

## AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT OF PEOPLE IN CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES OF WESTERN GHATS OF KARNATAKA, INDIA

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**Abstract:** The Uttara Kannada (U.K) district being a bio-diversity hotspot and 80 percent of its area forested, need to be conserved by creating awareness regarding conservation among the forest dwellers. Thus there is a growing need for concentrated efforts on making people of U.K. district aware about forest conservation, involving them in protecting the forest and communicating to others about conserving the Western Ghats. Hence, in the present paper an effort is made to study the awareness level, involvement of people in forest conservation and their socio economic correlates. The results revealed that majority of the respondents were on medium level of awareness with a awareness index of 86.33 and more than eighty percent were involved in forest conservation activities and the major conservation activities were regeneration, plantation and fire control along with replacement of non conventional energy resources with fossil fuels.

**Keywords:** Betta lands, Conservation, Awareness, Conservation activities

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