

**ONE DAY
DEPARTMENT SEMINAR
ON
SUSTAINABILITY OF LOCAL RESOURCES: FISHES AND FISHING**



**ORGANISED BY
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
SOUTH EAST MANIPUR COLLEGE**

**VENUE
ZOOLOGY HALL, SOUTH EAST MANIPUR COLLEGE
ON
4 OCTOBER 2021**

NOTE ON THE SEMINAR

Local environment and ecology feature less in academic syllabus. Although students engaged in exposure trips via study tours to explore local environment, the limited exposure is not enough to cater to the need for a comprehensive interests and awareness of the local environment. Thus, there arises a need in the academic exercises for a space wherein students could learn of the local environments, as well as spark their interests in their post-college endeavours, and that includes future engagement in academic research in higher education.

There is so much to learn from the local environment; unfortunately, regrettable yet unavoidable occupational activities in the region has resulted in the destruction of local environment and resources, which further threatened many species and their habitat. Manipur being located at the biodiversity hotspot juncture of the Eastern Himalayan and Indo-Burma, it is thus essential to promote sustainable livelihood to not only sustain the natural resources and environment, but to also protect the future livelihood of individuals and communities depending on such local resources. The region being backward in all spheres of development, resource and environmental awareness is socially minimal, while students' understanding and interaction with their local ecology is even minimal.

This seminar aims at a specific resource, viz. fish, with specific reference to wild fishery. The eastern districts of Manipur fall under the Chindwin River basin and the rivers and streams are rich in ichthyofauna. Many of the fish species are also threatened due to overfishing in the recent years. Overfishing has also snowballed into other environmental issues like river pollution and deforestation (which threatened many exotic ichthyotoxic plants) as well as social issues like conflicts over resource sharing and utilisation.

The objective of the seminar is to provide a platform for the students of South East Manipur College to be acquainted with the local environment and resources as well as to cultivate among them the need of the hour on environmental sustainability. The seminar specifically aims at the students because they are the pillars of the future, thus an important stakeholder for the future sustainability of local resources. The department has invited two researchers as resource persons based on the theme of the seminar- Fish and Fishing. The department also looks forward to organising such more departmental seminars on various topics in the future.

SCHEDULES TO BE NOTED

Last Date of Participant Registration: 1 October 2021

Day of the seminar: 4 October 2021, Monday

Venue: Zoology Hall, South East Manipur College

Time: 11:00 to 13:00

ORGANISING TEAM

PATRON: **Dr L Khiloni,**
Principal, SEMCO

CHAIRPERSON and Secretary: Dr. Wanglar Alphonsa Moyon

Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology
SEMCO

MEMBERS:

T Nabakumar Singh
HOD, Zoology Department, SEMCO

Celine Roel Ringrii
Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology
SEMCO

RESOURCE PERSONS

Dr. Ersilia Jajo
Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology
Pettigrew College, Ukhrul, Manipur

Dr. Elija Chara
Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology
Mt Zion College, Senapati, Manipur

For queries and registration, contact the corresponding chairperson, Dr. Wanglar Alphonsa Moyon, via email: alphonshawanglar@gmail.com or via whatsapp/phone: +919612577613

Report

One day Department seminar on “Sustainability of local resources: fishes and fishing”

Organised by: Department of Zoology, South East Manipur College

Date: 4 October 2021, Time: 11:00-13:00

Resource Persons: Dr Ersilia Jajo, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, Pettigrew College, Ukhrul,
Dr Elija Chara, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Mt Zion College, Senapati

Number of participants: 29

Objectives of the seminar

- i. to provide a platform for the students of South East Manipur College to be acquainted with the local environment and resources
- ii. to brainstorm the students on the need of the hour on environmental sustainability

Activities

The seminar was moderated by Ms Celine Roel Ringrii, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, SEMCO.

The event began with a welcome and introductory speech by Dr L. Khiloni, Seminar Patron and Principal, SEMCO. In the speech, Dr Khiloni thanked the Department of Zoology, SEMCO and Dr Wanglar Alphonsa Moyon for initiating such departmental seminar as a part of academic curriculum and exercise for the Zoology students as well as the college. Dr Khiloni stressed upon the present state of local environment and how the everyday activities of the people have contributed towards unsustainable future; the state of Manipur is no exception to the effects of global warming and climate change, and hence it is the need of the hour for everyone to start rethinking and assessing their activities if we want our future generations to be able to survive. Dr Khiloni also introduced the invited speakers to the participants, with additional note that environment is not just the domain of science, but it is a multidisciplinary space for Humanities, Science and Social Sciences to come together.

The speech was followed by screening of a short video from Youtube produced by TED-ED. The video is entitled “**Will the ocean ever run out of fish**”. The purpose of the video was to introduce the participants to sustainability and fishery crisis at the global platform, while the local phenomenon would be addressed by the speakers.

After the initial warm up and interactive sessions and video screening, the event proceeded to the core activity- thematic lectures from the key speakers. The session was chaired by Dr Wanglar Alphonsa Moyon, Department of Zoology, SEMCO. After brief introduction by the chair, the session initiated.

Dr Ersilia Jajo of Pettigrew College spoke on the rich diversity of local rivers, with special reference to the Maklang River wherein Dr Jajo presented on the river’s ichthyodiversity. Dr Jajo described the various fishes found in the river, supplemented by photos of the river and the fishes. Dr Jajo concluded that environmental destruction was no longer confined in textbook as it had become our everyday reality even reaching far flung remote areas; and that it was an immediate necessity for the students to be aware of local environment, study them closely and ensure they also participate towards making the future sustainable.

Dr Elija Chara of Mt Zion College presented on the fishing methods used by the Moyon tribe and how these methods had contributed to environmental destruction and future livelihood of people depending on wild fishery. Dr Chara stressed on the local environment, wherein SEMCO is located, to provide a firsthand accounts on the local ecological crisis. Dr Chara also presented comprehensive accounts on traditional fishing methods, their advantages and disadvantages, and proceeded to the modern fishing methods used at present and the resulting fishery crash in the local rivers. Dr Chara also talked about development and environment, how the two should be balanced, and Dr Chara mentioned that the society should aim for sustainable livelihood and development. In additional notes, Dr Chara encouraged the students of SEMCO to go for higher studies and research, as well as to engage in departmental project and field trips to study the local environment.

A discussion session followed the two key presentations. The discussion was chaired by the Session Chair, Dr Wanglar Alphonsa Moyon. The discussion lasted almost thirty minutes. Questions, answers, queries and opinions were generously shared during the session. One of the opinions stressed that such departmental seminar needed to be organised periodically so that students could also share working paper based on their field trips and project works, at

the same time for the students to also interact with experts from other disciplines and institutes and explore areas and subjects not covered in the syllabus.

The Session Chair closed the seminar with presentations and vote of thanks, thanking the Principal of SEMCO for the institutional supports, Department of Zoology for the departmental supports, the key speakers for their honourable time, knowledge and presentation and the students for their cooperation through their participations and inquisitiveness to learn.

Assessment

The seminar went successfully with a small, yet qualitative, participation. The seminar though planned in a short period was well received by the students through their participation and supported by the key speakers through their presentations on the thematic topics based on the theme of the seminar. The seminar's theme was in apt and coincided with the Wildlife Week (2-8 October) of 2021. The key presentations touched upon the areas of the sustainability of local resources with fish and fishing as the core areas; accordingly, the presentations delivered the objectives of the seminar through a detailed description of the local fish resource (of Maklang river) and question of sustainability of such local resources (with Chandel District as the presented case).

Taking note of the responses and opinions shared during discussion, it is imperative that departmental seminars are essential for the students. Such seminars will expose the students to topics, areas and issues beyond the syllabus and thus, it would expand their knowledge. The department plans to organise such seminars including invited lectures and encourage the students to share working papers based on field trips and project works.