

Pre-College Geological Curricula : India

MURTY, K.S., Nagpur, India

"Instruction in Indian Secondary Schools" by E.A. Macnee was published in 1931. It is a collection of articles by experts on important subjects to be taught/were being taught. Interestingly, geology figures in the chapter dealing with the teaching of geography! And it was a high school level teaching. "Geology and minerals, a very little of the geology to be taught, just sufficient to show the relation between structure and surface". Even now, the situation is the same, except that geology has been introduced at pre-University level or higher-secondary(10+2) stage. The syllabus is virtually the same as for the Bachelor's degree, except that palaeontology and stratigraphy do not find a place in the curriculum because of lack of teachers to handle these branches. Many of the schools may not be in a position to find the necessary funding required to establish a museum, even on a lower scale, that could house minerals and other geological material. The Faculty improvement programme of the University Grants Commission can perhaps be extended to schools that come under the jurisdiction of the Higher Secondary Education Board. Efforts are on to update the syllabii at graduate and post-graduate levels as recommended by the Committees appointed by the UGC. It would now be possible to modify the geology curriculum at the school level also and make it more meaningful and useful.