

Getting started with climate change education

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Interviewees

Paola Izzi Teacher and Exams Offices Scuola Europa, Italy

Susan Holmes Principle Nehru World School, India

Samson Madzudza Teacher and Exams Officer Gateway High School, Zimbabwe

Pooja Bhatia Principle The Ardee New Friends Colony, India

Why is climate change education important?

Paola

Climate change education is something that connects the students to the real world. I mean, the world outside school.

Susan

Climate change education is also important to build knowledge and understanding about the causes and the effects of it.

Samson

Knowledge is power, so people say. So if you don't know about it, you continue causing the changes.

Pooja

They all have to understand the role that they need to play as individuals and as a larger community.

Paola

There are some areas in the world that are disproportionately affected by climate change. One of these being the Mediterranean area where my school is, where I live.

Susan

It's a perfect opportunity to inspire and empower learners to be instrumental in solving this problem.

Pooja

If I speak of my own country, India, and my city Delhi, where I stay, we've been observing unusual rainfall patterns in this month of September, which has never happened. So these universal weather events are not isolated across the globe because we've been reading in newspapers there are drastic changes all over the world, whether it's rising sea levels or it's natural disaster or there are landslides. They have become a frequent occurrence.

Samson

But this is something that is caused by human beings. If we stop the emissions, if we stop deforestation, if we do the right thing, then we are going to see a better world. We are going to have a better world actually.

Pooja

Recently we closed down schools due to pollution levels. This month we had to close schools due to heavy rainfall. So that is the impact that these changes have on our system of education.

Paola

I think that not knowing could lead to anxiety and, or of course, the opposite, which could be indifference or superficiality.

Susan

Young learners growing up must have the confidence to thrive and make a positive impact in our changing world.

Samson

We have seen and have read so many things that are happening because of the change of climate. And once that is known, and once that education is passed on to all the people, if possible, it will help the nations and the world over to reduce the emissions that are causing the problems of climate change.

Susan

Ultimately, we have to create globally aware citizens who are able to make the world a better place.

Samson

And in the reduction of the emissions, it means that we will have to hand over, or give our children a better future.