Chapter 4

Role of Tablets as Mood Elevators in the Perception Towards Green Schools:
An Exploratory Research on the Students of Green Schools in Gujarat

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ABSTRACT

A green school basically integrates nature into school (mainly through academics, operations, and student/teacher and community engagement) with incorporated natural substance to school educational module. The sole purpose of green schools is to inculcate healthy and nature friendly initiatives with integrated environmental course content in school curriculum. Research shows that environmental training and education might enhance a normal learner's classroom execution and diversified impact on individual's personality as environmental knowledge can make ordinary learners extraordinary. Green schools aim at decreasing the drop-out rate in schools by introducing environmental education as an interesting subject with aspects of learning by doing. Students of Class 6th, 7th, and 8th standard use tabs/tablets for submitting their assignments, tests, and quiz/assessment exams enabling them to be tech-savvy generation. This research will address this issue through a qualitative research and in-depth interviews of students of different green schools of Gujarat.

INTRODUCTION

The issue of environmental education is the current topic of the green debate as the earth is not a separate entity from the perspective of sustainability. Penalties of ecological degradation incorporate poverty, starvation, climate extremes, endangered species, human rights abuse and war, acute and chronic illnesses, and an inexorably flimsy universal situation that predicts panic and catastrophe. Most of the world's governments and agencies are led by self-serving egotism and are too dawdling towards environmental variations leading to decreased internal stability and health care crisis. According to an estimate 24% of the global disease burden (loss of healthy life years) and 23% of all deaths (premature mortality) are owing to ecological elements, with the environmental burden of diseases being 15 times greater in evolving countries compared to established countries, due to environmental risk exposure and availability of basic health care facilities. (WHO, 2009)

Environmental degradation is of several types and has numerous consequences. Various investigations have been done in many countries applying diverse strategies to find health benefits from enhanced ecological quality to address this challenge. Ecological hazards can be diminished by upgrading the quality of air, water, sanitation facilities, green and renewable sources of energy are observed to be interrelated with noteworthy health advantages and can aid to the accomplishment of the Goals of sustainability, Development and overall wellbeing. Green schools are one such ray of hope that facilitates awareness about environment and how to protect it from degradation on daily basis. Children who represent, future generation of the world must be aware of what they have inherited from their ancestors as Environmental wealth and how to preserve it for their future generations to pass on as a legacy. Keeping this in mind, the Centre for Science and Environment every year awards the green school award to the top eco-friendly schools in India. This year it was held on Feb.15, 2017 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. (Green School Awards 2017, 2017).

Research demonstrates that schools that adopt an ecological concentration exhibit better scholastic execution over the educational modules. Ecological training helps to foster creative and rational thinking, innovative ideas and cultivates leadership qualities. (Kats G.2006).

With the advancement in technology, shift in educational paradigms and ease to accessibility & affordability of information has a vital role as it enhances the learning outcomes. Young learners have the potential to develop social and emotional skills as well as increasing motivation for learning while using technology, in particular tablet devices as instructional tools at school level.

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