

Waste management to be taught in Goa schools from 2019-20

PANAJI: Students will be introduced to scientific waste disposal for the first time from the academic year 2019-20. The syllabus, prepared by the Pune-based Mutha Foundation with inputs from the state department of science and technology, will be part of the 'moolya vardhan' programme.

The programme took shape when former chief minister late Manohar Parrikar, as education minister, said that value education imparted in schools during the days of yore was lacking today. He also said that introducing the subject of civic sense at the school level was important to resolve the civic issues Goa is facing, like garbage management and traffic management. Accordingly, during the current academic year 2018-19, road safety was introduced in government schools starting from Class III and VI.

"Recently, a presentation for education officials was held on the syllabus for scientific waste disposal," said a state official. "Now, waste management will be introduced from June in Class III in government and government-aided schools, and will be taken up in a phased manner thereon. Similarly, the programme on road safety is likely to be introduced in Class V from June and extended from government schools to government-aided schools."

These subjects will be supplementary to the existing curriculum.

Students are not assessed for the topics under 'moolya vardhan' for allotment of grades, as it is purely meant to build values and civic sense in children.

Other than road safety and waste management, yoga, health and hygiene will also be introduced as part of the programme.

Last year, intensive taluka-wise meetings were held with teachers of government schools where road safety was implemented to ensure that the teaching goes beyond books.

"Today, more than ever, the need has arisen to inculcate good values in children and to bring up a generation who wants to work for the betterment of the country and the society at large. I request all teachers to resolve to work towards bringing up a generation with values," Parrikar had said in his message on teacher's day in September 2018, which was read out at the official state function, as the former CM was undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer at home.