

ROLE OF NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, ROTARY CLUB AND SOCIAL FORESTRY IN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

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ABSTRACT: Biodiversity conservation at a global scale often starts with small human activities. Tree plantation, reforestation and cleaning up programmes are all human activities that contribute to biodiversity conservation. The involvement of local people facilitates the viability of biodiversity monitoring. The present paper explores the role of various social organizations in biodiversity conservation in and around Solapur district. Solapur district is a region in south-western part of Maharashtra state (India) occupying an important position in terms of area and population. Various social organizations in Solapur like NSS, educational institutions, Rotary club, social forestry programmes etc. have been creating a sense of conservation of plants and animal species by encouraging local people to sponsor trees, seeds or spread seeds on open land, create ecofriendly parks, nurseries and ,plant a tree on important occasions of near and dear ones. This activity from its commencement has shown the encouraging results in increasing and conserving biodiversity.

Key words: *Ecofriendly, Maharashtra, NSS, Reforestation, Social forestry*