest zone itself, the intake capacity of the club is restricted to forty. Tree plantation on the college campus, collecting of plastic debris in the forest zone, study tours, poster presentation, slide show, surveys etc. are the regular activities of the club. Through the nature club, the institution organises different workshops related to environment issues.

The institution feels proud about the alumni who have established a couple of other nature clubs in the surrounding areas. The institution's nature club works with these clubs too. In recent years, these clubs have organised the activities such as the butterfly festival and the firefly festival. These activities received attention at national level. The institution has played an important role in organising these activities.

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