

# Review of: "Development of Education for Sustainable Development Integrated Coastal Conservation Education Kit in Junior High Schools"

A. L. Ramanathan<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Jawaharlal Nehru University

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Educating kids about the coastal environment and mangrove conservation is crucial to instill a sense of environmental responsibility and raise awareness about the importance of preserving these unique ecosystems through young generation students. It is a very nice initiative taken for the development of Education for Sustainable Development. The Integrated Coastal Conservation Education Kit in Junior High Schools has been modified from the ADDIE model and developed research activities in four stages: 1) Analysis, 2) Design, 3) Development, 4) Evaluation. Data collection techniques were carried out through interviews and questionnaires. The expert lecturers' coastal conservation edukit validation results show an average of 98.5%, and the guidebooks scored 100% with very suitable criteria.

This is basically a mangrove-oriented education for kids, so it is not covering the coastal environment as such. They have not mentioned about the field trip organised to a local mangrove area that allowed them to explore the habitat, observe different species, and understand the importance of mangroves in supporting biodiversity. They also have not mentioned interactive workshops that explain the role of mangroves in coastal ecosystems. They have attempted mangrove model building to give a hands-on activity that helps them understand the structure of mangroves and the various species that inhabit these areas. They have not listed any sharing of storytelling or created narratives that highlight the importance of mangroves and the challenges. They tried art and craft projects and missed role-playing games that help them to know the roles of different stakeholders in mangrove conservation. They have organised lectures of local scientists to speak to the kids. That has provided them insights into the challenges facing mangroves and the actions being taken to protect them.

They should have added mangrove clean-up activities as well. They should have also organised a documentary screening on mangroves and their conservation that might have helped them to understand and address questions they may have and to identify relevant SDGs like Goal 14 and 15: Life Below Water (specifically Target 14.2, which focuses on the sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems, including mangroves), and Goal 15: Life on Land (addressing the importance of terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity). I feel they should have designed activities that help children understand the connections between mangrove conservation and the SDGs and help them to disseminate community awareness campaigns about mangrove conservation and its connection to the SDGs.

