

CORRESPONDENCE

GEOLOGY IN SCHOOL EDUCATION

[We are very happy at the numerous responses received on the Editorial of Shri S.V. Srikantia, on "Geology in School Education" [JGSI, v.47, No.6, 1996, pp.645-648]. We reproduce below excerpts from the correspondence – Ed.]

(1)

..... It is high time that we create a greater awareness of the role played by geology and geologists in all aspects of the nation's development, be it in the minerals sector, industrial growth, water resources assessment, planning of major engineering structures, natural hazard management, scientific planning of the crop pattern in relation to soil chemistry, and the environmental health problems like fluorosis, kidney stones, *Handigodu* syndrome etc. It is also the right time to give geology an equal status as that of botany or zoology or chemistry or physics or geography.

Towards that end, the following steps may be helpful:

- * Preparation of lucidly written text books and photo-atlases for standards 8th to 10th in consultation with NCERT, CRSE, ICSE/State Boards;
- * Preparation of a glossary of simple geological terms in Indian languages;
- * Preparation of rock kits, mineral kits, fossil kits, crystal model kits, thin section kits, ore specimen (polished) kits;
- * Preparation of maps, charts and models;
- * Preparation of slides and photographs of interesting geological features;
- * Preparation of video films or procuring, if already available in other countries;
- * Introductory/ refresher courses for school teachers for one or two weeks during summer vacation, to be arranged by the Geological Society of India with the help of available professionals/teachers;
- * Arranging visits to geological museum of GSI or MGD or other institutions;
- * Arranging geological traverses/trekking along interesting tracts with the help of professional geologists;
- * Arranging visits to nearby quarries/mines;
- * Arranging Geological 'Quiz' programme and
- * Participating in industrial exhibitions/fairs all over the country to reach more and more people.

The school managements have to be convinced initially about the importance and usefulness of including geology in the school *curriculum*. I fondly hope that the initiative taken by the Society will go a long way in disseminating this fascinating and adventurous science of Geology to all the future citizens of this country.

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H.S.M. PRAKASH

(2)

.... In most of the advanced countries, the subject of geology has played a major role directly or indirectly. This is because the subject is well recognized and all efforts are being made to introduce the subject right from the primary school level.

The various aspects of geology taught in school right now is included as a part of geography. While in the state schools, the topics of the subject are of elementary and confusing nature, in the central schools most of the topics taught are at the BSc. level and this job is done by a geography teacher. Therefore, there is an urgent need to introduce and teach the subject of geology in a systematic way at various levels of school education so that merited and talented students take up geology at college level and thus make the subject as their career. In this task, the Geological Society of India can play a major role.

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B.S. SHIVA KUMAR

(3)

.... The importance of geology cannot be ignored any more. At post-school level geology was introduced in 11th class by UP Board of Education in 1961 and at Pre-University level by AMU, Aligarh, perhaps in 1958. Now, "Geology" is a regular subject starting at Intermediate/B.Sc. level in the curriculum of many Universities. It is also true that CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education) has included many topics of "Geology" under "General Science", even at 3rd/4th standard in schools. But "Geology" as a subject has not been introduced at school level and its importance and utility have not been recognised which it rightly deserves. Geology should be introduced as a subject at 9th standard in schools.

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K.K. SHARMA

(4)

.... Your idea to launch geology as a subject at 8th standard level is laudable; it will be a renaissance as for as geology is concerned as it is one of the exciting and adventurous subjects.

An important necessity I felt during my Pre-Degree course level at college was that students should be given exposure to practical field work by trained persons. The Geological Survey of India can take a step in this regard particularly in NE India so as to enhance the geological knowledge of the students at different levels from the school to the university.

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