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A study to investigate into the extent of achievement of objectives of the Environmental Educational component designed for year six to year eleven classes in the schools of Sri Lanka

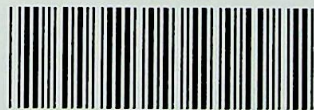
A Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of Education, University of Colombo in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Philosophy in Education

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September 1997

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ABSTRACT

It is generally accepted that most of the environmental problems today are due to the unfavourable attitudes of citizens, towards the environment. The citizens of our country are the past or present students of our educational system, that followed the environmental education component. The environmental education programmes should be directed towards the development of attitudes, values, skills and knowledge in the areas of environmental problem solving and decision making Therefore the writer decided to carry out an evaluation of the present environmental education component of the formal school and the study was limited to a **“A study to investigate into the extent of achievement of the objectives of the environmental educational component designed for year six to year eleven classes in the schools of Sri Lanka.”**

There is no separate subject as environmental education in the school, but it is incorporated into several disciplines. The writer limited her study to the three disciplines, - Science, Social Studies and Aesthetic education.

The methodology used was that of the descriptive research type of study and the evaluation was a summative one. The study was based on three general objectives. The writer identified the general and specific objectives of

the environmental education component, with the help of the data collected under general objectives No 1.

The entire study was based on the objective No.2 i.e. to investigate as to what extent the relevant areas of the respective subjects help in achieving the specific objectives identified under General objective No.1. The sample consisted of 485 students of eighteen schools of types IAB, IC and 2, of three major districts Colombo, Ratnapura and Hambantota. The instruments used in data collection were an achievement test (TP₁) which was constructed to measure the subject knowledge under environmental education component and an attitude test (TP₂) to measure the attitudes of student towards the environment.

The tests were administered during the months of October and November in year 1995.

General Objective No.3 was to derive proposals to formulate a successful environmental educational programme for the secondary school level of Sri Lanka. The sample here was the subject teachers of the three subjects and the instrument used was a questionnaire.

According to the analysed data, the writer forwards the following conclusion. The children possess less knowledge, acquired through the existing environmental education programme and their attitudes towards the environment was more closer to the uncertainty in the rating scale indicating

the poor standard of environmental education component at present. Finally the writer concludes that the extent of achievement of objectives of the environmental education programme taught in secondary level of education of Sri Lanka is at a low level..

DECLARATION

By considering the data analysed under General objective No.3, the writer recommends that the need of the hour is to revise the curriculum and teaching methods of environmental education programme and also the teachers should be given a in-service training on the objectives and the teaching strategies of the environmental education curriculum, which they are expected to follow. Further the writer recommends to carry out separate studies on teacher performances and teacher training programs, which would also help to present a better and suitable environmental educational curriculum component to secondary school level education in Sri Lanka.