

## INSTIL INSECT SCIENCE IN YOUNG MINDS FOR BETTER LIFE AND CAREER

Insect science is an important area of basic science of biology. This encompasses the biological, agricultural and environmental aspects related to insects. The interactions of insects with humans make entomology an amazing, important and relevant aspect of biology and human life. This is more so because insects and their relatives are the most abundant animals on earth. Insects are ubiquitous and are commonly found in all human habitats, and also in a diversified manner. Due to their diversity, insects play a major role in all the human habitats, especially in maintaining and even sustaining our ecosystems. Thus, insects



attract the attention of every one of us at every stage of our life. Their interactions with us start from childhood to even after death with insects inhabiting the dead bodies and carcasses making them forensically important objects. In view of this ubiquitous nature, insects interfere with human life purposefully and significantly. This happens many times benefiting humanity but these considerations take a back burner in general and usually. Many times the harmful and injurious nature of insects get extraordinarily magnified defining these as villains. Negative and harmful nature of insects take lopsided precedence over others, and this needs to be corrected.

Insects, their diversity and the varied functions these perform in the environment provide multifarious economic values. Because of these ramifications insect science offers numerous career opportunities in both basic and applied fields. In view of the importance and relevance of insects explained above, it is essential that core curriculum in schools provide an avenue for students, starting from even primary school education. This is necessary to understand entomology, an important area of biology. Many times as children, the humans start wondering about insects like butterflies, mosquitoes, flies, wasps, bees etc., as and when these are come across. Thus insects always have familiar interactions in our life and this extends for the whole of life. All these imply that we need to provide a balanced education to the children, especially in the basics of insect science, and lay the necessary foundation. This education must focus on insect identification, biology, structure and function, behaviour, ecology, and diversity. It is necessary that insects must be taught in a movement or mission that is integral to biology. As an important component of biodiversity and part of the environment, insects have plentiful interactions with human life. It will be important that as a student, early in our life, we get curious with insects and their interactions, due to their familiarity. We must know this integral aspect of biology in its essential terms to make insect science relevant and purposeful. Making

these details known to the children, when they are students, will enable them to select an area of focus which meets their own interest and career objectives.

This way of making children know about insect science, with designs for students interested in careers focusing on the basic biology of insects and other arthropods is immensely valuable. It will go a long way in addressing the relevance and importance of insects in human life. As children, many of us do not get awareness of the multifarious roles the insects play in human life. This option of making the children aware of insect and insect science will facilitate those considering any career involving entomology. It will also make them aware of the plentiful options that are available in insect science- oriented career opportunities. Professional entomologists contribute to the betterment of humankind by detecting the role of insects in the spread of disease and discovering ways of protecting food and fibre crops, and livestock from being damaged. They study the way beneficial insects contribute to the wellbeing of humans, animals, and plants. Career opportunities for entomologists are available with government agencies, state departments of agriculture and forestry, agricultural research stations, university extension service, agrochemical company field representatives- research, and sales; agricultural consulting firms; private agribusiness firms; seed production companies; and international development agencies. Career opportunities also exist as pest control operators; park/ garden/ and golf course pest management specialists; mosquito and weed control; food processing industry; ornamental/ landscaping plant protection; public health service; industrial pest control; and with the armed forces. We must make the children know these early in their career and make insect science relevant and functional to accomplish these towards beneficial facets of human life. It is high time the curriculum is accordingly modulated in the schools so that insect science gets seeded early in our life, befitting the numerous interactive and purposeful values of insects and insect science.

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