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AN EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN SELECTED PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN PAHANG, MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the current status of Environmental Education (EE) in four selected primary schools in Pahang, Malaysia based on international standards by UNESCO. It also aims to propose some best practices in EE for the primary school and to make recommendations for curriculum development in EE for the primary school. The study employed the case study design involving four selected national government primary schools. This study used qualitative research methods comprising in-depth interviews, observations and document analysis to collect data for analysis. Findings revealed uneven emphasis given to the implementation of EE at the four schools. It was found that projects involving environmental awareness were more prominent in one school whereas the other three schools did not emphasize on such projects. In curriculum instruction of subjects, there was minimum integration of EE in the lessons. The findings also revealed that *EE across the curriculum* was not fully implemented due to the lack of understanding in integrating EE in the classroom. Findings provide useful feedback to educational policy makers and curriculum developers. Among the best practices of EE proposed were that schools should embark on a holistic approach in EE where everyone has to be well informed and trained to maintain a sustainable environment. This implies that greater attention need to be paid to EE in schools and more importantly the practical implementation of EE in curriculum instruction that fulfils UNESCO standards. Finally, the study provided recommendations for effective teaching and learning approaches, activities and resources in EE.





PENILAIAN PENDIDIKAN ALAM SEKITAR DI BEBERAPA SEKOLAH RENDAH DI PAHANG, MALAYSIA

ABSTRAK

Tujuan kajian ini ialah untuk menilai status semasa pelaksanaan Pendidikan Alam Sekitar (PAS) di empat buah sekolah rendah terpilih di Pahang, Malaysia berdasarkan piawaian antarabangsa oleh *UNESCO*. Ia juga bertujuan untuk mencadangkan amalan terbaik tentang PAS di sekolah rendah. Kajian ini juga mengemukakan beberapa cadangan dalam pembangunan kurikulum PAS di sekolah rendah. Rekabentuk kajian ini merupakan kajian kes yang melibatkan empat buah sekolah kebangsaan kerajaan. Kajian ini merupakan kajian kualitatif yang melibatkan temu bual, pemerhatian dan analisis dokumen sebagai kaedah pengumpulan data untuk dianalisis. Dapatan kajian menunjukkan terdapat ketidakseragaman dalam pelaksanaan PAS di empat buah sekolah tersebut. Didapati projek-projek yang memupuk kesedaran terhadap alam sekitar lebih menonjol di salah sebuah sekolah manakala di tiga buah sekolah yang lain kurang penekanan diberi terhadap projek-projek tersebut. Dalam proses pengajaran dan pembelajaran mata pelajaran, terdapat pengintegrasian yang minima terhadap PAS. Dapatan kajian juga menunjukkan *PAS merentas kurikulum* tidak dilaksanakan sepenuhnya berpunca daripada kurangnya pemahaman dalam mengintegrasikan PAS di bilik darjah. Dapatan kajian ini memberi maklum balas yang berfaedah kepada penggubal dasar pendidikan dan pihak yang terlibat dalam pembangunan kurikulum. Antara amalan terbaik PAS yang dicadangkan ialah sekolah harus mengambil pendekatan menyeluruh dalam PAS di mana semua orang mengambil maklum dan dilatih dalam penjagaan alam sekitar yang mapan. Ini memberi implikasi bahawa PAS di sekolah perlu diberi lebih perhatian dalam pengajaran dan pembelajaran dan lebih penting lagi pelaksanaannya hendaklah memenuhi piawaian *UNESCO*. Kajian ini telah mencadangkan pendekatan dalam pengajaran dan pembelajaran yang berkesan, aktiviti-aktiviti serta sumber PAS.



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