

NURTURING EDUCATORS, LEARNERS THROUGH NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS TO CREATE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

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ABSTRACT

Teachers are the individual who provides education to any learner i.e. the student of our today's schools. Our role is often formal and ongoing, carried out in classroom or any other place of formal education. In our country, a person who wishes to become a teacher must first obtain specified professional qualification from a university or college. These professional qualifications include the study of pedagogy, the science of teaching. Teachers may use a lesson plan to facilitate student learning, providing a course of study which is called the curriculum. A teacher's role may vary among the different school setup around us but s/he facilitates for literacy and numeracy, craftsmanship or vocational training, the arts, religion, civics, community roles, or life skills and many more things.

The facilitation by teacher if I grounded on the principles of teacher centered instruction, stifles the creativity of the teacher too, leading to a negative impact on the learner. For example, when the students are asked to write about an issue from their environment, the replication of themes such as 'pollution', 'the environment and trees' is mostly attempted which indicates the role of teacher in steering student to replicate the themes that are within the formal setting of the school. Whereas Jomon (1996) has reported that creative methods, approaches and processes if used by the teacher frequently found 'thing that can be used as a 'tool to attain the objectives of environmental education viz. knowledge, awareness attitude, participation and skill

INTRODUCTION

This idea of using the Newspapers in Education was conceptualized by the New York Times in 1930s, when New York City schools social studies teachers submitted an idea to The New York Times to deliver to their schools newspapers in bundles, so that students would learn about news events from the most current textbook. The New York Times still runs the initiative; the teachers can select either the print or electronic version of the newspaper to be used in the classroom. This initiative promotes student literacy and social awareness by providing young readers with information analysis and opinion about current affairs. Curriculum-linked topics ensure the newspaper pages are useful for teachers and the activities are user-friendly for students. The use of newspaper for learning is implemented in Africa, Ghana, Uganda and most recently Kenya.

As we all know the Newspaper is divided into a variety of different sections such as Local, Sports, Business, Living, Weather, etc. Within each section, readers see different headlines, photographs, artwork and stories on each page. A number of activities can be used to encourage more than just the words and photographs and do the analysis and synthesis to develop own understanding of environment. Keeping such thought in mind present study was conducted on the students of M.Ed. Course of session 2011-12 as a pilot study, who opted for Environmental Education as their optional paper. They were given the assignment of News paper cutting and few other dependent activities which are mentioned further in the paper. The cutting was to be done of the old newspapers and the cut pieces were to be sorted out for any environmental issue.

The introductory activity was hunting for the environmental news and listing of them. Then the teacher educators were asked to make sets of pictures on any bases and classify them based on any environmental issue.

In next step the teacher educators were to create crop puzzles using classified words based on environmental issue makes learning faster and more effective. Creative learning environment processes and methods improves the students' performance in the examinations, in and other extracurricular activities. He has also found that later such students took up further responsibilities too. Similarly **Panda** (1996) found that the learners with activity based learning performed better than the control group in every unit as well as overall performance.

The performances of the learners may vary in various subjects of curriculum but the chief purpose of orienting the learners positively towards a healthy environment and living can be accomplished judiciously with subject like Environmental Education.

Environmental Education is a learning process that increases people's knowledge and awareness about the environment and associated challenges, develops the necessary skills and expertise to address the challenges, and fosters attitudes, motivations, and commitments to make informed decisions and take responsible action (UNESCO, Tbilisi Declaration, 1978). Environmental education has crossover with outdoor education and experiential education.

- **Outdoor education** means learning "in" and "for" the outdoors. It is a means of curriculum extension and enrichment through outdoor experiences." (Sharma, 2000) education is often taught or enhanced through outdoor experiences. The out of doors experience, while not strictly environmental in nature, often contain elements of teaching about the environment.
- **Experiential education** is a process through which a learner constructs knowledge, skill, and value from direct experiences" (CEE, 2002) experiential education can be viewed as both a process and method to deliver the ideas and skills associated with environmental education.

Both of the above mentioned thoughts to explore about environment is tried and experimented by the environment education teachers formally or informally every now and Similarly the authors tried. It was observed that the newspaper is a conduct it on every Saturday. They were also to read the issues and related story in environmental education period.

The news read by the teacher educator were discussed 11 debate as "good" or "bad" news. Questions like Good or whom? was also seriously discussed.

Some teacher educators identified and classified com characters young/old, male/female. They created a comics sur by cutting up the news paper comics and sequencing the segment for example the role of human beings in environment.

The teacher educators were asked to read the "Letters to the Editor," and select any one which was on any environmental issue. explain why they selected him/her and then write their own.

The selected and classified pictures by the teacher educators was converted in the form of

- Quiz by the researchers as Guess what the photo is about, then tell the caption,
- Write the name of person in the news picture.
- Make stories to go with the picture.

Some classified newspaper cutting helped the researchers to conduct the following

- Match the prices of natural product in last three months and discuss its implications.
- Pick a job for you from the job section and tell what and how you can contribute for the benefit of the environment by that job.
- Develop an interview schedule to interview a person whom you consider has played a key role for the benefit of the environment.

The cutting of the newspaper appeared to be easy but when the cut pieces of the same news paper for different environmental issue were sorted /classified lead to brainstorming of the teacher educators and the researchers too. The learners were made free to select the topics as issues on their own. The teacher educators were asked to do the presentation of the progress of their newspaper cutting assignment on every Monday in environmental education period. There were various issues the teacher educators identified by cutting the news paper, like increasing depletion of flora and fauna, radioactive pollution, increased usage of ear plugs leading to ill effect onto the eardrums, decreasing potentiality and fertility due to the adulterated food and unhygienic lifestyle among human beings. Slow and lethargic governmental policies and actions towards environmental control, greater fluctuation in the price of the cereals and fossil fuels, increase in stress due to the fast life, Regular jams in the city is leading to higher accumulation of the higher precipitation in our internal organs.

On the other hand while performing the news hunt the teacher educators were found to be eager to read into the newspaper and get more and more news. Unlike small children they could develop their own categories of news and thought of collecting the cuttings. Discussion and quiz increased their expression and participation in the environmental issues discussion. Comics brought smiles to their faces and a sign of relief was easily observed. Writing letter to the editors increased their crisp and accurate writing expression. Writing imaginative stories levitated the vision to a new horizon.

Suggestive implications from the study

Seeing the success of the use of newspaper at teacher educators' level, the researchers apprehends some implications for environmental learning at lower level too and suggests the activities with news papers which are as follows

PRIMARY LEVEL

- Cut out the pictures of appliances that run on electricity.
- Look through the newspaper and find pictures of ten things you have in your house.
- Draw three circles the size of dinner plates on your paper Using the newspaper, cut out foods you would eat breakfast, lunch and dinner. Paste the foods you have cut onto your breakfast, lunch and dinner plates.
- Look through the newspaper and find examples vegetables and the fruits.
- Cut out four pictures of clothes you would wear in this wa place and vice versa.
- Cut and paste from the news papers the pictures of trees, shrubs and herbs onto a piece of paper.
- Find pictures of transportation and cut them out. Paste and label each picture.
- Find five pictures of things that cause pollution. Cut them out and paste them on your paper.
- Find as many weather words as you can and clip them from the newspaper. Illustrate or draw a picture for each word you have cut out.
- Choose two pictures in the newspaper showing emotion. Cut these out and paste on your paper.
- Pick two environmental stories in the newspaper. Answer the following questions: When did the story take place? Where did the story take place? What happened? Who was involved? Why is it newsworthy?
- Use a grocery ad from the newspaper. Choose five items that you like to eat. Cut them out of the paper along with the price

and then add up the total cost for all the items.

UPPER PRIMARY LEVEL

- Make a list of at least 15 Environmental words you find in the newspaper. Compile a list, write two paragraphs describing them.
- Using the newspaper, locate ten different districts on map of India.
- Look at the temperatures, sunrise and sunset in the newspaper. Predict the weather for tomorrow in five different cities.
- Take a newspaper and find three stories or pictures about environmental accidents. Clip these stories/pictures out of the paper. Paste onto a sheet of paper. How could each of these accidents have been prevented?
- Find a political cartoon in the newspaper that you consider and the least number of listing homes are most and least expensive.
- Read the "Help Wanted" ads and find a job that lists a salary or daily wage, weekly wage and wages over a three and calculate the following: wage, monthly wage, annual wage and wages year period.
- After scanning the newspaper, choose five news or write their chemical components and their origin on through your newspaper and list ten occupations which are discussed related with environment.

SECONDARY LEVEL

- Make a list of all the functions provided by the newspaper.
- Find the environmental acronyms. Find at least ten examples in which natural resources have been used in advertisements or articles.
- Find a newspaper article that is about a disaster or unexpected happening.
- Clip ten pictures of news items from the paper to illustrate the various ways money is spent on artificial resources.
- Find newspaper example which shows present, past and future. Collect five newspaper advertisements that encourage savings. Put these onto your paper. Answer the following questions: What ads encourage savings? How do the ads encourage savings? What ads only appear to encourage savings? What are the hidden costs?

- Choose an Environmental editorial from the editorial page. Clip it and paste it onto your paper. Divide your paper into two columns. On one side of the paper write down all the facts listed in the editorial and on the other side list all the opinions.
- Look at the houses for sale in the classified section. Then do the following: identify the section of the city in which live. Count the number of houses listed by area. Name section of the city which has the greatest number of listings.

CONCLUSION

Some fellows, friends and guardians of teacher educators have shown interest in reading the free newspaper that they get on weekly basis. This shows that there is need to increase the circulation of various newspapers so that it can be accessed in rural areas too. This has presented an opportunity also for the newspaper to serve as a tool for stimulating civic agency starting with the student and parents of students about issues that affect them in their school, community, district and country. The newspaper agencies may go for collaboration or MOU with academic institutions for subsidized subscription. The newspapers may be motivated to publish students' newspapers (scaled down paper of 4 sheets). Teachers of the institutions may write for these newspapers. A proposal may be sent to publish newsletters of the institutions weekly, fortnightly monthly, on trimester, semesters.

By the use of newspapers attainment of the objectives of the environmental education by the learners seems to be easy but needs lot of patience, quality time and little of economic support by the administration. A cooperative stand of all will surely phenomenal results.

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