Greens cry foul over boards nailed to trees

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Dharwad: Karnatak Science College Dharwad (KSCD) has displayed scientific and general names of trees on each of them on KDC Road in Dharwad. It has nailed the boards to each tree with two-inch nails and gum. Irked by this, green activists have condemned this move and have sought the intervention of the forest department.

Harshavardhan Sheelavant, an environmentalist, said that the college has displayed the boards along with the name of Karnatak University Dharwad (KUD). "They have also mentioned the botanical name and common name in Kannada. They have never tried to grow a tree or conserve it, but they are trying to showcase

their names on trees grown by the forest department under their social forestry scheme. These trees were maintained by residents in surrounding areas," he alleged.

Anil Allolli, another green enthusiast, noted that KCD has neglected its own trees, which are bound by tree guards. "Though we took up an online campaign regarding this issue, they are least bothered," he said.

Sheelavant noted that plastic boards are not of good quality, and may sustain approximately for a year. "There is another danger that if the nomenclature of the tree is visible, people may start picking leaves, flowers, gum, roots, twigs, skin and other parts for medicinal, commercial and other purposes. This happened in KUD's botanical garden in the past. Once the nomenclature is revealed, protection should be given to trees," he added.

He also opined that many scientific methods are available to install boards on trees and authorities should have considered such alternatives.

When contacted, Jagadish Kalyan, Principal, KSCD, expressed ignorance over display of boards on trees. "We will look into it and take appropriate action to rectify the error," he added.



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