

## **Synopsis of the study Opinions of Primary School Principals and Teachers of Borsad Taluka regarding Eco Club**

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Humans have destroyed forests and trees for their own happiness. It threatens other species of animals and birds and many have become extinct. If the environmental degradation, cutting of trees continue as at present, the coming days will be more painful. Keeping this in mind, efforts are being made at the global level to create awareness among the people and the youth for the preservation of the environment, tree planting and the conservation and protection of the environment. Primary education is the foundation of education. The teacher engages with the students in the classroom. New ideas can be easily imparted in the minds of the students. Eco clubs have to be established in primary schools of the state to create awareness about nature and environment among children. Eco club activities were started in all the schools of the taluka, Eco club activities at the school level focused on how the students are doing at the school level. Carrying this program even further, efforts are being made for two years to make children aware of the environment right from the primary level. So, this study will be useful to know the activities done at the school level under Eco Club so that it can be promoted well. To get the information about the activity under ECO in primary schools of Borsad taluka and to get the opinions of the school principal and teachers about it. The study was carried out keeping in mind the objectives of getting the information of the activities done and using them at various levels, to take the program forward and to get suggestions for effectiveness. The objectives of the study were as follows:

- To know the opinions of teachers about Eco Club at school level.
- To know the opinions of principals about Eco Club at school level.
- To know the activities done at school level under Eco Club.
- Comparing the opinions of teachers and principals about Eco Club and

A total of 1200 teachers and 208 principals working under Eco Club in 208 schools of Borsad taluka. In the study, 180 schools were selected from 208 schools of Borsad taluka using random sampling method in which 180 teachers and 180 principals were given feedback sheet. Out of which 175 principals and 165 teachers have come with full details of opinion which was used by the researcher. A structured data collection instrument was designed keeping in mind the objectives of the present study. 40 statements were formed and feedback sheet was prepared. While in 6 questions, free opinions of teachers and principals were taken regarding Eco Club. Thus a total of 46 statements/questions were prepared. From that conclusions were drawn and recommendations and suggestions were given.

## ❖ Introduction

The expanding horizons of education have made the developing countries aware of various problems and directed their attention towards making the development process easier and that is why scholars have been attracted to the new fields of computer education, population education, sexual education, environmental education. While designing the new courses the course planners have placed such new subject units in the syllabus like form, scope and study area. The Supreme Court of India has also expressed concern over the prevailing state of such environment and has advocated inclusion of environment as a subject in all types of courses. We are all part of the environment. Many environmental problems can be solved by changing our perspective towards the environment. Keep our area clean and conserve natural resources by reusing things. In this country with a population of 100 crores, this matter cannot change overnight. But the behaviour of society can be changed by children. Children are selfless and new ideas can be easily given to their minds. They are our future. Every child can make a significant impact in their family. Humans have destroyed forests and trees for their own happiness. It threatens other species of animals and birds, and many have become extinct. If the environmental degradation, cutting of trees continue as at present, the coming days will be more painful. Keeping this in mind, efforts are being made at the global level to create awareness among the people and the youth for the preservation of the environment, tree planting and the conservation and protection of the environment. Primary education is the foundation of education. The teacher engages with the students in the classroom. New ideas can be easily imparted in the minds of the students. So the Government of India has decided to establish Eco Clubs in all the districts of the country. Under this, the activities of this club are going on in the secondary schools of the state. To make this program more rapid and effective, establishing it in the primary schools of the state through GCERT will certainly help in accelerating the efforts to create awareness about nature and environment among the youth.

Eco club is an organization of nature-loving students of the school which is an informal active system providing skills and knowledge of nature and environment protection. Eco club has to be established in primary schools of the state to create awareness about nature and environment among children. Eco club activities were started in all the schools of the taluka, Eco club activities at the school level focused on how the students are doing at the school level. Carrying this program even further, efforts are being made for two years to make children aware of the environment right from the primary level. So, this study will be useful to know the activities done at the school level under Eco Club so that it can be promoted well. The main objective of Eco Club is to create awareness about the environment and to establish Eco Clubs involving school children in the country to take necessary steps to improve and protect the environment. Also, talking about the role of the teacher in this eco club, first of all, a teacher was selected from the school in which this program is to be implemented and orientation training was given to these teachers. Also, Eco Club members should be encouraged to participate in environmental awareness programs and activities in their school as well as in other schools. For at least one hour in a week, the teacher should gather the members of the Eco Club and do some activity. The study was carried out with the objectives of obtaining information about the activities under ECO in the primary schools of Borsad Taluka and getting the opinions of the school principal and teachers about it and using it at various levels, to advance the program and to get suggestions for effectiveness.

### ❖ Objectives of the study

In order to conduct the present study, the researcher took into account several objectives, verified the objectives, obtained some results based on the objectives, interpreted the results based on the interpretation, obtained conclusions based on the interpretation, and drew conclusions based on the main objective of the researcher.

- To know the opinions of teachers regarding Eco Club at school level.
- To know the views of principals regarding Eco Club at school level.
- To know the activities done at school level under Eco Club.
- To compare the opinions of teachers and principals regarding Eco Club.

### ❖ Scope of study

The present study consists of 1200 teachers and 208 principals working under Eco Club in total 208 schools of Borsad taluka.

### ❖ Model of the study

In the present study, 180 schools were selected by random sampling from 208 schools functioning in the academic year 2021-22 of Borsad taluk in which 180 teachers and 180 principals were given feedback. Out of which 175 principals and 165 teachers have come with full details of opinion which was used by the researcher.

### ❖ Tools

A structured data collection instrument was designed keeping in mind the objectives of the present study. In which 40 statements were formed and feedback sheet was prepared. While in 6 questions, free opinions of teachers and principals were taken regarding Eco Club. Thus a total of 46 statements/questions were prepared.

### ❖ Limitations of the study

No study can be free from limitations. Every study has some limitations. In the present study the study has been carried out keeping in mind some limitations like the following.

- The present study was limited to primary schools of Borsad taluka.
- The present study was limited to studying the opinions of teachers and principals for the activities taking place under Eco Club.
- The present study was limited to know the activities done at school level under Eco Club.

### ❖ Findings of the study

- Eco club activity is a service opportunity for teachers. This statement is accepted by 82% principals and 70% teachers which shows a positive opinion.
- People's affinity towards indigenous herbs is increasing. According to this statement 92.50% of the principals and 72% of the teachers believe that the Eco Club activity has brought awareness among the teachers and children.
- Environmental activities are carried out in the school over the years. With this statement 85% of the principals and 70% of the teachers agree that the activity of Eco Club has been boosted.

- Parents do not approve of children working. 71% of principals and 66% of teachers have a positive opinion about this statement.
- A lot has been learned from Eco Club information given in life education. 69% of principals and 73% of teachers agreed with this statement, meaning that life education was found useful at the school level.
- Regarding the training given by Eco Club and Diet, 82% of principals and 71% of teachers believe that the training was effective.
- Children-teachers were made aware of the use of herbs from the herb garden in the school, 86% of the principals and 75% of the teachers agreed with this statement.
- Environmental awareness can be created among the students of class 5 to 7 through eco club activity. 83% principals and 70% teachers i.e. students can be made aware about this statement.
- Akshayapatra activity in school inculcates love and respect for birds among children. Regarding this statement, 81% of principals while 74% of teachers agree that children have developed love and respect for birds and animals.
- Eco club activity has increased children's attachment to trees. 84% of principals and 72% of teachers agree with this statement.
- Eco Club Committee has been constituted. 80% of the principals and 74% of the teachers agree on this statement, which means that the Eco Club committee has been formed.
- Children have been introduced to the cultivation of flowers and trees under the Eco Club. 91% of principals and 81% of teachers agree with this statement, meaning that this activity should be done at school level.
- Tree plantation activity is carried out on 5<sup>th</sup> June Environment Day. 78.55% of principals and 82% of teachers were of opinion in this statement.
- On the occasion of 2nd December (National Pollution Prevention Day), schools, villages, streets and neighbourhoods are cleaned. 75.21% of principals and 99% of teachers believe in it.
- Eco club activity is very good for schools. There is no difference between the opinion of the principals and the teachers.
- 50% of principals were of opinion while 71% of teachers were of the opinion that the eco club activity led to household use of medicinal plants.

#### ❖ Study suggestions and recommendations

- Kitchen garden activities under Eco Club in schools should be encouraged.
- Efforts should be made to dispose of solid waste by making compost pits in primary schools.
- Schools should get more guidance or encouragement from the higher office to make Eco Club activities more effective in primary schools.
- Efforts should be made by center teacher, invigilators at school level to celebrate various days at school level in all schools.
- Herbs are planted at the school level and in order to get information about its use, it is good if labels or cards are made on those herbs, so that the children get enough knowledge.
- Project work should be done by students in schools regarding Eco Club.
- A case study of the difficulties faced by the teachers can be conducted through the implementation of Eco Club.

- Eco clubs in schools should work to prevent indoor pollution.
- Eco Clubs in schools should provide insight into water scarcity prevention activities.
- Eco clubs should be organized in schools to help with civic amenities.
- Awareness programs to prevent water wastage should be conducted under Eco Club in schools.
- To maintain public garden under Eco Club in schools.
- To inculcate environment friendly approach and attitude and aptitude among the people.
- To create awareness about soil and moisture conservation.

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