WWF

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

A whole school approach

- The schools formed groups of students to carry out and take care of various projects like planting herbal gardens, planting trees, and building models to demonstrate various kinds of pollution. Each school chose activities relevant to their locality. The activities at their schools were mentored by the teachers-in-charge.
- All the schools conducted student-led campaigns on relevant local issues in their surrounding villages. All students, teachers and community members participated actively.
- Workshops on Locally Relevant Themes were conducted for the school staff. They aimed to address the local environmental issues around each school and practices that could be infused into all the subjects in the curriculum.

Youth

The students of the ESD Schools organized ESD Melas (fairs) in the surrounding villages in collaboration with WWF-India. These fairs brought together the young students, teachers and community members to be a part of a common programme highlighting the issue of sustainability. The Melas saw participation from students and community members alike, bringing in a whole range of skills, from handicrafts to cooking and even music. The objective of these workshops was to build awareness about local art, culture and instill pride in the local heritage as well as uphold the good age old practices of recycling.

BACKGROUND

WWF has been working towards ensuring that ESD becomes the core of the Indian education system since 2010. Our approach is to embed knowledge about ESD into the government system so that it proliferates and gains scale, thereby delivering larger impact.

To help these institutions implement ESD, WWF India have developed training manuals in 4 regional languages, as well as in English and Hindi,. They detail the concept of ESD and its implementation through a range of educational tools, from bringing changes in classroom education, to connecting the c ommunity to the school.

To demonstrate the approach and the positive impacts of ESD, the division has adopted twelve schools in the Indian states of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal as ESD Model Schools implementing the concept through the Whole School Ap-proach. Our work has been able to influence 83 DIETs (District Institute of Education and Training) across 4 states to further adopt one school each in their district.



"The step taken by WWF India of making an abstract idea personal on Education for Sustainable Development has really opened our eyes and accordingly WWF is trying to do the same in our district through the Model School we have adopted."

Dr Manju Chutia, Lecturer,
DIET, Nalbari, Assam



Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

"To equip people with knowledge of and skills in sustainable development, making them more competent and confident while at the same time increasing their opportunities for leading healthy and productive lifestyles in harmony with nature and with concern for social values, gender equity and cultural diversity."

UNECE



"We are making ESD our culture for a better future"

Kishan Hansey, Class X,
ESD Model School in Assam

Green entrepreneurship

WWF-India carried out small-scale business trainings for the teachers, students and community members related to the ESD Model Schools. These trainings set forth a structure for the development of economically profitable, socially responsible and eco-friendly small-scale business initiatives.

Some such exemplary businesses that were started after the Small-scale Business Trainings were presented with the Green Awards in 2014. A movie was also made about the stories and work of the winners of the WWF-India Green Awards.

Links to the community

Through ESD, students are capacitated to make positive contributions to the community by being involved in various community activities, and the community can provides the reality which can become the context for curricular learning to happen.

This is seen in the case of the mothers' community that is engaged by the school for cooking the mid-day meal at Dhablat Lakshman School, WB, and Gobindapur Junior High School, West Bengal. The women were trained to switch over to tailoring, fishery, poultry etc as their poaching of tiger prawns has caused rapid decline in their numbers. While these steps ensured internal benefits like hygienic and nutritional meals for the students, the schools have also contributed to promoting livelihoods.

Policy work

WWF India is working to embed the ESD approach right at the governmental level by building the capacity on ESD of various state and national level education institutions. WWF-India has conducted ESD trainings for educational authorities and master trainers from 102 districts out of the 593 districts in India and has created ESD resource material in English and four regional languages.

As an outcome, the SCERTs (State Council of Education Research and Training) in all the four states have formally announced that all the DIETs must adopt a school each, and mentor them to become ESD Model Schools. The number of Model schools has now gone up to 107.

Slow moving bureaucratic processes, as well as difficulties monitoring the growth of the Model Schools have been some of the challenges that WWF have faced while working.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Reorient curricula to include local issues. This should be followed by training the teachers on how to include the local issues in their teaching and on the importance of connecting everyday life with learning.
- Build capacity of the inspectorate authorities. The government should take measures to ensure proper monitoring and evaluation of the educational reforms implemented.
- Collaborate with civil society for policy implementation. Civil society organizations can help fill the gap between the individual and the state and enhance the impact of policies.

WWF

Why we are here
To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

panda.org

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