## A report on exhibition (WWF- India)

On the  $25^{th}$  anniversary of S.E.R.V.E –a joint effort of WWF- India and Teekampagne , an event was organized at Chowrasta, Darjeeling between  $21^{st}$  and  $23^{rd}$  April,2023 .

(S.E.R.V.E.- "save environment and revive employment", primarily prioritizes conservation building stakeholders with communities, and responsible tourism as wells as wildlife research and conservation, water security, waste management, education and awareness.)

The event comprised of an exhibition which reflected the following themes -

- 25 year of Project S.E.R.V.E-
- Wildlife and Habitats
- Enhancing Water Security
- Building Community Stewardship
- Education and Awareness, and
- Promoting zero waste

These themes were illustrated through several informative display panels, and exhibited posters .

24 participants of Botany Dept. of St Joseph's college as well participated on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> in the poster exhibition under the declared topics – "Rhododendrons of Darjeeling Hills" and "wild edible Mushrooms of Darjeeling Himalayas" as part of the given theme <u>-Biodiversity of Darjeeling Himalayas</u>.

The displayed posters "Rhododendrons of Darjeeling Hills" and "wild edible Mushrooms of Darjeeling Himalayas" were prepared after rigorous research by the participating students under the supervision of Dr. (Mrs)Manjula Rai and Dr. (Mr.) Upakar Rai.

The exhibition proved to exceed our expectations as not only was it informative but involved several interactive, educational games as well. There were several canopies adorned with illustrative posters and panels .Participation ranged from revered ATREE foundation, to Govt. College Darjeeling to Bird Club of Darjeeling and our very own alma mater St. Joseph's College spanning over themes from 'Endangered species of Darjeeling and its conservation'; Locally found Medicinal plants , Bird species of Darjeeling , to management of waste, etc.

Our team of enthusiastic 24 finally felt all our rigorous research, design and collaborative efforts come into fruition, as we thoroughly engaged ourselves in hearty educational exchange with visitors who visited our exhibited posters. Not only this, each one of us thoroughly enjoyed the interactive games as well.

Cumulatively the exhibition turned out to be a unique experience with a blend of education, interactive learning and a peek into the world of scientific research.

On behalf of the participating students, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our academic professors for their guidance and WWF organization for inviting us to be a part of the exhibition.

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