

Meaningful environmental education in schools - A proposal for equitable society

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ABSTRACT

Environmental Education has been an important issue at the global level for close to two decades. It has become a school subject in India by a policy initiative taken by the government following a Supreme Court directive. Teaching of school subjects is largely about imparting knowledge, and about facts, procedures and phenomena and less about attitude formation. However, environmental education is meaningless without an explicit aim of changing attitudes towards the physical, social, biotic and abiotic components of the environment.

This paper will examine alternatives of environmental education models that will make learning about the environment and environmental action more meaningful to students. Model of a curriculum with activity-based study materials will be proposed. The importance of teachers' actions in the classroom and outside it will be discussed. The role of the school management in supporting environmentally suitable actions of teachers and students will be emphasized and a possible mechanism for classroom trials will be suggested.