**DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY**

**ZOOLOGICAL CLUB**

During 1970’s, Silent Valley was threatened with invasive development, which politicised many College Campuses especially Payyanur College Campus; under the legendary Pro. John C Jacob. Professor John C Jacob, the first HoD, Department of Zoology, Payyanur College organised a street march of students & citizens to save Silent Valley. It was the first ever march in our district, purely for environmental issue. Soon, in September 1972, the Zoological Club was established by Prof. John C Jacob. The motive behind the club was to inculcate Environmental Awareness among the students and through them the society at large. Later, the club has played a pivotal in paving a basis for environmental awareness among the people of Kerala. The club initiated the formation of a “Nature Club” connecting all the student community within Kerala State. The first Nature camp for students from various schools and colleges was conducted by Zoological Club. This has been the first ever Nature camp to be conducted in South India. Falling in line more and more Nature clubs started to bud in various parts of Kerala. Significance of the Nature Camps were recognized and accepted by all and this was witnessed by the decision of Department of Forest, Government of Kerala to organize such Camps for School & College students. To widen the ambit of nature awareness, Zoological Club constituted a new organisation under the nomenclature SEEK (Society for environmental Education in Kerala) during 1979. Thereafter all the activities planned by Zoological Club was executed through SEEK. Meanwhile all the assets and properties of Zoological Club was transferred to SEEK. Obviously, the Club activities became anecdote of Environmental awareness in Kerala.

Lot of conservative/ environmental activities in and out of the college was organized by Zoological Club later on. On 5th December, 2007 our department, established a Butterfly Garden in the College campus in association with Zoological Club & The Rotary Club of Payyanur. Thereafter, many eminent personalities, both alumni & non-alumni, enriched Club activities by delivering speeches on environment as well as other contemporary issues. Wetland laws, Significance of Mangroves, Vector Born diseases, African Safari- A Travelogue, etc are just a few among them. Dr. A.K Venugopalan, Dr. P M Anilkumar, K. M. Balakrishnan, Dineshan Cheruvattu (IAS), Adv. Jithesh Nambiar, Dr. Felix Bast, Dr. Bibha Choudhary, Dr. Dhaneesh Bhaskar, Dr. Anilkumar Gopinathan, Dr. Sony R.K, Dr. Satheesh C Raghavan etc are important personalities in constant contact with the Zoological Club as well as the Department.

Though the demise of the founder and mentor of Zoological Club, Prof. John C Jacob on 11th October 2008 was a great emotional trauma for all the club members, the Club tried to overcome the loss by organising more environmental activities. National Seminar on Fragile Habitats, Seminar on Biodiversity & Environmental Issues, Significance of Biology in Modern age, Effects of Pesticides etc are some of them.

The Club supports Fresher’s day celebrations and Onam Celebrations every year.

**Teacher-in-charge**: Dr. Sapna Jacob



**Student-in-charge:** Rohith K M



