



EXPLORING HAPPINESS EDUCATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS USING ACTIVITY BASED LEARNING

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Abstract

Happiness education is seeing the smile on a child's face as they learn. Research related to environmental Awareness has consistently indicated that many students and young adults attribute a large amount of their knowledge of environmental concepts, problems, and issues to out-of-school educational settings and experiences. Printed Media plays a vital role when it comes to informing the public on what's happening around the world, which is as well helpful to students who need to be updated on the current issues surrounding them. To achieve this, researcher use newspapers as a environment friendly aid, especially as a tool to promote the reading culture for exploration and reflection so that happiness education happen effectively. Researcher has deliberately giving importance to activities as a resource for implementing the happiness education in class, home and out of the school also as education has no boundaries.



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Introduction: long back Frobel and Maria Montessori suggested activity based learning for pre primary level children. Maria montesori was in Gujarat with Gijubhai Badheka and she involve herself in implementing Montessori method for pre primary level schools in Gujarat. India

One test of the correctness of educational procedure is the happiness of the child.

- Maria Montessori

Childhood is about playing, Discovery and believing in dreams. The imagination and possibilities are endless. Newspaper is very vital source of all types of the information. For teachers the newspaper offers a special attraction. It has been called the living textbook and it lives up to that name. The newspaper can be used to enhance skills in reading, writing,

listening, speaking, math, social studies and science. Critical thinking is the natural outgrowth of using a newspaper to learn. Unlike textbooks, which are several years outdated by the time they get into students' hands, the newspaper comes alive with information. The newspaper expands the curriculum with an unlimited amount of information to use as background for learning activities. The beauty of the newspaper in the classroom is that it is fresh everyday. It comes to you with the latest news and information and, unlike other media, comes beautifully written with lots of detail. Stories unfold as reporters unearth more information to reconstruct what happened. There is truly no better record of the world's happenings than mass media. Altruism is the principle and moral practice of concern for the welfare and/or happiness of other human beings or animals, resulting in a quality of life both material and spiritual. It is a traditional virtue in many cultures and a core aspect of various religious and secular worldviews. Altruism involves engaging in selfless acts for the pleasure of it. An example is helping poor & giving useful items to an unsheltered person. Altruism is a personal value that arises from genuine concern for other people's well-being. By practising mindfulness, Learning to meditate, making space in life for spirituality through genuine spiritual master altruism can be cultivated which leads to happiness.

The field of out-of-school environmental education is broad and eclectic. Constructivism approach of teaching learning is very supportive to make happiness education happen in school classroom and out of school as well. Activity based learning is Out-of-school education is usually defined as education that occurs in excursion, parks, nature centers, museums, aquaria, arboreta, public gardens, forest areas, wildlife refuges, camps, communities, and the home when the experiences are not part of a formal school-based program. It also includes mass media including television, radio, newspapers, and magazines when used at these sites or other non-school sites.

Need and Importance of the Study

Learning to live in present and appreciate the beauty of nature, eco system and abundance around us is very essential to make students habits environment friendly. The surroundings are at the urge of getting polluted and the natural resources coming to an end.



Thus, here the need arises of awareness which can be mostly done by education. Education for environment will help realize the situation and then solve it. The study will give a chance to the students to come across various factors due to which environment is harmed. It is the need of the hour as learning through newspapers will become a reciprocal experience for students and teachers both.

The study will lead to the awareness amongst the children about the environment through happiness education. The newspapers having bright columns and attractive ones will encourage the students to read and learn from it. The students are attracted to the newspapers when they find the information attractive and understandable according to their age. Due to happiness education the students will construct their ideas and study better as well as act accordingly.

Statement of the problem

To study the effectiveness of happiness education for Environmental awareness using activity based learning.

Definitions of keywords

Teaching strategy: In this study constructivism approach with activity based learning is used as mode of happiness education. It refer to method used to help students learn the desired course contents and be able to develop achievable goals in the future.

Constructivist Approach: It is a view of learning that believes that the learners use their experiences to actively construct, understand that makes sense to them, rather than have the understanding delivered to them in an organised form.

Effectiveness: Effectiveness is producing the desired effect after the implementation of the program.

Environmental Education: A subject or study of Environment which involves the basics of environment such as resources and its conservation.

Std. 7th students: A homogenous group of students studying in secondary school

Objectives of the study

- **To select units for teaching Environmental Education** through TOI/ Navbharat.
- To construct an achievement test based on the unit before making use of TOI/ Navbharat to teach Environmental Education.
- To design a suitable teaching activity to teach Environmental Education using TOI/ Navbharat.
- To test the effectiveness of the teaching activity based on constructivist approach using TOI/ Navbharat.
- To create an awareness of Environmental Education among students by activity based newspaper reading
- To make students able to plan and implement environment awareness Programs.

Assumptions

Students have an idea of Environmental Education as a subject.

There is a systematic arranged syllabus of Environmental Education for 7th std.

Hypothesis

There will be some significant difference between the pre-test and the post test scores after teaching Environmental education to the students using TOI

Method of research: Experimental research with Single group pre-test and post test will be used for the research study.

Population and sample: All the students studying in 7th std in English medium schools in Pune city. A sample was selected from the Epiphany High School- English medium in Pune city for 7th std students

Tools for data collection: The tool will be an achievement test in Environmental Education based on selected unit prepared by the researcher.

Statistical technique: The researcher will be using mean and t-test as statistical technique.

Scope, Limitations and Delimitations:

Scope: The study is useful for the Secondary school students

Limitations: The study is limited to the students of 7th std **with** the subject of Environmental Education

Group Activity: Designing and building a bridge using Newspaper.

Skills: Student effectively work in team for planning, decision making, and designing

Procedure: Teacher ask the student to build a bridge of specific height and dimension so that only light vehicle can underpass and it should have specific weight bearing capacity. For demonstration teacher treat lunch box as vehicle and water bottle as weight. This ease of available resources facilitate the student to use maxim of learning “ Easy to Difficult”. This activity promote self confidence through sense of accomplishment. Also correlating school studies with newspaper reading gives meaningfulness to it.

Individual activity: Searching the Paper

Skills: Student effectively skims and scans for information.

Have your students find each of the following in the newspaper:

- someone wearing cotton clothes and jute bag
- tree, animal, birds
- the name of your city
- garden, river, Hills /Hillside
- sunrise, Sunset
- story about another state in your country

Individual activity: Searching the Paper

Skills: Student effectively skims and scans for information.

Procedure: Teacher asks the students to find each of the following in the newspaper:

Story about another country, letter from a reader, Cartoon, An Advertisement, A crossword, A map, An animal, movie review & rating, television listing, the name of your city, action word, movie star, Social media related news, about pets, An animal, Forest related news, Water related news, Rain related news, Traffic related news, Air pollution related news, Biodiversity related news, NGO working to save the environment

Amazon Prime, Netflix web-series , weather forecast etc.

Searching the Paper

Skills: Student effectively scans for Environment related information.

Procedure: Teacher Asks the students to find each of the following in the newspaper: Social media related news, about pets, An animal, Forest related news, Water related news, Rain related news, Traffic related news, Air pollution related news, Biodiversity related news, NGO working to save the environment

Individual Activity: Something Good and New Skill: Story writing

Procedure: Teacher asks the Students to write a story about news like.

A farmer left 40% of the crop for the birds, Tourists donated 10 kg to 200 kg grains for Peacocks in “Morachi Chincholi”. A school trip to Agro tourism destination in Baramati. A School or college trip to “SuryaShibir”, Photographs of Macaows and Parrots in SuryaShibir Encourage students to find a story of good news related to environment protection. What makes the news good? Does the story have any impact on their lives? Have them write a brief summary of the good news and share it with your class. Teacher asked the students to set connection between 2,3 events in the newspaper to narrate a story and write it with including the suggestions from the peers

Individual Activity: Comics and You

Skill: Student identifies details and uses information to construct meaning and make inferences.

Have students look through the comic strips in today's newspaper for a character who is most like them. They can make a list of the things they have in common with this comic character as well as the differences.

Individual Activity: Fun with Nouns

Skill: Student correctly identifies parts of speech-nouns.

Review the definition of a noun with your class. Then have them select a story from the front page of today's newspaper and find the nouns. They can underline the people they find in red, the places in blue and the things in green. Then make a list of nouns you can find looking around your classroom.

Picture Stories

Skill: Student organizes ideas and information for creative writing.

The goal is to use pictures from the paper to tell a story. This activity gives students a chance to explore how photographs can tell stories. Have students look through the photos in today's paper. Students then choose three photos and cut them out without captions. They can paste each picture on a separate sheet of paper and staple the sheets together in the order they will

appear in the story. Finally, they should write out each story in the form of captions below each picture.

Before and After

Skill: Student creates a story in which ideas and details are in a logical order.

Have students find a photograph in the newspaper that interests them. Instruct them to think about what is going on in the picture. Have them explain what they think happened just before the picture was taken and predict what they believe will happen afterwards. They should write down their explanation. Then, for creative writing fun, have them come up with the wildest events they can think of for what happened before and after.

On Sale

Skill: Student uses writing process effectively for persuasion.

Display ads are found throughout the newspaper. They are different from classified ads because they are larger and often have pictures and large letters. Have students find a display ad that catches their attention. Have them write a paragraph telling whether or not they think it's a good ad. How did it catch their eye? What would they change about it to make it even better? Have each student create a display ad to sell something in his/her desk.

Picture Punctuation

Skill: Student understands correct usage of punctuation marks.

The message of photos is sometimes like the message in a word sentence. Have students look through today's newspaper and find pictures whose subject could represent a question mark (?), an exclamation point (!), and a period (.). Have them cut out the pictures and write an original sentence for each picture telling why they made this choice.

Mind Mapping

Skill: Student determines the main idea and relevant details in a passage.

Assign students to choose an article related to environment from the newspaper that they think is interesting. They can write down the main idea in a few words in the center of a piece of paper. Then they will write down some details that support the main idea.

Making news paper craft for decoration

Skill: Thinking Creatively

Procedure: Newspaper supplements are colourful and of better quality of the paper. Making use of it, Teacher ask the students to prepare kites for the occasion of MakarSankranti, Akash- kandil, Diya for Diwali, Star, Santa clause, snow man for the Christmas. Teacher ask

the studentsto prepare paper fold craft like aeroplane, ship, flowers,different constellation, 3D origami crafts and structures etc.

Discussion: Activities and Experiential learning element of happiness education include discovery, exploration and reflections. All of these activities are based on exploration and reflection. Activities are easy and engaging the students happily. These activities gives more meaning to news paper reading and using the old newspaper as well and saving the environment. These activities are very feasible and economic. Students can spread awareness by sharing these activities with other friends and in neighbourhood. This promotes the pillar of learning to be and learning together Goals and purposes of out-of-school environmental education programs are equally diverse. Some practitioners emphasize environmental awareness, while others emphasize acquiring knowledge, skill development, problem solving, and action programs. Real and familiar environments appear to be more effective than unfamiliar environments unless pre-visit instruction is provided. Pre-instructional materials that provide an overview of what is to be done and what may be learned help to improve learning in nearly all settings and with televised experiences. When teachers use newspapers in classroom, it helps students to look at things in a bigger scope and it improves their critical thinking skills since they cover a wide range of things all in one screen.

Conclusion: Involving students happily in working to solve real environmental problems is a vital role school can play and use to help improve the environment and to develop environmental action skills. The educational value of these activities improved by including happiness element in it. Practising activity based learning strategy in long term has potential to develop positive outlook among student

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