



## **Emerging Ecology**

Experience Interchange  
For The Global Classroom

February 2012

Essays by students at  
Forsyth Country Day School and the Chikhale Ashram Shalla

Focus Question:

Environmental Impact

How do your individual and collective actions affect or enhance  
the natural world of which you are a part.

Student #101, 12th Grade Male

### My Involvement with Nature

There are multiple ways in which I am involved in nature. I am in awe of the beauty of nature when I go to the Appalachian mountains and even at my own house. In the Appalachian mountains, my family frequently goes to different trails and spends mornings and afternoons hiking to different places. We have trekked to waterfalls, rivers, and mountain tops based on what we are interested in seeing. My favorite hikes are the ones to waterfalls because I am fascinated by how big they can get and their natural beauty. I also enjoy fishing in the mountains. My dad and I go fishing and catch many different types of fish including bass and trout. Another way I interact with nature is at my own home. At my house, we have a garden where we grow tomatoes, blueberries, and some herbs such as mint. I enjoy the home-grown fruits and vegetables a lot more than the ones bought in a store. I also do landscaping in the yard with my dad. We typically rake leaves, spread pine needles, or prune bushes, but sometimes we will plant a new bush or tree or take down a tree with a chainsaw. I also make an effort to try and help the environment. Whenever I see a piece of trash lying on the ground, I will pick it up and throw it away in the correct manner (recycle or garbage). I find it very annoying to see litter freely blowing with the wind or just sitting on the ground. The environment is important to our daily lives and we should preserve it to our best capabilities.

Student #204, 12th Grade Male

Nature is a very prominent feature in my life, and it is a vital aspect to many of my hobbies. I have loved nature since I was a small boy and plan to continue enjoying it throughout the remainder of my life. The activities in which I most often interact with nature are hunting and fishing.

Hunting is one of my most favorite activities, and it allows me to directly interact with nature while having fun. I participate in numerous big game sport hunts every year. The most common of these hunts for me is white tail deer hunting. This activity takes place during the fall. By taking place during the fall, this activity gives me the opportunity to be in the woods while the leaves are changing colors. This transformation is quite beautiful and adds to the ambiance of the activity. By solitarily sitting in the tree stand in the midst of all of the animals, I feel the most connected with them and in tune with nature. In addition to being an avid hunter, I am also a very active fisherman. I fish in almost any body of water. These bodies of water include the ocean, mountain streams, rivers, and lakes. My favorite of these places to fish is the ocean. I fish in the ocean with my friends and family very often. I feel extremely connected to nature while pursuing this activity as well. The key connector between nature and myself in this case is the ocean itself. Its constant rolling and calming nature is soothing to me and allows me to relax. I also feel connected to nature when fishing because I am harvesting the fish, which are bits of nature.

Connectivity with nature is very important in life. Being connected will allow you to be relaxed and appreciate life and all living things. In the era of the Internet and television, less and less people are involved with nature, which is a sad but very real truth. I hope parents will push their kids to give the outdoors a chance by limiting their screen time and fostering an enjoyment for the natural world.

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Student #175, 12th Grade Female

I believe that the environment plays a big part in my life. Although I do not get to spend as much time in nature because of all of my school work and extra curriculars, I go out whenever I can.

Ever since I was a kid, I have treasured the environment around me. During the summer, my sisters and I would spend all of our days outside playing with our neighbors. The environment provided us with entertainment. We climbed trees, went on walks, rode our bikes, and played hide and seek in our yards. If it hadn't been for the environment, I think my summers would have been extremely boring. I have also played soccer my whole life. I think that soccer involves interaction with the environment because whenever I play, I'm out on a field. Because I love soccer so much, I am able to appreciate the fields I play on and the environment.

Most recently, I have enjoyed nature with my family. Whenever we get the chance, we will take my dog on a walk around my neighborhood, enjoying the quiet and peaceful environment around us. When we aren't walking my dog, my family really enjoys sitting out on our back porch. Because of its peacefulness, my family is able to sit outside and enjoy the environment around us and have family time. We are always so busy with work and school, so this time is treasured greatly!

If it weren't for the environment, my life and my time with my family would not be the same at all.

Student #6, 12th Grade Male

### **Nature's Impact on my Life**

Nature and the environment are prevalent in most aspects of my life. As I wake up every morning, I open my window to get a glimpse at sunrise and to also get some fresh air. While walking basically anywhere, I always admire how beautiful outside is. I spend a lot of time outdoors, either fishing, hiking, or running. I feel at peace when I am just sitting outside, observing birds or noticing brightly colored plants. Nature offers an escape from whatever stressful situation I might be in as the outdoors are beautiful and full of life.

Recently, I have noticed an increase in the level of pollution and destruction of the atmosphere. Whether reading about it online or seeing it first-hand, I can't help but think of how horrible it is that nature is beginning to degrade. Pollutants and toxins are dumped into rivers, which not only makes the water look horrid, but also kills all life which depended on the river ecosystem for survival. Even innovation and urbanization have led to a decline in forests. As the world population increases, societies must enhance their living spaces. These construction projects cut down millions of trees each year.

As I look forward to the future, I hope that policy makers form laws which will ensure the future of the environment. These laws must be universal in that only enforcing them in one country will not do enough to save the planet.

Student #89, 12th Grade Female

I live in the United States of America. I am 17 years old. I live in a small neighborhood in North Carolina. I live in my house with my mother, father, and two brothers. I am the youngest in my family. There are several houses surrounding my family's house.

There are many trees and flowers planted around my house which makes our house look very pretty. I often sit outside near my house in the nature surrounding my house. I also like to go on walks with my two dogs. There is a paved pathway near my house that I can walk on or ride a bike on for fun. I walk often. In the fall walking around outside is the most fun because the leaves on the trees change colors and it is not that hot outside. As winter comes I still like to walk around outside, but I have to wear jackets and warm clothes so I do not get cold and sick.

I also like to road bike. I have a fast bicycle that I can ride on paved roads with cars. I can bike many miles this way and can see a lot of the town that I live in. I like to do these things outside in the environment because I enjoy the atmosphere and appreciate the beauty of the outdoors.

A lot of the time I will work in my family's garden planting new flowers and taking out many of the bad plants so that way other plants may grow. Many of the flowers are colorful and they smell very good.

Student #88, 12th Grade Female

Ever since I enrolled in the Honors Green Campus class at Forsyth Country Day School, my interaction with the environment has taken on a whole new meaning. In the previous years, I had not interacted and appreciated the environment as much as I should have. I got my produce from the local grocery store and never once thought about how the produce was grown and where it came from. I never truly appreciated the environment for what it provides me with every day. Green Campus opened my eyes to the necessities nature provides for us and now I appreciate it so much more. Along with not taking nature for granted, Green Campus has showed me that protecting the environment is important to our very existence. This is when I started interacting with my environmental surroundings in more of a positive manner. Recycling is the main environmental preservation activity that I participate in. Recycling keeps our planet clean by reusing reusable materials that would have ended up polluting the planet in a landfill. Another good way I interact with my environment is by going on walks and picking up trash that I find on the ground along the way. Simply going on a walk alone is a good way to interact with nature because you can appreciate its beauty and release some stress. However, picking up trash while on a walk is a small task to do, but it makes a huge impact. Keeping nature clean will benefit everyone and everything. These are just few of the many things Honors Green Campus has inspired me to do.

Student #160, 12th Grade Female

When asked how I contribute to the environment, it is a question that got me thinking. How much have I done to make the environment more eco-friendly? I would say enough, when accumulated with others, it makes a difference. Of course there are ways to be more involved in our environment. My impact is mainly with the focus of running. I run on all different surfaces; pavement and trails primarily. When running on trails, I notice the soil, the different materials that make up the surface. With this in mind, it makes me think of how we can use recyclables and other ground up material to make our trails. What if all of our roads were soil-based? Think how eco-friendly that would be? How much money we would save? Because I have been running on all different kinds of trails, I begin to think of new ways in which our surfaces can be made. Also, at my house, I have two recycling bins, always having a place to put our reusable materials. My neighborhood consists of many houses, all of which use recycling bins to place their bottles. Some houses have shrubs, large trees, and flowers that bring a healthy, eco-friendly environment. My mother even has a garden in our backyard where she grows fruits and vegetables. Having gardens near the home is a great way for families to get their nutrients in an eco-friendly way. On another note, my dad owns a shredding company; we take all of our paper to be shredded. Once shredded, the paper is blocked up where it is then used for something else. In conclusion, anything I use, I hope to find a way to reuse or recycle. Even in our school at Forsyth Country Day School, students have access to many bins where they are encouraged to recycle bottles and other material. Because I have been brought up in an environment where "reuse, recycle" is a followed motto, I recycle without hesitation. I hope myself and the environment will continue to find ways to become more eco-friendly. Our school and community is making big steps to the becoming a "green" environment.

Student #36, 12th Grade Male

### My Interaction with the Environment

My involvement with the environment is very different from most others at my school. I live on a farm in the country. I have horses, a goat, dogs, and cats at my farm. There is a creek and lots of trees. I enjoy living and experiencing nature first-hand. One of my favorite parts of living in the country is seeing all of the native animals that live in the woods. It is really nice to see the baby animals grow up and prosper. This has really given me a true appreciation for the wildlife and the nature in which it lives. I also love running down my driveway and seeing all of the indigenous plants. They are truly beautiful. Personally I have a deep love for the natural world and all of what it encompasses. I love living so close with nature and being able to look outside my window and see all the wild plants and animals. The best part about where I live is that my house is near a very, small, but picturesque mountain, called Pilot Mountain. It may not be big but it is really pretty. It has always been a landmark for people coming through the area. The area in general has many hills and is in close proximity to the Blue Ridge Mountains, which is an even larger mountain range. A majority of people in America live in developed areas, but I love living in the country and truly appreciate the beauty around me.

Student #12, 12th Grade Female

### My Connection to the Environment

I am a 17 year old girl from North Carolina. I feel that I have a pretty deep connection with the natural world. Every week, I go fishing with many members that attend my school. I love the idea of being out in the forest, I feel close to nature. I also enjoy going to the mountains and hiking. There are so many beautiful views that need to be seen. Sometimes, I will even go camping and I will cook my own dinner out in the wild using fire. It is really neat to listen to the sounds of the wild during the night. I love to go rock climbing; the feeling of climbing a huge rock face that has been lying in the same spot for thousands of years is sublime. I enjoy listening and watching the birds. When I'm not out in nature, I often watch nature shows on the television. It's amazing how when one returns to nature, the mind becomes calm. I feel very strongly about preserving our beautiful world. It is changing every day, animals are becoming extinct, our air is unclean, and our ocean is full of pollution. Animals are losing their houses because of deforestation. It is my dream to restore the world into the beautiful, simple place that it once was. I feel deeply connected with the environment when I go swimming in the ocean. It is very important that we recycle as citizens of the world if we want the world to be around for a long time. I look forward to hearing about your connections with our natural world.

Student #19, 12th Grade Female

### How I interact with the environment

The environment plays a key role in my everyday life. Since I was a little kid I have always loved to go outside and play, whether it's a warm hot summer day or a cold snowy day in the winter, I love to be outside and be active with the environment. During the school year I'm extremely busy with schoolwork and extracurricular activities, which takes away from my free time of being able to go outside and enjoy the fresh air. Although I may have a lot of work or tests to study for, my favorite place to go and study is outside in a garden or park. I love studying outside because I can get fresh air, enjoy the flowers and trees that surround me, and appreciate the beauty of the nature that surround my home. Another favorite pastime of mine is taking walks with my dog. It's a peaceful activity and just another way that I connect and value the environment around me. I also enjoy playing soccer and lacrosse for fun; both sports require that you spend many hours outdoors. As a result to playing these sports, they've taught me to be thankful for beautiful environment that I live in. I also try to give back and help keep my environment at home as well as at school clean and environmentally friendly. At school my friends and I participate in a green campus class, through this class we have coordinated a recycling program that collects wasted plastic bottles and paper. We also have put in place a system to compost food scraps and turn it into fertile soil to put back into our environment. These are just a few of the many things that I enjoy doing that involve me interacting with the environment.

Student #71, 12th Grade Male

### Interacting With My Environment

Growing up on a farm I am constantly interacting with my environment. I grow my own tomatoes, peppers, and various herbs in my family's garden. This garden has to be frequently tended throughout the summer as it must be watered and tilled to keep the soil loose. We also play music near the garden to keep the deer away so they do not eat all of our vegetables. I also interact with my environment by feeding the many types of birds around my farm various kinds of food depending on their species. I enjoy watching the birds come up to the feeders and eat as they are forced to interact with other birds from different species. I have also traveled to many states where I have had the opportunity to interact with many different environments that are unlike my hometown environment. I have visited various places in West Virginia, North Carolina, Colorado, Canada, Wyoming, and Utah to take part in my favorite outdoor activity; to snow ski. I love gazing at the white snow, the large evergreen trees, and the mountains are always breathtaking. I have also visited Minnesota where I went on a camping trip for a week where there was no choice but to interact with my environment. Despite the many mosquito bites and the nightly routine of hoisting bear bags, I thoroughly enjoyed canoeing through the beautiful lakes as I looked intently upon the massive trees and the animals including herds of moose, bears, and flocks of various birds. I also visited the Dominican Republic where I went snorkeling. While I snorkeled I was able to interact with the eye-opening environment and was able to see schools of fish amongst the many forms of coral and other sea life. Throughout my life living on a farm and going through my travels I have had the privilege of interacting with the beautiful environment that the world provides.

Student #123, 11th Grade Female

### Chikhale Pond

In my Chikhale village there is a pond which is very popular in our area. Chikhale pond is having plenty of fresh water, It is near to the school . My school is near to the pond .The water pond is used for various purposes. This water is used as drinking purpose by the animals. In rainy season mostly Frogs , Fishes ,Tortoises are found in the pond . Flowers of Lotus are also found in winter season .There are some houses are also builded around the pond . Peoples of the village are come here for swimming into the pond & catches some fishes from the pond & eat them. Some trees are also grown around the pond, about 20-25 steps are prepared on two sides of the pond . At the beginning the Chikhale pond is very beautiful but now the villager throw dirty drainage water in this pond & the ladies are also come here to washing the clothes. So the water of the pond becomes dirty.

At the evening time the boys come there for enjoying the beauty of the pond .many people come there to pass their time as a relax time,because of the dirty water many mosquitoes are increased so they bites to the peoples seating there.

The auto rikshaw stand is also there near the pond. This pond is very useful for the peoples & for ashramas students also.

Student #122, 11th Grade Female

### Chikhale pond

My village name is chikhale. There are a beautiful pond beside to my village.

It is an ancient pond built by the peshwas. In this pond the tortoise & frog & so many bacterias are lived. Our village's boyes swimming in this pond. Near the pond two temples are situated. The pond is situated along the main road. Woman come on the pond to washing clothes , oxes & cows are bath everyday in our pond. Different types of snales are lived in this pond. Some people come there fore catching the fishes. Near the pond B.A.R.C. colony is situated. The beside the pond there is Rikshaw stand. Different types of stores situated beside the pond. Villagers channeled water & dirt in this pond, so the water of the pond is become dirty & when the evening some people are come to seat near the pond, the mosquito use the boys like swimming pole. This pond is very useful to the villagers. This pond is very useful. At the centre of the pond there is one pole which is use is the boys like swimming pole.

So I like our pond.

Student #209, 11th Grade Male

### MY VILLAGE

My village is near to the hill. Before 10 years in my village there was no improvement. There are no road, no MIDC water supply. My Village name is Chikhale. It is 8 km no Electricity. But now there are so many facilities available. In my village so many temple's. Such as Geeroba's temple, Vitthal-Rakhumai temple, Maruti's temple, Shiva's Temple. Etc. The people's warships to God every time. They keep Their wish in front of God. People comes every Mahashivaratri's in a large quantity beside my village there are some plants are generally found like coconut trees mango trees banyan trees etc. most of the peoples in my village are farmers & generally lot of crops of rice.

At beginning peoples don't know about education. They Always think what is an education. But recently there are so many facilities available. so every one in my village take an education which is helpful for development of village. the peoples celebrates festivals like holly, deevali, ganesha, etc.

Mumbai pune express highway & railway track is going away from my village. autorikshaw are available in our village for the peoples & various kinds of the communities of the peoples are lives in our village. there is a B.A.R.C. colony besides my village there are different communities of the peoples are living in my village.

In my there are three schools primary school, army school, ashram school. in my village there is big pond near ashram school. the water of the pond is very useful for the peoples. weather & climate is cool. in the future the company of the glass will be established in the future.

Every one would likes different places, but I like my village.

THANK YOU

Student #91, 11th Grade Female

### My village

My village name is the varsai. It is 36 km away from a panvel & it comes in to raigah districy. My village is very small & beautiful ,it is situated on the hill. A temple of the swami Samarth is besides my village. A fair is comes after every five years. At that time so many peoples from neighbouring village gathered here & enjoy.

Our village temple was builded by R.D.Patil.Who is good person . Our village sarpanch name is Jayanta kashinath sutak.Our village sarpanch is very smart.persnality is very develop.Our village are very backward & peoples in the village are uneducated. .their life style is very simple, but they are good & helpful , they help among each other.

In my village some essential facilities are not available there is not facility of the water supply. Road,& electricity also. My villagers occupation is fisheries &agriculture. Our main crop is rice, festivals such as holly ,Deewali, LordGanesha etc.

These festivals are celebrated in my village.

My village is situated almost in the greenery. There are thick forest surrounded around my village. There are different types of the trees are found in my village, like as mango tree, coconut tree etc. Besides to my village there is big playground. Every holidays I & my friends are go there & play various games, like cricket,khokho,holleyball etc. Sometimes in my village our friends arrange the cricket matches. Our mostly got the first prize every year.

The population of my village is nearly 200. Weather of my village is very fresh & good also. The peoples from the surrounding village come here for the picnic.

Student #120, 11th Grade Female

### My Village.

My native place is Chikhale. It is in bloke of Panvel & District Raigad. It is about 8 km away from panvel . My village situated along the hill name is Bhuvaneswar. There is temple on the hill god of lord Shiva. So many people of various villages gather on the occasion of Mahashivaratri. Our sarpanch is Mrs Sandhya Jadhav . She is an Ideal woman because she developed my village by various activities & so my village is Ideal due to it's performance.

The people our village are very good & helpful. They help everyone to every time. The occupation of our villager's is agriculture. But now educated people lived in our village. The people of my village are very brave. They caught so many thief in a year. Our villager's life style is like old faction.

Our villager's celebrated all the festivals of Hindu Dharma's like Holi, Diwali, Ganeshostav, Govinda & so all. Our village celebrated Navaratrostov & Tukarmbija's palaquine. Which are popular in our district. My village fair comes after every three years. At that time different shopes liken toy's shop, sweet's shop , food shop& so all comes into our village. Everybody enjoy in our fair. I love our village very much. Our fair is popular in district Raigad.

Our village has an ancient importance. In my village an old temple of god Shiva had been built by peshava & our lake is also had been built by Peshava, Who is knight of Shahu Maharaja's. In my village are 3 school & 2 collages & also nursery school. In my village there are so many different type of temples god of Hindu Dharma's are built by peshava. The beautiful lake is built in centre of my village & near this lake built a B.R.C colony by a greatest scientist of India of Dr. Homi Bhabha. The Mumbai-pune route had gone beside to my village. The Giroba's river goes along beside of my village. The weather of in my village is every time fresh & good.

Before along period ago in our village were so many types of trees, but now it is look like a town, like a growing town ! Before there had not available the facilities of road, electricity, water tank, drains like this. But now it has improved. Different kinds of trees are growth in the surrounding of village. Now the facilities of tap are available everywhere & every one gets water regularly & also available the facilities of electricity's. Now in my village there has going to maid Mega city. Before in our village there had not any one school , but now the people understood the value of education, so now in my village there has 3 schools & everyone to take education.

Our village is very beautiful & everyone like to visit in my village again & again. So , I am proud of on my village & also love on my village. I will try to made my village is a good & an Ideal In the our country India.

Name:- Student #210, 11th Grade Male

### My Hostel

In This School There Is One Boys Hostel.I Have Come Here To Stay In Hostel , At Beginning I Felt Bad Because Of The Loneliness But After Some Days I Felt Good Because Of More Friends. Some Of Them Are Became My Best Friends. There Is Facility Of Electricity& Water Supply. The Dinner Quality Is Good .

The Atmosphere Of My Hostel Is Very Fresh. Near My Hostel There Is One Temple & I Pray For Well Wishes Of Human Being. There Is One Nice River Flowing Near My Hostel. The Rector Of My Hostel Is Mr. Katkar Sir.We Like To Share Our Thought Among Each Other.

There Is A One Open Ground Playing Games. I Study With My Friends. I Like My Hostel & Enjoy In The In The Hostel Freely.

Thank You

Student #118, 11th Grade Male

### SCHOOL CAMPUS

My school name is Anudanit Madhyamik Ashram school Chikhale. My school established in 1989. My school attached to the hostel. I live in hostel, Because this hostel is specially for students coming from tribal area. I live in hostel from 10 years. There is one lake in front of my school. A big Banyan tree beside our school.

There are 12 class & 2 big halls in my school. There are 19 teachers and 10 members of non-teaching staff in my school. 8 members from non-teaching help in cooking. All the teachers of my school very good, clever & I respect to every teacher.

Recently the faculty of science and art class are start. I am studing in 11 science class. There are 4 teachers of science faculty and they teaches with heartly.

My school's secretary name is Mr. Lokhande. Mr. Lokhande Sir fullfy all the need of students live in hostel.

So, I like my school campus very much.

Student #21, 11th Grade Male

### My hostel

Specially for the student of the junior college there is a one boys hostel. My hostel is nice. It is 1 km away from my college. Around my hostel the many grasses are grown. There are many trees & flowering plants are grown. There are about 100 students are live together in the hostel. All the students belong to the 11&12 standard. There is a TV in the hostel for entertainment of the students. In front of the hostel there is a beautiful garden. Near the hostel there is one nice river. The Mumbai -Pune express highway goes nearby the hostel. The student enjoy by seeing the vehicles running on the road. I have nice group of the friends & I share my feeling,ideas with my friends. We study different subjects together. The atmosphere of our hostel is very co-operative. We all enjoy the atmosphere of my hostel. I feel very lucky that I am learning in this hostel.

Thank you

Student #94, 11th Grade Female

Chikhale Pond.

Chikhale pond is very nice. Chikhale pond is near to chikhale Primary & Secondary School Chikhale. Pond is in front of the school. There is one well of fresh water is also close to the pond.

Chikhale people & students of school use the water of pond for various purposes like cleaning clothes, for toilet or other domestic purposes etc. But in recent days the water get polluted due to so many reasons. It's commercial use made it polluted & do effect on the plants & animals which are lives in pond.

In festival of Ganesha, the statue of Ganesha is immersed in the pond due to which it get polluted. There is a subway which meet to the Pune to Mumbai express highway. Upon the express highway there is big bridge.

The road is attached to the pond. Autorickaw's and taxies goes beside pond. The various types of fishes are generally found in pond. These fishes are caught by the peoples for eating.

At the evening all the people are gathers together near the pond & chat to each other for long time

I like chikhale pond very much.

THANK YOU.

Student #211, 11th Grade Male

### SCHOOL CAMPUS

School chikhale. It is very big .There are 550 students in my School. Everybody are take care our helth. MY SCHOOL is attached to the hostel There are 12 class &3 hostel in my School.

There is a small lake is near to my school. The tree of cycle is besides of my school.so peoples get attracted toward my school. Some student from village are also comes to my school due to its quality .

In last year faculty of science & arts started. this is the first college of the science faculty from raigarh district . I am proud of it. There are 140 students of the college & they are live with very happily in the school.

There is big playground in my school. some games like khokho, holleyball cricket play in the school. All the curriculum activities celebrated in my school.

Due to beauty of my school & its surrounding environment & quality of the school. I like my school very much.

Student #60, 11th Grade Male

### SCHOOL CAMPUS

My school name is Anudanit Secondary & Higher Secondary Ashram School Chikhale.

This school established in 1989 at Chikhale village, when we had 10 classes but now from last year our I. C.A. India Panvel started junior college with arts & science faculty. This school started for only the tribal children. We are all the students come from tribal village. We all students live with very happily. there are 12 classes in my school, our teachers are very clever & kindly in nature so we are very interesting to learn & we do study regularly. My school attached to hostel. There is a lake in front of my school. My school is surrounded by many trees, so we got fresh air & we feel very well. Near our school many shops their we go to lake the atmosphere is surrounding of school always cool. Our school has a big ground where we play every day. We play Kho-Kho, Holyball .There are many friend in my school.

I like my school campus very much !!!

Thank you !!!!