

Bio diversity garden as a concept and an activity

There is a perception among the community that learning is an activity to be undertaken or possible only in the four walls of the class rooms. And they also believe that learning is merely an affair between students and teachers where the only tool is the text book. This is basically a closed approach to learning. Schools of Kerala across the state have developed an entirely different approach, where meaningful learning takes place both inside and outside the class rooms as well. These schools have developed *Bio Diversity Gardens* in the school campus to make the school itself a textbook for learning. Schools like **GLPS, Kodaly Thrissur, G.L.P. S. Malappachery** and **G.L.P.S. Athirkuzhy**, Kasargod, **G.L.P.S. Manacaud**, Thiruvananthapuram have developed and made use of Biodiversity Gardens in their school campuses to help children develop an inclination for science and scientific processes and spur their critical thinking. These schools were successful in integrating these activities with the learning of science and maths as part of classroom learning.

Bio Diversity Garden is a means for the inculcation of scientific temper and the goal is to foster science education. The elements of mathematics can also be incorporated into this. One can place Bio Diversity Garden as a concept and the students can understand how *Life science* and *Physical sciences* is integrated or inseparable in an ecosystem. Basically a biodiversity park is an ecosystem and one can see the interrelationship between non living and living world.

The clarity regarding bio diversity as a concept leads towards developing Bio diversity register and even Bio Diversity Park. In the process students will acquire more clarity in various concepts related to this broader theme. The following are the major activities taken up in schools as part of developing Bio Diversity Garden and learning activities related to it.

- a) **Preparation of Bio diversity register**
- b) **Developing Bio Diversity Garden**
- c) **Preparation of activity book for students**
- d) **Preparation of Hand books for teachers**

