

HISLOP FLOWER SHOW CONTINUED: THE FIFTEENTH YEAR

'Happiness held is the seed; Happiness shared is the flower'

The onset of winter is ushered in Hislop College for the last fifteen years through an Annual Flower Show. This is the time when the college transforms itself into a breath-taking floral scene with blooms, flowers and plants. This provides a surreal feeling all around. Many guests visit this extravagant exhibition spanning two days. With the passage of time this show has developed into a prominent feature in the city calendar. This event is an initiative of the Floriculture unit, department of Botany.

Flower farming or Floriculture has become an important commercial arm in Agriculture and it has already made its presence felt in many parts of our country. It is a lucrative business as it has higher potential per unit area than most of the field crops. The department of Botany Hislop College has identified the immediate value of this venture. Accordingly, Floriculture has been included as a part of extension activity, of the basic subject Botany.

The last fifteen years has been a journey to present a wide collection of plants under one roof. The plants that have become synonymous with Hislop Annual Flower Show include Chrysanthemum, Seasonal like Marigold, Dianthus, Petunias, Begonia, Vinca, Phlox, Calendula and various varieties of foliage plants.

A gradual progression during this passage has been the introduction of a course on Floriculture. The basic aim towards this was to train students and equip them with skills along with general training in the core subject. A Certificate Course on basic agricultural skills is imparted annually. This has been a practice for the last eight years. In order to encourage natural waste management vermicomposting unit is run throughout the year. This not only takes care of recycling the waste generated in the premises but also produces compost for the hundreds of plants grown in the campus. The compost, fortified with biopesticides is commercially sold as a product developed in house.

The tenth year of the show was marked with the beginning of 'Papillion' a sit and draw competition for young school students. Through this addition we wanted the citizens of

tomorrow to develop appreciation for nature and also to be sensitized towards the various environmental issues.

The journey has been long. Every year the arrangement of the show has faced diverse challenges on account of space, logistics, plant health and mortality rate, above all varying weather conditions. However, all impediments have been overcome by the continuous commitment, hard work, alacrity and organizational skills of college management, faculty, staff members and students. This year has been no exception.

The result of this collective endeavour is showcased in the beauty of the blooming flowers and the serenity of the colourful environment. This year the dates for this carnival of flowers are 1st and 2nd December 2018.