

Report: -

Government Degree College Celebrated World Environment Day 2024

Department of Environmental Science and the Eco Club of Government Degree College Tral, in collaboration with the Debates and Seminars Committee of GDC Tral organised World Environment Day on 5th June 2024. The event drew enthusiastic participation from students across various academic streams and semesters, who engaged in a suite of activities, including a painting competition, a model-making competition, and a symposium, all centred on the critical theme of *"Land Restoration, Stopping Desertification, and Building Drought Resilience."*

The program commenced with an inspiring opening address by Mr. Waseem Shahri, the Convener of the Eco Club. In his speech, Mr. Shahri elaborated on various issues arising from land degradation and its adverse impacts on biodiversity. He highlighted that addressing land degradation is essential not only for preserving biodiversity but also for ensuring sustainable development and combating climate change.

The welcome address was delivered by Prof. (Dr.) Mushtaq Ahmad Malik, Principal of GDC Tral. Dr. Malik pointed out the significant issues of land degradation prevalent around the world. He stressed that land degradation, a pervasive form of environmental damage, not only disrupts the ecological balance but also poses severe threats to food security, water resources, and the livelihoods of millions of people. Dr. Malik's address set a thoughtful and urgent tone for the event, emphasizing the need for concerted efforts in land restoration to mitigate desertification and build resilience against droughts. He also emphasized the importance of students becoming environmental warriors both within and outside the campus.

The painting competition provided a vibrant platform for students to express their perspectives on environmental conservation through art. The participants created visually striking representations that depicted the current state of land degradation and the transformative potential of land restoration. Parallelly, the model-making competition saw students applying their creativity and technical skills to construct models that demonstrated innovative solutions for land restoration. The symposium, a cornerstone of the program, featured a series of presentations and discussions that delved into the theme in greater depth. Students presentations explored the multifaceted aspects of land degradation, the socio-economic impacts of desertification, and the importance of building drought resilience.

Towards the end of the program, participating students were felicitated for their contributions and efforts in the various competitions. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Aashaq Hussain Zargar, the Convener Debates and Seminar Committee, GDC Tral. Dr. Aashaq expressed his gratitude to all the participants, organizers, and collaborators for making the event a success. He emphasized the importance of continued efforts in environmental education and activism to address the pressing challenges of land degradation and climate change. The whole program was moderated by Mr. Waseem Shahri, Convener of the Eco Club, GDC Tral.



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