

‘LEARNING BY DOING’: A CASE OF A FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME OF AN ENVIRONMENT CLUB OF AN ENGINEERING COLLEGE FROM CENTRAL INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The concept of ‘Learning by doing’ was introduced with the emphasis that students will learn through “doing” an activity. Yet in the 21st century the traditional methods of passive and theoretical learning are still in focus at the school or higher education level. The same being the case with environment education where the current system of environment education is still leaving a gap between the intended objective of environmental education and the actual learning as well as the need for value and generic skills development of undergraduate engineers.

The objective of this paper is to bring out the fact that environment as a subject cannot be learnt effectively in the classroom using traditional methods. This paper presents an innovative ‘learning by doing’ activity taken up by the students of an environment club of an engineering college of Central India and the impact of the activity on skill development, values and knowledge building. Seven parameters were used to measure the effectiveness of the activity. Data was collected from the primary source through a questionnaire and feedback reports.

The paper concludes that ‘learning by doing’ is an effective method to not only disseminate the knowledge about environment to engineering students but it is also an effective way to develop generic skills of the students which are very useful for effectively cracking the campus placement process. Such activities need to be incorporated more aggressively in the teaching learning process, a fact that apex bodies like AICTE are now endorsing for imparting environment and value education.

KEYWORDS: *Environment Education, Technical Institutions, Central India, ‘Learning By Doing’, Skill Development, Knowledge Development*