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Title of Research Paper: Floristic Diversity and Tree Species Inventory of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mahuadanr, Jharkhand, India

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Abstract

A campus-wide inventory was undertaken to document the tree flora of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mahuadanr (SXCM), Latehar district, Jharkhand, India. The checklist recorded 36 tree species representing 19 families. Fabaceae was the richest family, with eight species (22.2%), followed by Moraceae with six (16.7%) and Myrtaceae with three (8.3%). Lamiaceae, Meliaceae and Sapotaceae were represented by two species each, while each of the remaining 13 families was represented by one species. The inventory brings together scientific names, family placement, common names and reported uses, providing a consolidated reference for the trees documented on the campus. Comparison with published campus inventories places the findings within the broader context of institutional floristic documentation, while differences among studies must be interpreted in light of variation in campus size, planting history, survey coverage and inclusion criteria. The checklist provides a baseline for teaching, future verification and repeated biodiversity monitoring. Individual tree abundance, canopy cover, carbon storage and ecosystem-service values were not measured and are therefore not inferred from species richness.

Keywords: Campus Flora, Tree Inventory, Species Richness, Fabaceae, Floristic Documentation, Jharkhand

1. Introduction

Trees contribute to the ecological and practical value of a landscape by providing food and materials, creating shade, supporting organisms and shaping the character of outdoor spaces. Regional inventories, such as the survey of trees in Ranchi district by Nag et al. (2018), also demonstrate the value of documenting tree diversity in Jharkhand [1]. The extent of these benefits, however, depends on the identity and condition of the trees and on the setting in which they grow. Nowak and Dwyer (2000) discussed both the benefits and costs associated with urban and community forests, while Liang and Huang (2023) reviewed evidence linking tree traits including crown size, leaf area and tree dimensions to the services trees can provide [2,3]. A species list is therefore a useful starting point for describing a site's tree flora, but it is not, by itself, a measurement of the quantity of ecosystem services delivered.

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Assessments of tree structure and functions require additional field variables, such as tree numbers, size and condition (Nowak et al., 2008) [4].

Educational campuses are useful settings for floristic documentation because planted trees and naturally established vegetation can be encountered within a defined institutional landscape, and the records can support field-based teaching. Published studies show that campus inventories can differ substantially in their recorded richness. Kumar et al. (2008) reported 74 tree species from 31 families at Bareilly College, Uttar Pradesh [5], whereas Dash et al. (2021) recorded 118 tree species from 38 families at the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology campus [6]. Poonia et al. (2020), in a study at the College of Forestry campus, Sirsi, Karnataka, recorded 93 species from 47 families and also assessed individual tree numbers and carbon stock [7]. Tree diversity has also been documented at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee University, Ranchi (Kumari & Singh, 2019), and other educational institutions in India (Kumari, 2024; Bargali et al., 2025) [8,9,10]. These studies demonstrate the value of campus-level inventories while also showing that recorded species richness may vary with location, survey coverage, identification methods and the types of plants included. These studies illustrate the value of campus inventories, but their totals are not directly interchangeable: the area surveyed, the definition of a tree, planting history, field coverage and measurements collected may differ between studies.

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mahuadanr, is situated in Latehar district, Jharkhand, in the eastern part of India. A documented checklist of its campus trees provides a local reference for botanical instruction and future monitoring. Despite the value of institutional green spaces for learning and campus planning, a systematic, published inventory for this campus was needed. The present study therefore aimed to (i) document the tree species recorded on the college campus, (ii) summarize their family-wise species richness, and (iii) compile their scientific names, common names and reported uses as a baseline for future botanical study.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Study area and field survey

The study was conducted within the campus of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mahuadanr, Latehar district, Jharkhand, India. Seasonal field observations were carried out during 2025–2026. Trees recorded during the survey were examined in the field and photographed for documentation. Figure 1 shows the geographical setting of the study area.

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2.2 Species identification and nomenclature

Species identification was based on the examination of visible morphological characters during field surveys and photographic documentation. Herbarium sheets were prepared for selected plant species, and the prepared specimens are preserved in the Department of Botany, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mahuadanr, Jharkhand, for reference and future verification. Scientific names and family assignments were checked using Plants of the World Online (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 2026) and World Flora Online (2026) [11,12]. The inventory was compiled from field observations, photographs and the available preserved specimens. The World Checklist of Vascular Plants also provides a documented taxonomic backbone for global plant names (Govaerts et al., 2021) [13]. Published campus inventories were consulted as methodological comparators, particularly those describing field observation and the use of botanical literature and online resources for identification (Kumar et al., 2008; Dash et al., 2021) [5,6].

2.3 Data compilation and analysis

The checklist comprised 36 tree species classified into their respective families. Family-wise species richness was determined by counting the species recorded in each family, and the percentage contribution of each family was calculated as the number of species in that family divided by the total number of recorded species (36), multiplied by 100. The calculated percentages were rounded to one decimal place to present the relative representation of each family in the campus tree flora.

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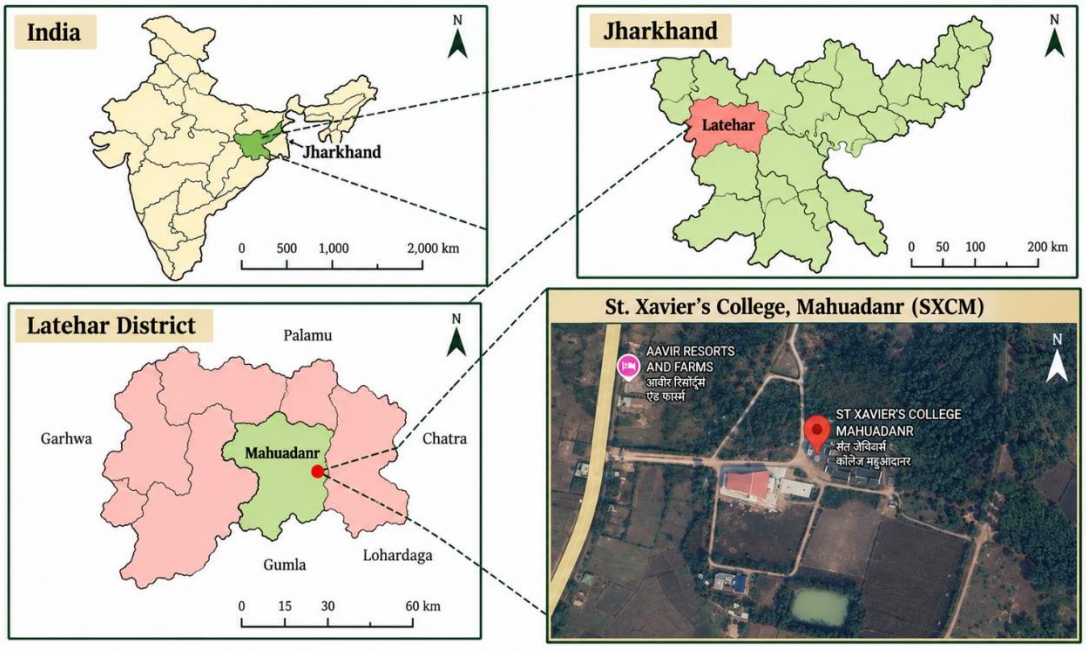


Figure 1: Geographical location of the study area.

3. Results

The inventory documented 36 tree species belonging to 19 families (Table 1). Fabaceae had the highest species richness, with eight species (22.2%), followed by Moraceae with six (16.7%) and Myrtaceae with three (8.3%). Lamiaceae, Meliaceae and Sapotaceae each contributed two species (5.6%). The remaining 13 families were represented by one species each (2.8%). Fabaceae, Moraceae and Myrtaceae together accounted for 17 species, or 47.2% of the checklist, while the other 19 species were distributed among the remaining 16 families. The uses of the recorded tree species, including their medicinal, economic and other practical applications, were compiled and presented in Table 2 to highlight their botanical and socio-economic significance.

Selected photographic records are presented in Figure 2.

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Table 1: Family-wise distribution of tree species recorded on the SXCM campus.

Family	Number of species	Percentage (%)
Fabaceae	8	22.2
Moraceae	6	16.7
Myrtaceae	3	8.3
Lamiaceae	2	5.6
Meliaceae	2	5.6
Sapotaceae	2	5.6
Anacardiaceae	1	2.8
Araucariaceae	1	2.8
Bignoniaceae	1	2.8
Dipterocarpaceae	1	2.8
Lauraceae	1	2.8
Malvaceae	1	2.8
Moringaceae	1	2.8
Phyllanthaceae	1	2.8
Proteaceae	1	2.8
Rosaceae	1	2.8
Rubiaceae	1	2.8
Rutaceae	1	2.8
Sapindaceae	1	2.8
Total	**36**	**100.0**

Source: Based on Primary data 2025

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Figure 2: Photographic documentation of selected tree species recorded on the college campus.
a. *Dalbergia sissoo* Roxb. ex DC.; b. *Shorea robusta* Gaertn. f.; c. *Mangifera indica* L.; d. *Psidium guajava* L.; e. *Azadirachta indica* A. Juss.; f. *Pyrus communis* L.; g. *Tamarindus indica* L.; h. *Butea monosperma* (Lam.) Taub.; i. *Tectona grandis* L. f.; j. *Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lam.; k. *Grevillea robusta* A. Cunn. ex R. Br.; l. *Saraca asoca* (Roxb.) W. J. de Wilde; m. Morus alba L.; n. *Ficus religiosa* L.; o. *Bombax ceiba* L.; p. *Madhuca longifolia* (J. Koenig ex L.) J. F. Macbr.; q. *Bauhinia purpurea* L.; r. *Gmelina arborea* Roxb.; s. *Manilkara zapota* (L.) P. Royen; and t. *Eucalyptus alba* Reinw. ex Blume.

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Table 2: Checklist of tree species recorded on the SXCM campus.

Sl. No.	Scientific Name	Family	Common Name	Leaf Habit	Tree Size	Parts Used	Medicinal Uses	Additional Uses
1	*Dalbergia sissoo* Roxb. ex DC.	Fabaceae	Shisham	Deciduous	Medium–large	Leaves, bark	Skin diseases, wounds	Timber, furniture, shade, fuelwood
2	*Delonix regia* (Bojer ex Hook.) Raf.	Fabaceae	Gulmohar	Deciduous	Large	Leaves, flowers, bark	Fever, inflammation, and respiratory issues	Ornamental, shade, avenue planting
3	*Syzygium cumini* (L.) Skeels	Myrtaceae	Jamun	Evergreen	Large	Seeds, bark, leaves, fruits	Diabetes, digestive disorders	Edible fruits, shade
4	*Mangifera indica* L.	Anacardiaceae	Aam	Evergreen	Large	Leaves, bark, flowers, seeds, fruits	Digestive and oral uses	Edible fruit, timber, shade
5	*Cassia fistula* L.	Fabaceae	Amaltas	Deciduous	Small–medium	Fruit pulp, leaves, bark, flowers	Laxative	Ornamental, cultural uses
6	*Shorea robusta* Gaertn. f.	Dipterocarpaceae	Sal	Deciduous	Large	Resin, bark, leaves, seeds	Wound and skin care	Timber, resin, leaf plates
7	*Gmelina arborea* Roxb.	Lamiaceae	Gambhar	Deciduous	Medium–large	Roots, bark, leaves, fruits	Digestive and inflammatory uses	Timber, shade
8	*Azadirachta indica* A. Juss.	Meliaceae	Neem	Evergreen	Medium–large	Leaves, bark, seeds, oil, twigs	Skin care, oral hygiene	Biopesticide, shade, seed oil
9	*Pongamia pinnata* (L.)	Fabaceae	Karanj	Deciduous	Medium–large	Seed oil, bark,	Skin care, wound	Biodiesel, soap,

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	Pierre					leaves, roots	applications	shade
10	*Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lam.	Moraceae	Kathal	Evergreen	Medium–large	Fruits, seeds, leaves, bark, latex	Treating skin ailments and boosting immunity.	Food, timber, livestock feed
11	*Ficus lacor* Buch.-Ham.	Moraceae	Futkal	Evergreen	Medium–large	Bark, leaves, latex	Digestive problems cough and skin diseases.	Shade, fodder, local uses
12	*Manilkara zapota* (L.) P. Royen	Sapotaceae	Chikoo	Evergreen	Medium	Fruits, seeds, bark, latex	Astringent use	Edible fruit
13	*Ficus racemosa* L.	Moraceae	Dumbar	Deciduous	Medium–large	Bark, fruits, leaves, latex	Diarrhoea, gastrointestinal uses	Edible fruit, shade, wildlife habitat
14	*Pyrus communis* L.	Rosaceae	Naspati	Deciduous	Small–medium	Fruits	Digestion and breathing problems.	Edible fruit, horticulture
15	*Tamarindus indica* L.	Fabaceae	Imli	Evergreen	Large	Fruit pulp, leaves, bark, seeds	Digestive aid, laxative	Food, beverages, shade
16	*Psidium guajava* L.	Myrtaceae	Amrud	Evergreen	Small	Leaves, fruits, bark, roots	Diarrhoea	Edible fruit, food processing
17	*Litchi chinensis* Sonn.	Sapindaceae	Litchi	Evergreen	Medium	Fruit aril	Pain and inflammation.	Edible fruit, horticulture
18	*Moringa oleifera* Lam.	Moringaceae	Munga	Deciduous	Small–medium	Leaves, pods, seeds, flowers, roots	Nutritional use	Food, seed oil

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19	*Persea americana* Mill.	Lauraceae	Avocado	Evergreen	Medium	Fruit pulp	Inflammation and pain relief.	Edible fruit, oil, horticulture
20	*Phyllanthus emblica* L.	Phyllanthaceae	Amla	Deciduous	Small–medium	Fruits, leaves, bark, seeds	Digestive aid	Food, pickles, hair and skin products
21	*Butea monosperma* (Lam.) Taub.	Fabaceae	Palash	Deciduous	Medium	Flowers, bark, seeds, gum, leaves	Intestinal worms	Dye, fodder, ornamental
22	*Tectona grandis* L. f.	Lamiaceae	Sagwan	Deciduous	Large	Leaves, bark	Wounds, skin diseases and digestive issues.	Timber, shade, plantation forestry
23	*Grevillea robusta* A. Cunn. ex R. Br.	Proteaceae	Silver Oak	Evergreen	Large	Bark, leaves	Anti-inflammatory agent.	Ornamental, shade, timber
24	*Melia azedarach* L.	Meliaceae	Bakain	Deciduous	Medium	Leaves, bark, fruits, seeds	Skin diseases, and as an anti-inflammatory.	Shade, timber
25	*Saraca asoca* (Roxb.) W. J. de Wilde	Fabaceae	Ashoka	Evergreen	Small–medium	Bark, flowers	Women's-health preparations	Ornamental, cultural significance
26	*Morus alba* L.	Moraceae	Sahtut	Deciduous	Small–medium	Leaves, fruits, bark, roots	Blood sugar regulation	Edible fruit, silkworm feed
27	*Bombax ceiba* L.	Malvaceae	Semal	Deciduous	Large	Bark, roots, flowers, gum	Dysentery and skin diseases.	Fibre, timber, ornamental
28	*Eucalyptus alba* Reinw. ex Blume	Myrtaceae	Lyptus	Evergreen	Large	Leaves, essential oil	Colds, coughs, and respiratory problems.	Aromatic oil, timber

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29	*Ficus benghalensis* L.	Moraceae	Bargad	Evergreen	Very large	Bark, latex, leaves, roots, fruits	Wound care	Shade, cultural significance, wildlife habitat
30	*Madhuca longifolia* (J. Koenig ex L.) J. F. Macbr.	Sapotaceae	Mahua	Evergreen	Medium–large	Flowers, seeds, oil, bark, leaves	wounds and diabetes; oil for joint pain.	Food, fermented beverages, oil, livelihood
31	*Neolamarckia cadamba* (Roxb.) Bosser	Rubiaceae	Kadam	Deciduous	Large	Bark, leaves, roots	Fever	Ornamental, shade, timber
32	*Citrus jambhiri* Lush.	Rutaceae	Jambhiri Lemon	Evergreen	Small	Fruits, peel, leaves	Digestive aid	Citrus rootstock, juice, flavouring
33	*Spathodea campanulata* P. Beauv.	Bignoniaceae	African Tulip Tree	Evergreen	Medium–large	Leaves, bark, flowers	Skin infections, and inflammation.	Ornamental, shade
34	*Araucaria heterophylla* (Salisb.) Franco	Araucariacea e	Norfolk Island Pine	Evergreen	Large	Bark, leaves	Respiratory issues and minor skin ailments.	Ornamental, landscape planting

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35	*Ficus religiosa* L.	Moraceae	Pipal	Deciduous	Large	Bark, leaves, fruits, roots	Asthma, diabetes, diarrhea and skin diseases.	Sacred tree, shade, wildlife habitat
36	*Bauhinia purpurea* L.	Fabaceae	Kachnar	Deciduous	Small–medium	Bark, leaves, flowers, buds	Used for thyroid and ulcers.	Edible flower buds, ornamental

4. Discussion

The campus inventory recorded 36 tree species from 19 families, with Fabaceae, Moraceae and Myrtaceae contributing nearly half of the recorded species (47.2%). This concentration indicates that the checklist is not evenly distributed across families: three families account for a substantial share of the species, while 13 families are represented by a single species each. Such a pattern is a description of taxonomic richness only. The representation of Fabaceae in the present campus tree inventory is also noteworthy in comparison with the findings of Kumar et al. (2025), who recorded Fabaceae as the most species-rich family in the Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve. However, the two study areas represent different habitat settings, with the former focusing on an institutional campus and the latter on a natural forest landscape. This comparison highlights the importance of documenting family composition across different habitats while recognizing their distinct ecological characteristics.

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Campus-level tree inventories from different educational institutions provide a useful basis for understanding the diversity of trees maintained within academic landscapes. Kumar et al. (2008) documented 74 tree species at Bareilly College, Uttar Pradesh [5], while Dash et al. (2021) recorded 118 species at the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology campus [6], and Poonia et al. (2020) reported 93 species at the College of Forestry, Sirsi, Karnataka [7]. The present study documented 36 tree species belonging to 19 families at St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mahuadanr. This inventory provides a baseline record of the campus tree flora and its family-wise composition. Such documentation is valuable for identifying the tree species present on the campus, supporting botanical education and guiding future studies on tree diversity and campus vegetation. These studies provide a broader context for understanding campus tree diversity across different educational institutions. The number of species documented at each campus may vary according to its geographical setting, vegetation composition, survey coverage and the criteria used for recording trees. For instance, Poonia et al. (2020) extended their study to individual tree counts and carbon stock assessment, whereas the present study focused on documenting the tree species recorded at SXCM and analysing their family-wise representation [7]. The findings therefore provide a useful baseline for understanding the composition of the campus tree flora. Further surveys incorporating individual tree counts, campus area, tree measurements and consistent sampling procedures could build upon this inventory and provide a more detailed understanding of the structure and diversity of campus vegetation.

The tree species documented on the SXCM campus represent a variety of food, timber, ornamental and cultural values. Species such as *Mangifera indica*, *Psidium guajava* and *Syzygium cumini* are valued for their edible fruits, while *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Shorea robusta* and *Tectona grandis* are well known for their timber uses. The presence of these trees highlights the practical and educational value of the campus flora, offering opportunities for students to explore plant identification, economic importance and the relationship between trees and human life. Trees also contribute to environmental quality through benefits such as shade, carbon storage and other ecosystem services, which are influenced by species characteristics, tree size, canopy structure and local environmental conditions (Nowak & Dwyer, 2000; Liang & Huang, 2023) [2,3]. The systematic documentation of campus trees thus provides a foundation for further studies on their ecological contributions and role in maintaining a healthy campus environment (Nowak et al., 2008) [4].

In addition to their ecological and economic importance, several species listed in Table 2 are associated with traditional medicinal uses. This aspect adds ethnobotanical relevance to the inventory and offers

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opportunities for further exploration of the relationship between local plant diversity and traditional plant knowledge. Species-wise information on medicinal applications, together with the documented food, timber and ornamental uses, broadens the educational value of the checklist. Future studies integrating floristic documentation with published ethnobotanical literature and pharmacognostic research could provide a more detailed understanding of the traditional uses and potential research significance of the recorded tree species.

The present study establishes a valuable baseline checklist of the tree flora of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mahuadanr, documenting 36 species belonging to 19 families and highlighting their taxonomic diversity and varied practical uses. This inventory provides a useful resource for botanical teaching, student fieldwork and future campus biodiversity studies. It also creates opportunities for more detailed documentation through geo-tagging, individual tree enumeration, measurement of tree height, diameter and crown spread, assessment of tree health and recording of natural regeneration. The herbarium specimens prepared for selected species and the photographic records further support the documentation and future verification of the campus flora. Continued monitoring using systematic field methods can help track changes in species composition and tree growth over time. Building on the present checklist, future studies may also evaluate canopy characteristics, carbon storage and other ecosystem services using appropriate field measurements (Nowak et al., 2008; Poonia et al., 2020) [4,7]. Overall, this study provides a foundation for sustained botanical documentation, environmental education and informed management of the tree resources of the SXCM campus, reinforcing the importance of campus green spaces as valuable resources for learning and biodiversity awareness.

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