



ENJOYING BIODIVERSITY IN CITIES

CASE STUDY/INSIGHT

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There is a common perception among people that biodiversity is associated with forests. Do we have to visit forests to enjoy biodiversity? Obviously not. Biodiversity can be enjoyed from the place we reside. Biodiversity refers to different kinds of life on earth like animals, plants, birds, insects, fungi and microorganisms. It can be found anywhere and everywhere on earth. Cities also provide habitat for many trees, animals and birds.

We can relish biodiversity even in cities through trees, plants and vegetation cover in parks, home gardens, birds visiting the garden and trees. Cities may have very old trees of different species which will be home to many birds. If we closely observe such old large trees, we could find different kinds of birds, their activities with respect to time and season, nests and their daily routines. This kind of bird watching could be done in cities itself.



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Crows, Sparrows, parrots, koels, pigeons, myna and eagles are common birds in cities. Keeping food and water at terrace would attract birds to our home and we could use this opportunity to enjoy watching them. We could even build a beautiful relationship with them. Bird watching will make us more familiar with sounds of birds, their flying height, its food habits and much more.

Going to terrace during morning and evening for a small walk will give us more exposure to biodiversity around our place of living. If we have backyard or terrace garden, then we can observe biodiversity in that itself. Flowering and fruiting plants will attract lot of insects like butterflies of different types, grass hoppers, moths, leaf hoppers, etc., which can also be observed. Going to garden and watching all the plants, creepers and trees will make us feel relaxed. In gardens, we will be able to experience fresh air and chill breeze which will refresh our minds. Trees in our gardens might be home to many birds, which can be observed and watched.

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Apart from this, we can experience habitats of animals such as dogs, cats, squirrels, etc. We could create a friendly bond with these animals by keeping food near our house for them. We could go for a leisure walk in parks to enjoy the biodiversity there. Just by going to terrace or parks, we could enjoy biodiversity around us in cities. Watching biodiversity during early dawn and dusk would make us feel refreshed with beautiful sceneries of sunrise and sunset along with fresh breeze. Relishing biodiversity will help us come out of our hectic schedule, stress, and boosts our mood with happiness, peace and pleasantness. It will also help us establish our relationship with nature. So why wait? Let us start getting out of our house and enjoy the biodiversity around us. All it needs is just keep our eyes and mind open and look at around us!