

Environmental education and Environmental capital development at School level : case study on Sikkim

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ABSTRACT

School expansion of Sikkim has a direct impact on human capital development and on social equality. Unchecked expansion in countries with low school Environmental education participation rates has the potential to increase inequality, as measured by the gender and social background of students. In today's world, acquisition of the enabling skills and competencies necessary for civic participation and economic success depends on access to good school Environmental education. Investment in school Environmental education in developing countries can be justified not only on the grounds of its contribution to productivity increases, which lay the basis for sustained economic growth and poverty reduction, but also for its contribution to Environmental capital development and its associated effects on democracy, crime reduction, and improvement of living conditions. School Environmental education plays a key articulating role between primary schooling, tertiary Environmental education, and the labor market. The specific dynamics of this articulation is crucial because it determines future Environmental educational and job opportunities for young people. School Environmental education can become a bottleneck constraining the expansion of Environmental educational attainment and opportunity, or, conversely, it can open a set of pathways and alternative channels for students' advancement.

1. Introduction

Four Sikkim State Government Eco-Club Schools have bagged National Awards for effective environment awareness and action oriented projects implemented during the year 2015 under the coordination of ENVIS Centre, Forests, Environment and Wildlife Management Department, Government of Sikkim. Government Senior School School, Hee-Yangthang from West Sikkim has been awarded the prestigious Paryavaran Mitra Puraskar 2015 in an Exemplar School category. Parayavaran Mitra Puraskar is a national award given by Centre for Environment Environmental education, Ahmedabad every year under the sustainable environment initiatives/ programmes to the two best performing schools in the country. Government School, Bongten, West Sikkim has been awarded with two National Awards on Sustainability and Biodiversity by WIPRO at Bangalore on 6th of February, 2016. 1. Earthian Award 2015 with cash prize of rupees One Lakh.

2. Objective

To highlight the working performance of the School education of Sikkim to increase the environmental education and Environmental capital development.

3. Methodology

Both the literature review and field observation methods have used. The primary and secondary data both have been used.

4. Result and Discussion

TnKhoshoo Earthian Trophy 2015. TnKhoshoo Earthian Trophy recognizes only one School among the short listed earthen winning schools for catalyzing and enabling

environmental thought and action among students. It recognizes one school for higher degree of feasibility, practical implementation, ability and contextual understanding. This award is in memory of Dr. Triloknath Khoshoo, India's first Secretary of Department of Environment. Sonam Choda Lepcha Memorial Government School, Lingdong, North Sikkim has been selected as the TOP 5 performers of the GSP (Green Schools Programme) Audit 2015 by the Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi. The awards ceremony will be held on Tuesday February 23, 2016 at Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. CSE's Green Schools Audit programme 2015 was introduced to 200 schools of the Sikkim State during the teacher's training programme held in August 2015 at Gangtok. 149 schools from Sikkim had registered for the online audit programme out of which 64 schools completed successfully. Another school from Sikkim namely Government Jr. High School, Mangzing, South Sikkim has been selected as the TOP 10 performers of the GSP (Green Schools Programme) Audit 2015 by the Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi. Mangzing School's Principal, Green Teacher and four eco-club students have also been invited to New Delhi to receive the award (Date of Awards Ceremony: 23rd February, 2016, New Delhi).



Plate1: Celebration of Earth Day by the students and teachers. Students and villagers conducted an awareness rally from the school premises to ShivalayaMandir. They also planted more than 200 trees in the area.¹



Plate2 :Government Primary School, Samdur, which had bagged the State Green School award 2014 on World Environment Day on 05 June, yesterday joined Sikkim in dedicating 10 Minutes to Earth with a plantation drive and an awareness rally. Headmistress of PemaSangmuBhutia, began the observance by explaining the State Government's "10 Minutes to Earth" initiative to the students and staff. The students, teachers, School Management Committee members, parents, local residents, army and the forest staff then joined the plantation drive²



Plate 3: As part of World Environment Day celebration, TsomgoPokhariSanrakshanSamitee (TPSS) organised a painting and slogan contest for students of Gangtok schools at Hotel Tara Palace in collaboration with the Forests, Environment and Wildlife Management Department and WWF - India.³



Plate4 :On 05 June, World Environment Day was observed at Swayem JHS under the supervision of Mangan Territorial Range, department of Forest. The programme was attended by RO (T), DhirajKhathi, BO (T), TenzingBhutia and staff, HM, Teachers, students and SMC members. On the occasion, 500 saplings were planted around the school complex and painting competition on environment was also organized for the students. Students who were placed first, second and third were awarded with prizes sponsored by Mangan Territorial Range.⁴

The condition of the schools and the surroundings around the schools are favorable supports all the data. They give a positive result for the school environment.



Plate 5: Biodiversity Park prepared by Bongten School in Sikkim



Plate6: More than 300 students of Rangpo Mining Senior School took part in a painting competition organised by the Marwari YuvaManch, Rangpo, and Hindi daily, DainikJagran, today. The competition was held to spread the message of environment conservation, informs a press release. Winners of the competition are Arun Mangar of class IX, Dhiraj Kumar of class IX, Swati Kumari of class X, K Shubham Singha of class IX and Pratima Pradhan of class X in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th place respectively.⁶



Plate 7: A day long program for National Environment Awareness Campaign 2012 was held at school premises on May 17, 2012. The program was organized by Jan Kalyan Nehru YuvaSamiti, Phadamchen that was supported by Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. of India and Envis Centre, Sikkim. The theme for this year celebration was 'Forest for Sustainable Livelihood'. Debates and Speeches on environment was the highlight of the day that had more than 200 participants⁷



Plate 8: Different schools and social organisations of West Sikkim celebrated World Environment Day at venues across the district today. HeeYangthang Senior School School under ManeybungDentam constituency organised a rally to mark the WED. Students marched a 2 kilometer stretch raising slogans to save the environment and raising placards underlining such messages. For the senior students, the school organized an essay competition, while the juniors participated in a sit & draw competition. The students also planted saplings in the school campus. ACF TB Chettri was among the students as chief guest.⁸



Plate 9: Govt. Sec. School Lingtam, East Sikkim Under BAC Regu observed 'World Environment Day' on 5th June at the School. In the beginning of the programme Headmaster, Dorjee Sherpa highlighted the importance of the day in his speech. Green teacher of the school, Shyam Kumar Shah informed the students about the importance of environment.⁹

Realizing well the need and value of Environmental education for human resource development the government has accepted its moral responsibility to give the utmost to its citizens for moulding their desirable behavior and personality. The government comes up with its progressive policy measures but it may be defeated at its purpose for its own failure to restrict the truancy or dereliction on the parts of the

workers to carry out the allotted work earnestly. The government has brought enough reforms in the matter of physical facilities for Environmental educational development but has failed to restrain itself from taking vindictive action on partisan line. Transfer of teachers in between the session has been affected, which act, as is commonly criticized badly affects and hampers the teaching and learning activities in the institutions. Otherwise, in Sikkim, the government has judiciously solved all the problems of curriculum, textbooks, medium of instruction, languages, teachers' shortage and the huge backlog of untrained teachers. What can be also said is that launching a free scheme of free boarding for children of the weaker sections has contributed greatly to the expansion in enrolment figures.



Plate 9: Well prepared modern toilet in school



Plate 10: Labels on the doors of rest rooms in school

Work experience was introduced at the school stage in the mid-seventies itself. Various schemes under "Socially Useful Productive Work"(SUPW) are also being implemented in all the government schools. Students too are encouraged to participate actively in programmes like the improvement of the school environment, manufacture of useful articles from locally available raw materials, handicrafts, social service, etc. A significant step taken by the State towards the vocationalisation

of school Environmental education is the introduction of training in horology and traditional Sikkimese crafts for the dropouts of classes IX - X to prepare them for self-employment. Certain other schemes in vocational Environmental education like the following were also being implemented; as, the printing technique programme, and horticulture in some school schools, stenography was introduced which included training in typing and office management. During the Eighth Plan, the programmes of Work Experience and Vocationalisation of Environmental education at the various stages were proposed to be strengthened.

Initiated in 1988, this centrally sponsored scheme of Vocationalisation of School Environmental education provides for diversification of Environmental educational opportunities in Sikkim so as to enhance individual employability, reduce the mismatch between demand and supply of skilled manpower and provides an alternative for those pursuing higher Environmental education. 10 (op.cit., Reference Annual, 2013 p. 241) Hence, it is important and would be implemented from class IX onwards, unlike the present provision for its implementation from class XI, and would be subsumed under RMSA. Vocational Environmental education courses will be based on national occupation standard brought out by the Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) that determine the minimum levels of competencies for various vocations. Academic qualifications would be assessed and certified by Environmental educational

bodies and vocational skills would be assessed and certified by respective SSCs. In the Twelfth Plan, a mechanism would be created for convergence of vocational courses offered by various ministries, private initiatives and vocational Environmental education institutions, and use schools as the outlet for vocational Environmental education of young people. A comprehensive repertoire of vocational courses, duration of each course, equipment and facilities, costs and agencies will be developed¹¹ In accordance with the priority accorded to vocationalisation of Environmental education in the National Policy on Environmental education; a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of School Environmental education was introduced in February, 1988. The main objectives of the scheme are to enhance individual employability, reduce the mismatch between demand and supply of skilled manpower and provide an alternative for those pursuing higher Environmental education without particular interest or purpose. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Vocational Environmental education at Lower School Stage has also been introduced from the year 1993-94 primarily to impart training in simple marketable skills to the students of classes IX and X, to develop vocational interests and to facilitate students in making a choice of vocational courses at the higher school level. The target laid down in the revised policy is to divert 10% of higher school students to the vocational stream by 1995 and 25% by 2000 A.D.

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