

Sustaining Activity Based Environment Education

A TERI—D L Shah Trust Initiative

The goal of environmental education is to develop a world population that is aware of, and concerned about, the environment and its associated problems, and which has the knowledge, skills, attitudes, motivations, and commitment to work individually and collectively toward solutions of current problems and the prevention of new ones.

(Belgrade Charter, 1976)

About the project.....

In phase I of the project, an activity based training module and resource kit was developed. This was tested with a small group of teachers to ensure that the training module and resource kit are responsive to the needs of the teaching fraternity. Based on the feedback of the teachers, the resource kit and training module was finalised and around 300 teachers from 60 schools in Thane, Mumbai and Navi Mumbai were trained.

Phase II of the project is being extended to schools in Pune, Pimpri, Lonavala and Goa with a keen focus to ensure that training gets translated in the classrooms. In this phase, teachers will be trained in activity based teaching methods on the various topics covered by environment education in the state board, ICSE and CBSE syllabus. Further teachers will be equipped with resource materials in the form of a booklet that helps them to conduct games and activities in classrooms as well as with charts and power point presentation that has simplified the course content and an environmental planner to plan activities around important environmental days.

What is Activity Based Environment Education?

Activity Based Environment Education is a teaching method

- that is student centric where students are not merely audiences but active participants of the learning process
- where teachers play a role of a facilitator to help students discover knowledge rather than being knowledge authority.

What are the benefits of Activity Based Environment Education?

- helps students gain, retain and reproduce knowledge
- helps translate knowledge into positive action
- enables students to draw deeper learning from their own experiences due to engagement in games and activities
- promotes critical thinking and problem solving skills
- promotes life skills such as working in a team or group, leadership and negotiation skills
- equips students with skills, attitudes, motivation and commitment to initiate and work for positive change

What do we expect from participating schools?

- Depute 2-3 teachers for training
- Encourage teachers to implement the teaching methods in class
- Provide feedback on usage of methods and impact of teaching methods on students
- If satisfied, please promote ABEE methods amongst other schools as well

Project highlights

- Implemented in 30 committed schools in Pune, Pimpri, Lonavla and Goa
- Teacher training workshops
- Impact assessment of ABEE
- Book on ABEE
- Two cash prize per city of Rs. 10000 and 5000 for best performing school

What does the resource kit contain?

The resource kit is made up of a charts, CDs and an environmental planner and a booklet.

There are 16 charts of A3 size and CDs with 11 power point presentation that cover the following topics:

- ecosystem and its productivity
- waste and its management
- natural resource and its depletion
- conservation and role of communities
- energy crises
- Pollution
- sustainable resource use and clean technology
- environmental values
- environment degradation and impacts on women and children

An environmental planner (A1 size) for the academic year June 2012 – May 2013 with environmental dates.

The booklet of around 250 pages is organized under three sections to cover importance of activity based methods, games and activities and contacts for further reference.

introductory

- Project write up
- Description about the resource kit, its content, purpose and usage
- Different strategies and its benefits
- Importance of project based learning and how to conduct the same
- Importance of and application of performing arts in EE
- Importance of and application of nature trail and outdoor trips in EE

Syllabus specific

- Games such as
 - Quiz
 - dumb charades
 - crosswords
- Group activities
- Hands on activities

General section :

- Sharing experiences through success stories
- Environment education resources
- Organisations and institutes related to environment education
- Environment calendar
- Songs and poems

About the collaborating organizations

D L Shah Trust for Applied Science, Technology, Arts and Philosophy

Mr. D.L. Shah founded this Trust in 1994 to support activities related to research and outreach in diverse field. Quality management and enhancing the Quality of human life through better environment have been the thrust areas of the trust.

The trust has published a number of books on Quality, Productivity & ISO, Standards on Quality, and distributed them free-of-charge to organisations, institutions and professionals. A television serial titled “*hamarazameenhamaraasmaan*” has been produced by the Trust and was telecasted on Doordarshan. Trust also provides financial assistance to several NGOs and other institutions working selflessly in different fields.

The trust has been supporting this project for the past two years due to its potential to make change to environment education.

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

TERI is a not-for-profit research institute that has been engaged in research for the past 30 years on energy, environment and other issues related to sustainable development.

Educating Youth for Sustainable Development division of TERI, has dedicated itself to the task of creating an informed citizenry through youth, community and corporate and government stakeholders.

The EYSD division has been carrying out several school projects related to various environment related issues for students, parents and teachers. Formal and non-formal teaching methods are used to sensitize students to these issues so that they are motivated to initiate change within themselves as well as their surroundings.

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