

## **KODACHADRI PROJECT REPORT**

A unique research programme with the joint venture of Atomic Mineral Directorate(Bangalore), Kalpakkam Indira Gandhi Atomic Research Institute and Vivekananda College Puttur was conducted in Kodachadri Hills, one of the most picturesque hill range of the Western Ghats. This project, held from November 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> 2011 was under the sponsorship of the ISRO.

The main objective of this research project was to record the biodiversity of the area, to determine the basic ingredients of the soil, to determine the population of the various species, and of the mineral content in water, and the study of the iron pillar dating back to centuries.

Dr. V.V. Bhat, Director of Atomic Mineral Directorate Bangalore, and member of ISRO was the man behind this project, and it is because of the joint efforts of Dr. MadhavBhat, the principal of Vivekananda College, Mr.J.S.Hegde, Officer at Atomic Mineral Directorate, Mr. SrikrishnaGanarajaBhat, HOD, Dept of Botany, And Mr.Ishwara Prasad, HOD, Dept of Zoology, Convenor of Nature Club Mr. Deviprasad, Rovers Rangers Officer Ms.Mirlam Begum, Vivekananda College Puttur that this project became a major success.

This project was undertaken by various experts, resource persons, researchers, students of our college and of Arya College Hubli and of International Institute Pondicherry and local people. With the supervision of Dr. Shankar Bhat of Kodachadri and camp officer Dr.H.G.Shridhara, students collected records of flower-bearing plants, varieties of humus, mushrooms, ferns, amphibians, reptiles, birds, butterflies, insects, mammals etc.

One of the things that highly aroused the attention of all I the camp was the iron pillar in Kodachadri'sAdiMookambika shrine. This cuboid-shaped pillar measuring upto 8.69 m, has not undergone any amount of rusting inspite of its exposure to the vagaries of seasons for many centuries; and so students also collected the required details for a study of this mystery.

Having collected the required relevant data, students are now on to make a follow up of the same; and the research report will be hopefully published in about six months from now.