

Original Article

## SURVEY OF TREES IN JUSTICE BASHEER AHMED SAYEED COLLEGE

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### ABSTRACT

A systematic survey of tree species was conducted at Justice Basheer Ahmed Sayeed College for Women, Chennai, to document species diversity, abundance, and distribution within the campus. The study recorded 41 different tree species belonging to diverse families. A total of more than 350 individual trees were documented across academic blocks, parking areas, playgrounds, and open spaces. Dominant species included *Bambusa vulgaris* (81 No's), *Peltophorum pterocarpum* (46 No's), *Dyopsis lutescens* (34 No's) and *Cocos nucifera* (25 No's). The survey highlights the ecological richness of the campus and emphasizes the importance of urban biodiversity conservation.

**Keywords:** Survey, Trees, Justice, Basheer

### INTRODUCTION

A tree survey is a systematic study conducted to identify, record, and analyse the different tree species present in a particular area. The present survey was carried out in JBAS College (Justice Basheer Ahmed Sayeed College for Women), Chennai, with the objective of documenting the tree diversity within the campus.

Justice Basheer Ahmed Sayeed College for Women is well known not only for academic excellence but also for its green and eco-friendly campus environment. The college premises support a rich diversity of ornamental, medicinal, fruit-bearing, and shade-giving trees, contributing significantly to biodiversity conservation in an urban area like Chennai.

### AIM OF THE SURVEY

- Identify different tree species present in the campus
- Record their botanical names, common names, and families
- Study their ecological and economic importance
- Assess their role in maintaining environmental balance
- Trees play a vital role in maintaining ecological stability by providing oxygen, reducing air pollution, preventing soil erosion, supporting wildlife, and improving microclimatic conditions. Conducting a tree survey helps in understanding species richness, distribution patterns, and conservation needs.

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- Thus, the survey of trees in JBAS College serves as an important step toward promoting environmental awareness, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable campus management.

## SURVEY METHODS

The survey was conducted through direct field observation across different campus locations including:

- Front of auditorium
- Car and Bike parking
- Football and Basketball court
- Opposite to Tamil department
- Opposite to English department
- Near commerce department
- Near Zoology department

Each tree was identified using botanical characteristics such as leaf shape, bark texture, flowers, and fruits. Botanical names, vernacular names, number of individuals, and location were recorded systematically.

**Table 1**

| Table 1 Trees at JBAS College |                                 |                         |                            |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| S.NO                          | BOTANICAL NAME                  | VERNACULAR NAME         | NO. OF TREES IN THE CAMPUS |
| 1                             | <i>Pongamia glabra</i>          | Pungam tree             | 8                          |
| 2                             | <i>Psidium gujava</i>           | Guava tree              | 6                          |
| 3                             | <i>Madhuca indica</i>           | Illupam tree            | 9                          |
| 4                             | <i>Cocos nucifera</i>           | Cocnut tree             | 25                         |
| 5                             | <i>Dypsis lutescens</i>         | Areca palm              | 34                         |
| 6                             | <i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>         | Indian rose wood        | 3                          |
| 7                             | <i>Vitex negundo</i>            | Nocchi                  | 3                          |
| 8                             | <i>Bambusa vulgaris</i>         | Bamboo                  | 81                         |
| 9                             | <i>Syzygium cumini</i>          | Jamun tree              | 15                         |
| 10                            | <i>Terminalia catappa</i>       | Badam tree              | 3                          |
| 11                            | <i>Peltophorum pterocarpum</i>  | Copper pod tree         | 46                         |
| 12                            | <i>Thespesia populnea</i>       | Poovarasu tree          | 4                          |
| 13                            | <i>Eucalyptus polyanthemos</i>  | Red box tree            | 2                          |
| 14                            | <i>Saraca asoca</i>             | Ashoka tree             | 16                         |
| 15                            | <i>Tecoma stans</i>             | Yellow trumpet          | 4                          |
| 16                            | <i>Mangifera indica</i>         | Mango tree              | 10                         |
| 17                            | <i>Musa paradisiac</i>          | Banana                  | 22                         |
| 18                            | <i>Annona squamosa</i>          | Custard apple           | 3                          |
| 19                            | <i>Citrus limon</i>             | Lemon                   | 1                          |
| 20                            | <i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i> | Jackfruit               | 2                          |
| 21                            | <i>Azadirachta indica</i>       | Neem tree               | 12                         |
| 22                            | <i>Ficus benjamina</i>          | Weeping fig             | 6                          |
| 23                            | <i>Bauhinia variegata</i>       | Orchid tree             | 5                          |
| 24                            | <i>Carica papaya</i>            | Papaya                  | 1                          |
| 25                            | <i>Cassia fistula</i>           | Golden shower tree      | 1                          |
| 26                            | <i>Crescentia cujete</i>        | Thiruvodu maram         | 1                          |
| 27                            | <i>Terminalia bellirica</i>     | Baheera                 | 1                          |
| 28                            | <i>Brownea grandiceps</i>       | Scarlet flame bean tree | 5                          |

|    |                                 |                       |   |
|----|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 29 | <i>Vatica diospyroides</i>      | Broken heart flower   | 2 |
| 30 | <i>Tabebuia rosea</i>           | Pink trumpet tree     | 1 |
| 31 | <i>Moringa oleifera</i>         | Drumstick             | 1 |
| 32 | <i>Plumeria acuta</i>           | Pogoda tree           | 1 |
| 33 | <i>Plumaria pudica</i>          | Wild plumeria         | 1 |
| 34 | <i>Nerium oleander</i>          | Arali                 | 1 |
| 35 | <i>Kigelia africana</i>         | Sausage tree          | 1 |
| 36 | <i>Araucaria columnaris</i>     | Cook pine             | 5 |
| 37 | <i>Phyllanthus acidus</i>       | Aranelli              | 1 |
| 38 | <i>Enterolobium cyclocarpim</i> | Elephant ear pod tree | 1 |
| 39 | <i>Pseudobombax ellipticum</i>  | Shaving brush tree    | 1 |
| 40 | <i>Ficus carica</i>             | Fig                   | 1 |
| 41 | <i>Caryota urens</i>            | Fish tail palm        | 1 |

## RESULT

The survey of trees in JBAS College campus recorded a total of 41 species with 369 individual trees distributed across different departments and open areas

The most abundant species observed were *Bambusa vulgaris* (81 individuals), *Peltophorum pterocarpum* (46), *Dyopsis lutescens* (34), and *Cocos nucifera* (25). Moderate populations were recorded for *Musa paradisiaca* (22), *Saraca asoca* (16), *Syzygium cumini* (15), and *Azadirachta indica* (12). Several species such as *Citrus limon*, *Cassia fistula*, and *Moringa oleifera* were represented by only one individual

Trees were unevenly distributed, with higher density near the Zoology and Commerce departments, parking areas, and playgrounds. Bamboo and ornamental avenue trees were dominant in the landscape.

Overall, the campus shows good tree diversity with a mixture of ornamental, medicinal, fruit-bearing, and shade trees, contributing to ecological balance and aesthetic value.

## DISCUSSION

The survey revealed moderate species diversity within the JBAS College campus. The dominance of Fabaceae indicates a preference for nitrogen-fixing and shade-providing species. Native species such as *Azadirachta indica* and *Pongamia pinnata* contribute significantly to ecological stability.

The presence of ornamental species like *Delonix regia* and *Tabebuia rosea* enhances aesthetic value and supports pollinators. The mixture of native and exotic species reflects planned landscaping and biodiversity management.

Such campus-level surveys are essential for:

- Monitoring biodiversity changes
- Planning future plantations
- Encouraging environmental education

## CONCLUSION

The tree survey of JBAS College campus documented 32 species across 20 families, demonstrating considerable biodiversity within an urban educational institution. The presence of medicinal, ornamental, and ecologically important species highlights the environmental value of the campus. It is recommended that future efforts focus on increasing native species and conducting periodic biodiversity assessments.

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