

USE OF VIDEO CLIPS TO TEACH 'MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL DISASTERS AND ASSOCIATED RISKS' FOR GRADE 7

C.S. Wimalaratne

Postgraduate Institute of Science, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Disasters are closely interlinked with the human society and environment. Natural disasters around the world as well as in Sri Lanka have increased over the recent past. Although we cannot control natural disasters completely, if we are knowledgeable about them, we can minimize their damage to the human and property. Science is one of the most suitable subjects which can be used to educate the students about disaster management. Teaching-learning method is very important to students achieve the knowledge and skills. My study focused to enhance Grade 7 students' achievement level on unit 8, 'Natural disasters and managing the risks associated with them' with the use of video clips as teaching – learning tool.

The three major steps in the study include: identifying the current situation of teaching - learning process, preparation of lesson plans and implementation of lessons with the use of video clips and assessing student's achievement. In the first step, the existing situation of teaching learning process was identified using a questionnaire administrated to 40 science teachers working at junior secondary level in Matale district. In the second step, six lesson plans were designed to accomplish the two competency levels. The teaching methods given in the teacher instruction manual was used for the control group and video clips were used for the experimental group. In the third step, student's achievement was measured by comparing marks from assessments and post tests.

It was revealed that lecture method (33%) and discussions (27%) were the most common methods used by teachers to teach unit 8 and the majority of teachers (33.84%) used black board or white board as teaching aid. The mean marks of the pre test indicated that control and experimental groups were at the same knowledge level. Marks of assessments and post test revealed that usage of video clips for teaching enhanced the achievement level of the students. Teachers should be encouraged to implement the lessons using video clips to give real life experiences to students, with the use of well planned lesson plans with different kinds of reinforcement activities.