

Research Paper :

Sensitizing children through educational games

DIMPLE SALUJA AND VERSHA PATEL

Accepted : August, 2009

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to:

DIMPLE SALUJA
Department of Extension and Communication,
Faculty of Family and Community Science, The M.S. University of Baroda, VADODARA (GUJARAT) INDIA

ABSTRACT

The investigation was carried out with the objective to develop instructional strategies and check impact of games developed to teach children on the topic environment education. The project was undertaken at Karelibaug Bhagini Samaj Trust Sanchalit, Shree Mukued Shukul Pustkalay and Vanchanalay of Baroda city. The children aged between 5-11 years were selected. Instructional material like chart, poster, flashcard and methods like puppet show, drama, workshop, demonstration and exhibition and games like snake and ladder, ludo, housie and puzzle game were developed and their effectiveness was checked using questionnaire. The result showed that learning through game is learning without tension. All the children opined that they liked play way method *i.e.* Tambola most for imparting environmental education. They were having favourable opinion for motivational activities like dustbin making and diya decoration. Overall the programme was successful in imparting environmental education amongst the children.

Key words : Environment education, Children, Play way method and motivational activities.

Environment is simply the world around us- starting with our skin and reaching out in all directions, in ever widening circles, unit it embraces the universes. Educating our populace on this important aspect is the prime requirement of the day. Institutionalization of education has restricted one to get enlightened in very narrow discipline. The advent of degree- based education; vocational education etc. has further restricted the scope of education. The present education system imparts social, political and economic education besides biological and physical sciences. These subjects taught now a day are more conceptual and theoretical rather than realistic and need-based. Environmental education's focus is on environmental "literacy" learning about and caring for the total environment, understanding how humans interact with and are dependent on natural ecosystems and developing critical- thinking skills to resolve environmental issues (Kochhar, 1988). Environmental education for children is critically important and should start before school begins. Early environmental education experiences help shape children's values, perspectives, and understanding of the environment and how to interact with it (Reddy and Reddy, 2003). Yet many children have little or no meaningful exposure to environmental education or opportunities to connect with the natural world because they are involved with activities that isolate them from it. Today's children will be responsible for making decisions that will shape the health of the environment. To prepare them for such responsibilities, they need a sound environmental education as a foundation from which to

make those decisions.

METHODOLOGY

The children registered at Karelibaug Bhagini Samaj Trust Sanchalit Shree Mukued Shukul Pustkalay and Vanchanalay were selected for imparting environmental education . The children were between ages of 5-11 year. The total 35 children out of which 15 children were regularly attending the programme. Teaching children using only lecture methods not be right strategy. Keeping this in mind play way method was adopted to teach the environment education. The games developed were snakes and ladder, loudo, housie/Tambola, puzzle game and word identification games were developed to make teaching learning process more effective. The project worker had developed reference material on different topics related to environment. Different teaching methods like talk, drama, workshop, demonstration and exhibition were adopted to make learning easy. Different types of teaching materials like chart, flashcards were used to increase their concentration and participation in different activities evaluation of any project is essential. Evaluation help us to find out whether the project has achieved the expected goal or not and with available resources for the present project.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Evaluation process helps to measure the entire project in terms of objective which examines the success or failure of the project. The Project worker had developed