

Social Studies @ Primary level

‘Social studies’ is a very interesting subject in school. It is very important to see that students understand social studies in the right perspective. Social studies includes in itself, environmental studies at the primary level, geography, history and civics in the secondary level and economics and business environmental studies at the graduation level. So in short knowing what is environment can be called ‘Social studies’.

In this article let us discuss about the social sciences and how to make a child understand the same at the primary level. A paradigm shift in thinking should happen at the primary level, so that every child will start protecting the nature.

At primary level, a child learns about human body - parts of one’s body, sense organs and living beings and also about various species and plants on this earth. This way one gets to understand that the life on earth is dependent and interdependent on one another.

A child is amused with the beauty of the nature; a child loves to listen to the chirping of the birds, their ability to fly and their beautiful nests. One understands that animals live in forests. Let the child admire the animals and make them feel they are important for the well being of human beings. Let us teach the child, it is very important to protect the birds and animals on this earth. Now one will understand that there are no forests without animals. So a child will start realizing trees are very important for preserving the life of living beings. A teacher should now try to drive home the reality, that we should protect the birds, animals and trees in order to protect ourselves.

At this tender age, it is very important to teach the child, that we should protect the environment not for others, but for our own self. A child starts understanding that we cannot live without water, sunlight, air and food. One should be made to realize that we need our family, friends, society, plants and animals for our own existence. When a child is taught not to fight or throw tantrums, one will apply reason for one’s own behavior and becomes more responsible.

Small experiments to teach these truths are enough for us to live close to nature. One should be told dramatically how natural calamities are caused.

- Teach how it feels when there is no water to drink
- Teach how it feels when there is no air to breathe
- Teach how it feels when there is no food to eat
- Teach how it feels when we harm or injure others
- Teach how it feels when we hurt animals & birds

Small experiments will help one to know how life on earth is interrelated with all living beings. One should be allowed to conduct experiments and learn the subject environmental sciences.

This gives us the responsibility and makes us feel we need to preserve this world. The result will be,

- We start planting new saplings and feel confident about the air we breathe is fresh
- We will water plants everyday and ensure that the food on earth is preserved
- Get discouraged to use electronic games and gadgets as they are harmful for animals, this way we will learn to respect others freedom of life on this earth
- Protest when trees are cut and becomes a father of the man to protect the nature
- Learn to be healthy because we need to take care of parts of our body
- Discourage and start liking nutritive food, so that we can do our work efficiently
- We will not waste food as we know there are poor to be fed on this earth
- Stops wasting paper as paper is made out of plants
- Learn to keep our environs clean as pollution is harmful for our life
- Start washing our hands before eating as germs are not good for our well being

If social sciences at primary level help the child to understand and apply reason for our good behavior, we will stop making mistakes which disturb the environmental harmony.

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