

Promotion of environmental awareness among children and people: Mountain area of Azad Jammu and Kashmir region

by Muhammad Sabir

Innovative approaches to environmental education are the best way to raise environmental awareness among children, villagers and those living near forest and mountain areas. We need to help children become friendlier towards nature, the environment and climate change.

With this in mind, Global Mass Community Welfare Organization (GMCWO) plans to conduct a key project on "Children's Environmental Awareness" to help children and people identify environmental issues in their surroundings and develop possible solutions for the problems.

An important aspect of the project is to sensitize teachers to the severity of environmental issues and to use the issues as a means to take up activities with children.

There is a dire need for environmental awareness among children and villagers. The methodology adopted by the Global Mass Community Welfare Organization is to arrange and provide interesting, relevant and appropriate information related to the major environmental concerns in the mountain area of Azad Jammu & Kashmir region through multimedia projectors, laptop computers, lectures, poster competitions and by conducting various drama performances related to environmental threats, their causes and their remedies. GMCWO conducted formal meetings with teachers to give them the direction for a plan of action and informal meetings with children to assess the impact of awareness created among them.

To expand the scope of the project, GMCWO compared and evaluated the level of understanding developed among the children with that of children in other schools. The result was positive among the children as well as the teachers and people, such as creation of environmental awareness and understanding of their surroundings.

Further, GMCWO has prepared an attractive Microsoft Power Point slide presentation following the environmental chapters in the science syllabus books from the 6th to 10th classes. The effort also played a part in creating an overall understanding of hygiene and sanitation conditions prevailing in the village and how each one of the children and villagers can contribute towards improving the prevailing conditions and environment in the village

Muhammad Sabir (gmcak@yahoo.com) is President of Global Mass Community (Welfare Organization) in Sehnsa Azad Jammu and Kashmir

Global Mass Community (gmcak.tripod.com) is an independent non-profit global campaigning organization that uses non-violent, creative confrontation to expose global environmental problems and their causes.