



Greenery in Telangana

Observe the below pictures and compare both of them.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

- ◆ Can you think of the reasons for the conditions in the first picture?
- ◆ With regard to your region compare the situations of the above pictures.
- ◆ What will we do to make our regions like the second picture?

Telangana lies between 15°46' and 19°47' North latitude and 77°16' and 81°43' Eastern longitude. It is situated in the Deccan plateau in a semi-arid zone. The climate is predominantly hot and dry. The rainfall is scanty and erratic leading to dry deciduous forests & scrublands.

According to National Forest Policy of India (1988) the total geographical area under tree cover should be a minimum of 33% to maintain environmental stability and ecological balance. It is very essential

for the sustenance of all life forms, human beings and animals. But in Telangana the present tree cover area is only about 24% due to felling of trees which is further resulting in low rainfall and associated water problems. Due to constant deforestation, degradation of forests, excess of soil erosion in degraded forests, wild animals like monkeys, bears, leopards are entering villages and are disturbing the households.

Telangana State Government is initiating massive plantation programme to increase the forest cover to the expected 33% of the total geographical area. It is planned in two-folds:

- i) initiatives in notified forest areas.
- ii) initiatives in areas outside the notified areas.

Massive planting activities are taken up in areas such as road-side avenues, river and canal bank, barren hills, tank bunds and foreshore areas, schools and colleges, religious places, housing colonies, community lands, municipalities, industrial parks and farm lands, etc.



Fig.3 Children in plantation

- ♦ How was *vanamahotsava* programme held in your school?
- ♦ Make a list of different saplings planted in your school.

To achieve this, 230 crores seedlings are proposed to be planted in the state. More than 4000 nurseries were established by the forest and other government departments in the state. The saplings from the nurseries are distributed freely to whoever are participants in the Greenary Programme. People from all walks of life, government agencies, officers even like district collectors, prominent citizens, people's representatives, judges, police men, celebrities participate in the programme to make it successful.

Medicinal plants like neem, tulsi, etc. Fruit and nut bearing plants like almonds, mango, sapota, guava, custard apple, etc. Flowering plants like jasmine, marigold, rose, gulmohar, etc and several other plants like silver oak, *raavi*, *marri*, *neredu*, etc are being planted in the above mentioned areas.

If we grow more plants and trees, it will be useful in getting rainfall, improving the surface and ground water level. Tanks and wells will be with full of water and so better irrigation will be provided for agriculture. Animals such as sheep, goats, cows will have abundant fodder. Grasslands, green meadows will be available to these animals for grazing. The pollution caused due to emissions from industries, vehicles and fossil fuel burning will be reduced. Forest produce like timber, bamboo, leaves for medicines and beedi leaves, fire wood, honey, fruits, nuts, etc. will be available from these forests. Birds and wild animals will have a proper shelter and will not poach on to the habitations.

- ♦ How can you say that increase in forest cover will help in high rainfall?
- ♦ Imagine the situations in your village/town or your region, if it is fully covered with trees and greenery.

Planting of saplings is a passion to many of us, but the problem is with regard to safeguarding and protecting of the plants. Normally, more saplings are planted, but not many of them are grown due to our own negligence.



Fig. Plantation with treeguards

The Forest Man of India

Jadav Molai Payeng was a forest worker in Jorhat district of Assom. At the age of 16, he participated in the social forestry program in 1979 as a labourer in the project which continued for 5 years. After completion of the project, all the workers left but he continued to plant more trees on his own. He planted and cared number of trees in an area of about 1360 acres over a period of 20 years on a sand bar of the river Brahmaputra. With his work, the whole place turned into a forest, called the Molai forest, after him. He is called as “the Forest Man of India” and awarded Padmashree, the fourth highest civilian honour in the country.

The state government has started geo tagging of these plants to assess whether all the plants are protected or not. Tree gaurds are being supplied by the officials to schools, offices and other places where there is necessity. It is our primary duty to

take care of these plants. In schools, teachers and students along with the community participation take up plantations. The students and teachers are adopting a few plants, either classwise or groupwise and they are taking care of these plants. In their leisure time, before or after school hours they water the plants and arrange tree guards or fencing for the sake of their protection. This type of Greenery Programme by the schools is being encouraged by the State Government by rewarding them.

In some schools, the saplings are given to the students by their teachers to get it planted at their respective habitations. Thus indirectly parents and community are also involved. The massive programme of planting 230 crore saplings is achieved only if all people of the community are participating with interest and intention. In some other schools, “**Each one, plant one**” programme is initiated.

- ♦ Discuss in the classroom, how the plantation has taken place in your locality.
- ♦ Discuss about the trees, gardens, parks available in your village/town or region.



Vanajeevi Ramaiah

Daripalli Ramaiah aged 70, popularly known as 'Vanajeevi Ramaiah' from Reddypally village in Khammam rural mandal, Telangana state. He transformed the famous slogan "Plant a tree and save a life" into action rather than lecturing the benefits. Locals know him as a man with pockets full of seeds and who pedals miles together with an overload of saplings on his bicycle. He truly recognizes the need to plant trees to save our environment and desperately plants saplings in each and every barren land he passes. He not only planted the saplings, but also nurtured them inspiring individuals and institutions to take up tree plantation drive as a social movement. His untiring endeavour to protect the environment and his outstanding contribution to expand the green cover won him the country's prestigious Padma Shri award.

Keywords

Ecological balance

Pollution

Ground water level

Greenery

Improve your learning

1. Why is it necessary to increase the greenery in Telangana?
2. What are the uses of forests?
3. Suggest a few measures to protect the plants.
4. How are the trees on both sides of the roads helpful to us?
5. Collect news paper clippings, showing the news related to planting saplings and make an album.
6. How is vanamahotsavam conducted recently in your locality?
7. Create a few slogans on afforestation.

