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TRAINING CURRICULUM AND SUSTAINABILITY STORIES ON SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT

MODULE 1: Sustainability in Schools

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OBJECTIVES

In the module 1 you will learn about Sustainability concept in the general meaning and what does Sustainability look like and why it is important in school environment. This module also provides information about the current state of Sustainability in schools.

This module presents a holistic approach about Sustainability for any school environment and identify the key dimensions of Sustainability issues in the schools and explain common implemented methods for Sustainability education in schools.



Keywords and definitions

- Sustainable Development

The schools meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- Sustainable practices
To support ecological, human, and economic health and vitality.



LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this module, you will be able to:

1. Identify what does Sustainability look like and why it is important.
2. Know and understand the Sustainable development goals.
3. Explain and understand the current state of Sustainability practices in schools.
4. Know common implemented methods for enviromental education in schools.
5. Evaluate ways in order to make the schools more Sustainable.






TOPICS

- Knowledge and background of the concept
- The importance of the concept
- Sustainable development goals and their implementations in schools
- Current methods for environmental education in schools



The background of the slide features a blurred image of a desk. On the left, there is a stack of three books. In the center, several colored pencils (yellow, green, red, blue) are scattered. On the right, three colorful alphabet blocks are stacked vertically, showing the letters 'A', 'B', and 'C'. The slide is decorated with a light green rectangle in the top-left corner, a light blue rectangle on the left side, and a red rectangle in the bottom-right corner. A large white circle with a thick red border is centered on the page, containing the text.

SubUnit 1
What does
sustainability
look like & why it
is important





1.1 Sustainability

Definition and Importance



According to the UCLA Sustainability Committee, sustainability is defined as: “the integration of environmental health, social equity and economic vitality in order to create thriving, healthy, diverse and resilient communities for this generation and generations to come.

Sustainability is based on a simple principle: Everything that we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment.

To pursue sustainability is to create and maintain the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony to support present and future generations.

Sustainability presumes that resources are finite, and should be used conservatively and wisely with a view to long-term priorities and consequences of the ways in which resources are used.





1.1 Sustainability

Definition and Importance

Sustainability means meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In addition to natural resources, we also need social and economic resources.

Sustainability is not just environmentalism. Embedded in most definitions of sustainability we also find concerns for social equity and economic development.





1.1 Sustainability

How Sustainability Works



Sustainability is a holistic approach that considers ecological, social and economic dimensions, recognizing that all must be considered together to find lasting prosperity.

A sustainable society must be socially responsible, focusing on environmental protection and dynamic equilibrium in human and natural systems.

The concept often corresponds to the belief that without major changes to the way the planet is run, it will suffer irreparable damage.

As concerns about anthropogenic climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution have become more widespread, the world has shifted to embrace sustainable practices and policies, primarily through the implementation of sustainable practices.

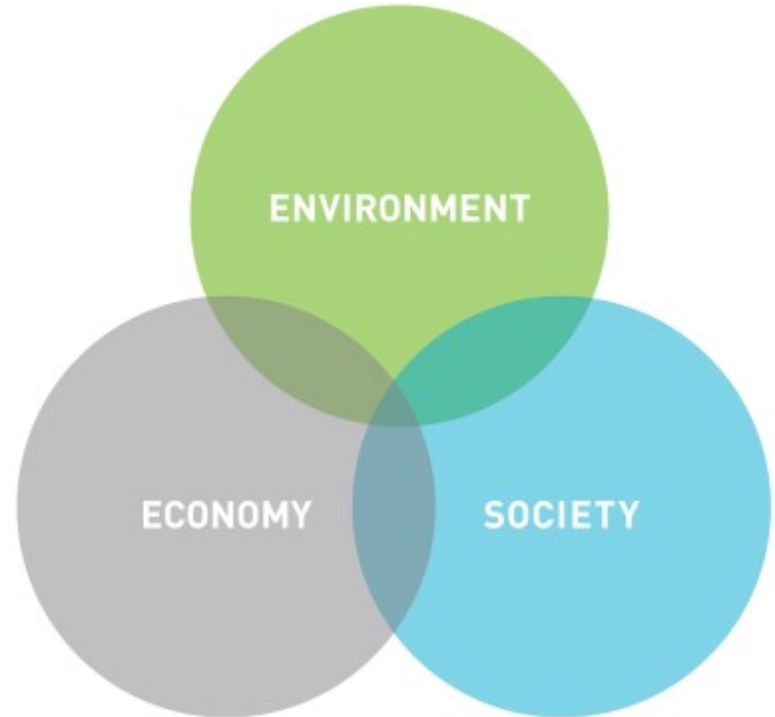




1.1 Sustainability

Three Pillars of Sustainability

The idea of sustainability is often broken down into three pillars: economic, environmental, and social—also known informally as profits, planet, and people.





1.1 Sustainability

Three Pillars of Sustainability

Environmental Sustainability

Ecological integrity is maintained, all of earth's environmental systems are kept in balance while natural resources within them are consumed by humans at a rate where they are able to replenish themselves.

The concept of "environmental sustainability" adds greater emphasis on the life support systems, such as the atmosphere or soil, that must be maintained for economic production or human life to even occur. In contrast, social sustainability focuses on the human effects of economic systems, and the category includes attempts to eradicate poverty and hunger, as well as to combat inequality.





1.1 Sustainability

Three Pillars of Sustainability



Economic Sustainability

Human communities across the globe are able to maintain their independence and have access to the resources that they require, financial and other, to meet their needs. Economic systems are intact and activities are available to everyone, such as secure sources of livelihood.

The concept of "economic sustainability" focuses on conserving the natural resources that provide physical inputs for economic production, including both renewable and exhaustible inputs.

«Sustainability is the key to our survival on this planet and will also determine success on all levels.»

Shari Arison





1.1 Sustainability

Three Pillars of Sustainability



Social Sustainability

Universal human rights and basic necessities are attainable by all people, who have access to enough resources in order to keep their families and communities healthy and secure.

Healthy communities have just leaders who ensure personal, labor and cultural rights are respected and all people are protected from discrimination.

This may be achieved through more responsive benefits, like better maternity and paternity benefits, flexible scheduling, and learning and development opportunities. For example, business should operate using sustainable labor, which involves fairly-paid, adult employees who can operate in a safe environment.





1.1 Sustainability

Why it is important...

There are many benefits to sustainability, both short-term and long-term. We cannot maintain our Earth's ecosystems or continue to function as we do if more sustainable choices are not made. If harmful processes are maintained with no change, it is likely that we will run out of fossil fuels, huge numbers of animal species will become extinct, and the atmosphere will be irreparably damaged. Clean air and nontoxic atmospheric conditions, growth of resources that can be relied upon, and water quality and cleanliness, are all benefits of sustainability.

Sustainability as a value is shared by many individuals and organizations who demonstrate this value in their policies, everyday activities and behaviors. Individuals have played a major role in developing our current environmental and social circumstances. The people of today along with future generations must create solutions and adapt.





1.1 Sustainability

Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

The 17 SDGs are integrated—they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.





1.1 Sustainability

Sustainable Development Goals



Goal 1

NO POVERTY

Eradicating poverty in all its forms remains one of the greatest challenges facing humanity.

The SDGs are a bold commitment to finish what we started, and end poverty in all forms and dimensions by 2030. This involves targeting the most vulnerable, increasing basic resources and services, and supporting communities affected by conflict and climate-related disasters.

Goal 2

ZERO HUNGER

The SDGs aim to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, making sure all people—especially children—have sufficient and nutritious food all year. This involves promoting sustainable agricultural, supporting small-scale farmers and equal access to land, technology and markets. It also requires international cooperation to ensure investment in infrastructure and technology to improve agricultural productivity.





1.1 Sustainability

Sustainable Development Goals



Goal 3

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Good health is essential to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda reflects the complexity and interconnectedness of the two. It takes into account widening economic and social inequalities, rapid urbanization. Universal health coverage will be integral to achieving SDG 3, ending poverty and reducing inequalities.

Goal 4

QUALITY EDUCATION

Achieving inclusive and quality education for all reaffirms the belief that education is one of the most powerful and proven vehicles for sustainable development. This goal ensures that all girls and boys complete free primary and secondary schooling by 2030. It also aims to provide equal access to affordable vocational training, to eliminate gender and wealth disparities, and achieve universal access to a quality higher education.





1.1 Sustainability

Sustainable Development Goals



Goal 5

GENDER EQUALITY

It is vital to give women equal rights land and property, sexual and reproductive health, and to technology and the internet. Today there are more women in public office than ever before, but encouraging more women leaders will help achieve greater gender equality.

Goal 6

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030 requires we invest in adequate infrastructure, provide sanitation facilities, and encourage hygiene. Protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems is essential.





1.1 Sustainability

Sustainable Development Goals



Goal 7

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Investing in solar, wind and thermal power, improving energy productivity, and ensuring energy for all is vital if we are to achieve SDG 7 by 2030.

Expanding infrastructure and upgrading technology to provide clean and more efficient energy in all countries will encourage growth and help the environment.

Goal 8

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

The SDGs promote sustained economic growth, higher levels of productivity and technological innovation. Encouraging entrepreneurship and job creation are key to this, as are effective measures to eradicate forced labor, slavery and human trafficking. With these targets in mind, the goal is to achieve full and productive employment, and decent work, for all women and men by 2030.





1.1 Sustainability

Sustainable Development Goals



Goal 9

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Investment in infrastructure and innovation are crucial drivers of economic growth and development. With over half the world population now living in cities, mass transport and renewable energy are becoming ever more important, as are the growth of new industries and information and communication technologies.

Goal 10

REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Income inequality requires global solutions. This involves improving the regulation and monitoring of financial markets and institutions, encouraging development assistance and foreign direct investment to regions where the need is greatest. Facilitating the safe migration and mobility of people is also key to bridging the widening divide.





1.1 Sustainability

Sustainable Development Goals



Goal 11

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

More than half of us live in cities. By 2050, two-thirds of all humanity—6.5 billion people—will be urban. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without significantly transforming the way we build and manage our urban spaces.

Goal 12

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

The efficient management of our shared natural resources, and the way we dispose of toxic waste and pollutants, are important targets to achieve this goal. Encouraging industries, businesses and consumers to recycle and reduce waste is equally important, as is supporting developing countries to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption by 2030.





1.1 Sustainability

Sustainable Development Goals



Goal 13

CLIMATE ACTION

Global warming is causing long-lasting changes to our climate system, which threatens irreversible consequences if we do not act. These actions must also go hand in hand with efforts to integrate disaster risk measures, sustainable natural resource management, and human security into national development strategies.

Goal 14

LIFE BELOW WATER

The SDGs aim to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems from pollution, as well as address the impacts of ocean acidification. Enhancing conservation and the sustainable use of ocean-based resources through international law will also help mitigate some of the challenges facing our oceans.





1.1 Sustainability

Sustainable Development Goals



Goal 15

LIFE ON LAND

Every year, 13 million hectares of forests are lost, while the persistent degradation of drylands has led to the desertification of 3.6 billion hectares, disproportionately affecting poor communities. Urgent action must be taken to reduce the loss of natural habitats and biodiversity which are part of our common heritage and support global food and water security, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and peace and security.

Goal 16

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

The SDGs aim to significantly reduce all forms of violence, and work with governments and communities to end conflict and insecurity. Promoting the rule of law and human rights are key to this process, as is reducing the flow of illicit arms and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.





1.1 Sustainability

Sustainable Development Goals



Goal 17

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

The world is more interconnected than ever. Improving access to technology and knowledge is an important way to share ideas and foster innovation. Coordinating policies to help developing countries manage their debt, as well as promoting investment for the least developed, is vital for sustainable growth and development.

«The Sustainable Development Goals – an ambitious and universal agenda to transform our World.»

«Education can, and must, contribute to a new vision of sustainable global development.»

(UNESCO, 2015)





KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Sustainability means meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Sustainability is a holistic approach that considers ecological, social and economic dimensions, recognizing that all must be considered together to find lasting prosperity.
- Sustainability as a value is shared by many individuals and organizations who demonstrate this value in their policies, everyday activities and behaviors.
- The Sustainable Development Goals – an ambitious and universal agenda to transform our World.





SubUnit 2

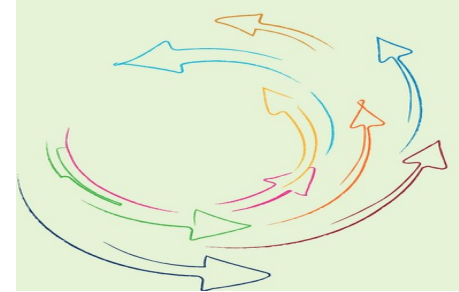
Current State of Sustainability in Schools



1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

General Framework

Education for sustainable development (ESD) is UNESCO's education sector response to the urgent and dramatic challenges the planet faces. The collective activities of human beings have altered the earth's ecosystems so that our very survival seems in danger because of changes more difficult to reverse every day. To contain global warming before it reaches catastrophic levels means addressing environmental, social and economic issues in a holistic way.



ESD for 2030 will promote the integration of sustainable development and the SDGs into education and learning, as well as ensuring the integration of education and learning into all activities that promote sustainable development and the SDGs.
HappyChildren/Shutterstock.com



1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

General Framework

Educators remain key actors in facilitating learners' transition to sustainable ways of life, in an age where information is available everywhere and their role is undergoing great change.

Educators in all educational settings can help learners understand the complex choices that sustainable development requires and motivate them to transform themselves and society.

In order to guide and empower learners, educators themselves need to be empowered and equipped with the knowledge, skills, values and behaviors that are required for this transition.



This includes understanding key aspects of each of the 17 SDGs and their interlinkages, as well as understanding how transformative actions occur and which gender-transformative pedagogical approaches can best bring them about.



1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

European Perspective

The development of a European sustainability competence framework is one of the policy actions set out in the European Green Deal as a catalyst to promote learning on environmental sustainability in the European Union. GreenComp identifies a set of sustainability competences to feed into education programmes to help learners develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that promote ways to think, plan and act with empathy, responsibility, and care for our planet and for public health.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

European Perspective

This figure provides a visual representation of GreenComp. It builds on bee pollination as a metaphor for the framework where bees, flowers, nectar and beehives represent the four areas of the framework. As a simile of a highly-developed natural system, the metaphor highlights the interplay and dynamics between the four areas and 12 competences of GreenComp.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

Steps to Sustainability Education

Schools can be a powerful force in driving change towards sustainability within our communities. Education for Sustainability (EfS) is most effective when implemented through a whole-school approach.

A whole-school approach reinforces what has been learnt in classrooms and moves students and the school community beyond just developing knowledge and skills about sustainability towards providing the motivation and opportunities to take action for sustainability around the school, in and with their community, to create sustainable patterns of living.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools



«An environment-based education movement--at all levels of education-- will help students realize that school isn't supposed to be a polite form of incarceration, but a portal to the wider world.»

- Richard Louv





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

A whole – school approach



A whole-school approach to sustainability involves integrating environmental sustainability learning across the institution. According to the Commission's paper A whole-school approach to learning for environmental sustainability, this kind of approach can help students develop sustainable mindsets. This means that by entrenching sustainability in governance, teaching and learning frameworks, and campus and facilities management, schools can provide learners with consistent opportunities to live what they learn.

To initiate change in a school, you need to bear in mind some key factors, especially:

1. developing an inclusive whole-school plan by engaging all players – students, staff, parents, partners, and community stakeholders,
2. drafting a future-oriented perspective to increase the impact of your plan and student motivation,
3. shifting from a focus on environmental education to learning for sustainability, as the latter regards learners as active and engaged agents of change.



1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

Engaging students in the whole-school approach to sustainability

The whole-school approach to sustainability should also consider creating opportunities for student engagement in real-life scenarios. Food is one key area where schools can effectively transform the way they operate and implement sustainable solutions across the board.

For example, when students grow **their own food in school gardens**, schools can **create awareness** by **labelling food options** on the canteen menu and inform students about the **environmental impact** of their choices. In order to offer products that are always in season, the school management can partner up with suppliers and canteen staff to source food locally and thus **lower their carbon footprint**.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

Leading change in schools



A recent European study suggests that the absence of leadership from the school management as well as a reliance on the motivation of individual teachers without sustained support from management can make a whole school approach difficult to implement.

The absence of direction or support creates pressure on committed staff who experience workload issues. These result from the additional commitments of creating school wide organizational structures necessary for the adoption of this approach.

School organization is one of the most crucial facilitators in the implementation of a whole school approach to sustainability.

School leadership teams have the responsibility of creating a vision for a sustainable school, establishing standards for quality education but also of supporting school organizational structures that enable a whole school approach to sustainability.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

Do you know this?

There are multiple sustainable school awards and accreditation schemes in existence. All promote an institution-wide adoption of sustainability. Best known in Europe is the Eco-schools programme which has been adopted and adapted across the region.

Eco-Schools

Eco-Schools is the largest global sustainable schools programme - it starts in the classroom and expands to the community by engaging the next generation in action-based learning.

The programme's greatest achievement is arguably the fact that it produces generation after generation of sustainably minded, environmentally conscious people. These individuals will carry the behavioural patterns they uptake under the auspices of Eco-Schools with them through life, in turn teaching the next generation the habits to make a difference.



Source: <https://www.ecoschools.global/>





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

Do you know this?

In Denmark, for example, there are around 200 eco-schools identified as the Green Free School (Den Grønne Friskole) which have been built or retrofitted with sustainable principles and seek to bring eco-pedagogy to the core of teaching and learning experiences.



Source: <https://dengroennefriskole.dk/>





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

Characteristics of sustainability education

On 16 June 2022, the Council of the European Union (EU) adopted a Recommendation on learning for the green transition and sustainable development. As set out in the Commission's proposal for the Council Recommendation, effective learning for Sustainability;

- starts from early childhood education and care
- takes a lifelong learning approach
- creates supportive learning environments, as part of which the institution as a whole is active on sustainability

- **is learner-centred, engaging, positive and based on real-life experiences**
- **supports educators, including leadership teams, to teach and act for sustainability**
- **fosters collaboration and partnerships in local and wider communities**
- **involves young people in meaningful ways**
- **builds sustainability competencies**
- **is founded on strong policies.**





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

Do you know this?

Eco-certified preschool

Preschools in Sweden can be awarded two different types of eco-certification: one is “Green Flag” that is a part of the eco-preschool programs of the Foundation for Environmental Education; the other is “Preschool for Sustainable Development” certification which is awarded by the Swedish National Agency for Education. Approximately, 1,500 preschools in Sweden are “Green Flag”-certified and 215 preschools have a “Preschool for Sustainable Development” certificates.



Source: <https://www.diva-portal.org/>



1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

Implemented Methods in Schools



1. Discussion Method

Discussion method of teaching is a group activity involving the teacher and the student to define the problem and seek its solution. Discussion method is also described as a constructive process involving listening, thinking, as well as the speaking ability of the student.

For effective utilization of this technique, the teacher should give sufficient background information about the subject so that the students are ready to use it in discussion. This is a primary requisite for a discussion because a discussion can not operate in a vacuum. The teacher can easily arrange discussion on any topic based on the curriculum of environmental education.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

Implemented Methods in Schools



2. Project Based Method

Another important method of environmental education is Project Method. It is any purposeful activity. Project is an activity undertaken by the pupils for the solution of a problem.

Project method helps the students to acquire knowledge about particular topic through their active involvement. It not only help them to gather knowledge but also ensures self-learning.

Basically in project method, students are given some particular topic or area to work on. Through observation, interview and other means students gather data on the selected theme and prepare their Project followed by analysis.

The report may be hand-written or typed, or it may include charts, models, pictures etc. They can take help of their teachers as well as parents to accomplish the Project.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

Implemented Methods in Schools

Some basic principles of the Project method are:

- >Activity: The project should involve activity which is either mental or motor.
- >Purpose: Activity should be purposeful; it should be a felt need of the pupils.
- >Experience: Project undertaken should provide varied type of experience to the pupils- manipulative, concrete, mental etc.
- >Reality: Project undertaken should provide real experiences.
- >Freedom: The pupils should be free to undertake the different activities connected with the project.
- >Utility: The activity undertaken should be useful.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

Implemented Methods in Schools

3. Problem Solving Method

This is another significant method used in environmental Education. Environmental degradation which is a main theme of the program, is a problem itself. To address the issue of environmental degradation, it is essential to make people aware with the problem. This is only possible when the students are encouraged to take active part in the program.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

Implemented Methods in Schools

Problem solving method is a method that is used by the teacher to help the students to solve problems by themselves.

In this method, students learn by working on problems. This helps the students to learn new knowledge by facing the problems. In problem solving method, the students are expected to observe, understand, analyze, interpret and find solutions, and perform applications that lead to a holistic understanding of the concept. This method develops scientific process skills. This method helps in developing brainstorming approach to learning concepts. It is a process from practice to theory not vice versa.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

Implemented Methods in Schools

In this method, students are given some problem, which they need to solve by finding alternative solutions. The report is presented followed by the solutions. In environmental education, the students can be given some problems like-water pollution, noise pollution, the students through finding alternative solutions to this problems, can gain depth of the such serious problems. Therefore, in environmental education teaching, problem solving is considered the most important.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

Implemented Methods in Schools

4. Observation Method

Another method used widely in environmental education is Observation Method. Though observation method is the most commonly used method especially in studies relating to behavioral sciences but in environmental studies too, this method can be used. Environment implies our surroundings. When we observe our surrounding, it helps us to know better as well as to establish a harmony with the nature.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

Implemented Methods in Schools

This method will help the young students to realize the importance of environment and how can we save it from disasters. The information obtained under this method relates to what is currently happening which helps in finding out the factors of environmental degradation and assist in finding solutions to it. It is rightly believed that direct experiences are more effective in the processes of learning and are retained for a longer period of time.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

Implemented Methods in Schools

In this method, a student should be allowed and asked to observe simple phenomena of the earth and the sky so that he/she acquires awareness about living and non-living components and develops awareness about his/her wellbeing in the context of social and natural environment. The child gradually begins to form positive feelings and attitudes of environmental protection. He may utilize this awareness, skills, attitudes in his actions as personal habits.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

Implemented Methods in Schools

5. Dramatization

Drama, as we all know, is primarily a living experience. It helps the child to expand the boundaries of his life space, enables him to express his imagination, concepts and feelings about events and happenings. Acting is a wonderful way of learning. Dramatic teaching is integrated into many different types of curriculum especially in the lower level of education.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

Implemented Methods in Schools

It is a method which refers to a collection of teaching tools that include traditional drama techniques like improvisation, storytelling, role playing and games. Dramatization technique emphasizes on engaging students through interactive activities. There are many ways to use dramatization teaching methods in the classroom. Teachers can use it to help students gain deeper insights into topic, build on concepts and themes. Moreover it is also used as a means to test student knowledge.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

Implemented Methods in Schools

In this method, a dramatic performance unfolds with a plot. The enactment of a play illuminates the responsibilities of democratic citizenship; provide children with an understanding of the problems of community living, and a realization of the importance of participating in community activities. It can convey the concepts of good environment and the abuse of environment. The role of a teacher is very significant in using dramatics as a method of teaching environmental education.

The teacher may ask his/her students to prepare scripts on environmental problems, prepare costumes, do the art work necessary for staging, plan a programme and send invitations and make all necessary arrangements. Thus, by engaging in a play, children explore in their own way, the activities and relationships of human living and acquire the much needed information and skills.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

Implemented Methods in Schools

6. Fieldtrip

Environment itself means our surroundings. To know the environment, to maintain the ecology, we must explore our environment. Only bookish knowledge cannot help in developing a sense of belongingness towards the environment among the students. When they get the opportunity to explore nature they learn and develop the sense of attraction towards the same. The best way of giving them an opportunity to explore nature through education is Fieldtrip, which is an essential part of school education.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

Implemented Methods in Schools

Generally a fieldtrip is a trip made by student and teachers to see and study something naturally, culturally, socially or geographically significant. Environmental education can be taught effectively with the help of field trips or educational excursion method.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

Implemented Methods in Schools

This is the most practical method of teaching environmental education. This method provides the real awareness through local observation, regional and national observation, geographical conditions observation, observation of historical places and remains, industrial area, natural vegetation which is the major components of the school subjects related to environment.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

How to make your school more Sustainable?

Sustainable schools are a synergy of environmentally driven education and community engagement. They also foster an environment where teachers and school departments can cultivate an optimistic and progressive school culture. There are some tips and which are following below:





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

How to make your school more Sustainable?

1. Active environmental learning

Get your pupils involved in active learning about the environment. Fill your classroom library with books that celebrate and share amazing facts about the Earth and environmental movement leaders like Greta Thunberg, Rachel Carson, and David Attenborough.

Students feel most powerful and engaged when they can connect their own lives to what's going on in the world. Students can calculate an average family's carbon footprint or study the "life cycle" of plastic (i.e., how it is made from oil, processed with chemicals, transported long distances, and often used only for minutes before being discarded).





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

How to make your school more Sustainable?

2. Recycling as a craft exercise

Rubbish exists. It is all around us. Before discarding those broken headphones or plastic bottle caps, give Pinterest or Google a quick search for creative ideas to repurpose them.

Crafting is a fun and fulfilling exercise with a tangible end product. Recycling can become an enjoyable part of the school curriculum and a valuable, practical form of education that engages and entertains pupils.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

How to make your school more Sustainable?

3. Classroom composting

Food waste is the biggest occupant of landfills in the UK. When food rots, it emits methane (CH₄), a greenhouse gas many times more potent than carbon dioxide (CO₂). If we are serious about fighting climate change, then food waste should be a central focus.

If your school is not ready or able to take on all the food waste from your cafeteria, then classrooms can easily keep handy small containers (with tight lids) to catch any scraps from class snacks and teachers' lunches.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

How to make your school more Sustainable?

4. Re-use paper

Using both sides of your classroom paper is ideal. Keeping a “one-sided copies” bin handy helps make sure you are not recycling paper before it is used up. Anytime you’re left with papers with one blank side (e.g. misprints), put them in your box. Then, the next time you have a one-sided copy to make, just take from that pile and use the blank side for printing.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

How to make your school more Sustainable?

5. Start a school gardening project

Teaching students about the food they eat takes on a whole new meaning when they grow it themselves. Gardening can revitalise whole schools and offer students healthy food, and a deeper appreciation for their environment.

Improved health and wellbeing; better attention levels in class, higher academic achievement and strengthening links with the local community are also some of the ways gardening can help your whole school flourish.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

How to make your school more Sustainable?

6. Energy efficiency

Energy efficiency is not as arduous as it sounds.

Turn off school lights and shut down your computers at the end of the day. Keep your classroom doors shut to stop heat escaping and do not block heaters. Check the energy consumption of your appliances and make it a major consideration when buying new ones and always purchase energy efficient light bulbs.





1.2 Current State of Sustainability in Schools

How to make your school more Sustainable?

7. Advocate zero waste at school events

When it comes to sustainable school grounds, don't forget the events where not only your pupils attend, but the whole community leaves their larger green footprint.





KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Schools can be a powerful force in driving change towards sustainability within our communities.
- A whole-school approach to sustainability involves integrating environmental sustainability learning across the institution.
- School organization is one of the most crucial facilitators in the implementation of a whole school approach to sustainability.
- There are six common implemented methods for environmental education.
- There are some tips in order to make your school more Sustainable.





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