

CHAPTER 6 CONCLUSION

The present study was carried out in the Nai-Ka-Nath sacred grove, Bassi Jaipur, Rajasthan during the period of 2013 to 2015. Nai-Ka-Nath is a Temple sacred grove. The areas have a significant religious connection with Jogi and Meena communities. The religious beliefs of people are strongly associated with the Bhagwan Shiva, Bharthari Temple and Data Mata Temple of the grove. People do not harm the grove in any manner, because of socio-religious traditions and fear of the presiding deity, believing that those who harm the grove may be harmed by these deities. Every Monday and *Krishna Chaturdashi* a fair is held near the temple and a fair of grand scale is there on *Maha Shivratri*. The grove is a great shelter for wildlife; it provides suitable habitats for birds, reptiles, mammals and other fauna of the area. Because of minimum human interference deep area of the grove is preferred by wildlife for habitat. The ecosystems of the grove are well managed. All the required biotic and abiotic components for a healthy ecosystem are found in the area. In terms of biodiversity the Nai-Ka-Nath sacred grove is very rich. In all 335 floral and faunal species were listed during the study. Of these 14 floral and 110 faunal species are listed in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Majority of medicinal plants in or around the grove are used as drug in the form of decoction, paste, juice, or powder etc. Various parts like leaves, root, stem, bark, flowers, fruits and whole plant were used for making medicines. These medicinal plants were used to treat diseases like cold, cough, fever, body pain, body swelling, skin problems, dysentery, diarrhoea, wounds, burn, asthma, diabetes, snake bits, insect bite, scorpion bite, stomach problems, eye disease and other various disorders. Literate people were also showing tremendous interest towards the traditional medicinal system. It is found that in the villages where there is a temple of deity, the rate of illegal anthropogenic interventions is low.

The population in the vicinity of the grove, both human and livestock are almost fully depended on the existing ecosystems to meet their basic requirement of fodder, timber, medicinal plants, firewood and possible food. Poverty is the biggest challenge facing these people. Economically these people are poor and unable to survive without these

natural resources. They do not have to pay anything for the use of these resources. Due to the over-exploitation of natural resources, the traditional way of life has become difficult and this situation has been forcing people to discard such life and adopting the urbanized practices. The grove has tremendous biotic pressure due to over-exploitation and unsustainable utilization of natural resources of the area. Many ethno-medicinal plants of the area are the verge of extinction. Due to the high number of Illiterate and Non-working people the biodiversity of the grove facing the serious risk of degradation.

In present scenario, there is no restriction on the movement and entry of the people or strangers into the grove area. Local communities like *Bagariya*, *Sansi*, *Saatya*, *Regar*, and *Harijan* are responsible for most of the hunting activities in the area. The grove Nai-Ka-Nath is becoming degraded due to change in people attitude towards conservation of biodiversity. Grazing is the major cause of habitat degradation in the area. Many people from nearby villages come here with their livestock and utilized the grove as a pasture. Environmental illiteracy and poverty is also a major problems to biodiversity conservation in the region. Firewood and the timber collection is main cause of the degradation of biodiversity in this area. Unsustainable extraction of medicinal plants is increasing in the area, due to high demand levels and commercial purpose. A variety of wild plants are over harvested because of the unique medicinal value. Due to improper management of government, local people try to complete their requirements of soil and building stone from the grove. The area of grove being encroached upon as demand for space and resources increases. Traditional ways of resource management are becoming nonfunctional due to direct conflict between ever increasing human population and limited natural resources. The biodiversity of the Nai-Ka-Nath sacred grove should be protected by us. We have to take strong steps towards the conservation of the area as soon as possible. It is finally concluded that the grove has lot of potential for wildlife and deserves the status of a protected area by the government.