



FIELD WORK / EDUCATIONAL TOURS

NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT: BOTANY

Year: 2018-2019

FIELD REPORT ON

: "A field trip to Chayatal, Demtang Uttarey- West Sikkim "

THE PURPOSE OF A FIELD STUDY:

- ❖ The major objective of field work/study tour in Botany is to familiarize the students with the local, native or exotic flora and ecology of a selected place/region.
- ❖ It also help to acquaint the students with the importance of wetlands and the threats of ecosystems due to natural and anthropogenic activities
- ❖ It helps the students to reinforce experiential and contextual learning. Study tour is a way of enhancing classroom learning by making real world connections.
- ❖ It exposes the students to different lifestyles, places and eras. Going on a field work enhances their critical thinking skills and gives students a chance to think about a topic or theme from a different perspective.
- ❖ Therefore, a field work/study tour gives the students a chance to experience and explore biodiversity of flora of new areas, places or region/country.
- ❖ The excursions conducted are mainly due to fulfilment the academic requirements of the students. The field studies are conducted to give idea about the various plant groups and vegetation patterns (Angiospermic, Gymnospermic, Pteridophtic, Bryophytic distribution) distributed around us.

VENUE/LOCATION:

- ❖ **Field survey to Chayatal, Demtang Uttarey- West Sikkim**

DATE and TIME:

- ❖ **27/09/2018 – 02/10/2018**

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE WORK DONE:

- Chayatal is situated in the Western Part of the Sikkim; the village is just 32 km away from a well-known hamlet named Pelling. Encompassed by lavish forest, blessed with a peaceful and relaxing environment and adorned with Mountain Peaks in the backdrop, Chaaya Taal turns out to be an alluring offbeat destination. Utterey is another such village near to it
 - This place is rich in vegetation and offers a panoramic view of mount Kanchenjunga and its allied peaks. The silence of the forest, seeing unknown birds and the pleasant hilly breeze make this place as a romantic tourist spot. So, it is attracted the tourist as well as the students and researcher of the Plant science.
 - It is surrounded by wild forest, some of the forests are completely virgin.
- Students were familiarized with different cryptogamic plant groups like algae, lichen, bryophytes (*Riccia*, *Marchantia*, *Pogonatum*), pteridophytes (*Sellaginella*, *Lycopodium*, *Equisetum*) and phanerogamic plant groups like gymnosperms and angiosperms.
- They also collected some cryptogamic and phanerogamic plant specimens for submission during Calcutta University practical examination and also needed for running departmental practical classes.
- During the excursion students were directed to pick up the wild weed plants mainly. While collecting those plants it was strictly followed that the collection was minimal and would not harm the balance of the ecosystem. Students were then made aware how to put them under press and make them ready for herbarium sheets.
- Students were also made aware of various morphological architectures of various plant species particularly about there – inflorescence types; floral whorls; leaves ; stems etc.
- Students were also introduced with the fact of vegetation pattern difference due change in Phytogeographic locations.

OUTCOMES :

- The specimens which were collected during field trip (session: 2022-23) were submitted during practical examination of Calcutta University and excess few specimens were stored in the departmental museum.

- The students were able to connect the theoretical knowledge with the real world – particularly about
 - the microhabitats of plant species,
 - their relationship with the surrounding species,
 - Vegetational Pattern difference due change in location.
 - Effect of climate on morphology of plants.
- The students also adapted to a new culture and tradition, which effectively broaden their outlook about the society

SOME PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE EXCURSION:



A GROUP PHOTO NEAR SINGSHORE SUSPENSION BRIDGE



A GROUP PHOTO AT SINGSHORE SUSPENSION BRIDGE



PLANT PRESSING DURING A CLASS AT THE HOMESTAY



At front of Homestay