The primary school curriculum in Iran and environmental education:

An environmental eco-audit experience

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**Abstract**: Environmental degradation and alteration by human beings is a major problem in most societies. Environmental education through the school curriculum can have a significant role on solving the problem. However environmental education if is not accomplished with a formal training at primary schools may have little or no impact.

This study is conducted to examine the content of the Iranian primary school textbooks with an emphasis on environmental education and development of protection and respect for the environment. All elementary books published and practiced in primary schools in Iran during 2015 accounting for a total number of 4802 pages were assessed. The results show that almost 168 pages (3.5% of the total) directly or indirectly have paid attention to different aspects of the total environment. The data obtained in this research reflected little progress in various aspects related to the greening of the curriculum during the last two decades. The most frequently environment-related education courses are found in social studies book belonging to sixth grade. Although a good Progress is made in the integration of environmental education at the classroom level which strengthens the development of the processes of participation and the motivation of the pupils and the teaching community, it's not sufficient to achieve real protection of the environment in Iran. Therefore, more attention has to be paid to environmental education and concern in the primary school curriculums than ever throughout the country. It is also necessary to provide the teachers involved with more explicit orientation. This should be both in the documents they are provided and in their continuing teacher education programs.

**Keywords**: environmental education, curriculum, environmental audits, educational practice in schools, Iran.

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