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#### **HANSRAJ COLLEGE**

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#### 2023-2024

Name of the Event: Seminar on the topic "Engaging Youth Through Citizen Science"

**Organised by: Haritima-** The Environmental Awareness Society, Hansraj College

Date of the Event: 05 October, 2023

**Duration/Event Timing:** 2.30 PM to 5 PM

Venue of the Event: New Seminar Room, Hansraj College

Name of Convener: Dr. Justin Matthew

### **Event Description**

As part of National Wildlife Week celebrations named as Wildlife Fiesta from October 3rd to October 6th Haritima The Environmental Awareness Society of Hansraj College organized its 3rd out of the four events in collaboration with World Wide Fund For Nature [WWF] from 2.30pm to 5.00pm in New Seminar Room, Hansraj College. The seminar on "Engaging"

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Youth Through Citizen Science" was organized with the aim of exploring the potential of citizen science in involving young people in scientific research and environmental conservation. The Seminar was led by Ms. Shonali Chenzira Senior Manager, WWF-India and Ms. Tannu Saini Senior Program Officer-, WWF-India having more than 70 participants ,where the participants went through an enlightening journey into world of citizen science and youth engagement.

The seminar began with the speaker Ms Sonali mam, who emphasized the significance of citizen science in fostering a sense of ownership among young people toward environmental issues. She emphasized the fact that citizen science is not limited to certain age groups or students in science discipline and it has power to break the scientist and non scientist barrier. Participants were introduced into various citizen science websites and portals like iNaturalist,e-bird,Roadkills,MYNA,Frogwatch,India Biodiversity Portal any many more where these sites aims to aggregate data through public participation and provide open and free access to biodiversity information. Any youth can be involved in research by analyzing these data and information. Their observations, photos, and geographical data contribute to databases, aiding scientists in mapping species distributions. Not only as an individual but also as a community we can easily access or provide data. This collaborative approach between youth and scientists accelerates the identification process and enhances our understanding of biodiversity.

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Later session was taken over by Tannu mam, where she shared her experiences and success stories of WWF in engaging youth in citizen science projects. Participants were able to learn about WWF's-initiatives and how they collaborate with young volunteers. These examples showcased the positive impact of such initiatives on both the scientific community and youth. Participants were also introduced into different volunteering opportunities with WWF like Dragonfly festival which takes place in Sanjay Van, Delhi, where participants get a hands on training in citizen science projects. She also discussed the challenges, such as access to technology, and limited awareness, that hinder youth engagement in citizen science. Potential solutions, including partnerships with educational institutions were explored. There were also WWF volunteers as attendees and they shared their personal experiences, motivations, and the benefits they gained from participating in such projects. Their insights provided valuable perspectives on how to better engage young people. The seminar concluded with a video screening where participants were able to deeply understand how today's youth are engaging in research and problem solving.

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The seminar on "Engaging Youth Through Citizen Science" was a resounding success, fostering a sense of enthusiasm and commitment among attendees. It highlighted the potential of citizen science in empowering young people to contribute to meaningful scientific research and environmental conservation. The event served as a catalyst for further discussions and actions to promote youth engagement environmental conservation.

**Geo-tagged Pictures:** 

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**Attendance Sheet** 

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