

Every Drop Counts

Activity

Background

Water, is a renewable resource, is knowledge that most of us have. But how many of us are at the same time aware that it is also a finite resource. A leaky tap may not be of much concern to most people, as this means that a few drops of water are going waste. But on the contrary, this leaky tap is actually a cause of worry as could be demonstrated to students by the following activity.

Methodology

- Gather the students around a water tap.
- Place a bucket under the tap and adjust the tap so that the water drips drop by drop.
- Let one student take charge of the stopwatch or minute glass and be the time keeper.
- Ask another student to hold a measuring cylinder under the dripping tap.
- As soon as the time keeper gives a signal to the end of one minute the cylinder should be removed from under the tap.
- The water collected in the cylinder should be measured.
- Based on the amount of water collected in one minute, ask the students to calculate the amount of water that would be wasted in one hour, in one day and then in one month from the dripping tap.
- Subsequent to the understanding that considerable amount of water is lost from a leaky tap, students must be encouraged to undertake a survey in their school to try and understand reasons behind wastage of water - is the wastage due to callousness or is it due to faulty taps?

Objective

To help students assess the quantity of water lost due to a dripping tap.

Place

Home, school

Duration

10-15 min

Group size

Individual/ group

Suitable time

Anytime

Materials

Tap, Measuring cylinder, stop watch, bucket

Curricular Linkages

Subject
Science, Math

Concept

Water Conservation



The volume of water collected in 1 min (ml) x 60 min = volume of water wasted in 1 hour (y in ml)

The values (y) could then be extrapolated to calculate the quantity of water lost over 24 hours and also the quantity of water lost over

- Students could be encouraged to design a campaign to spread the message of water conservation - this they could do by either of the following means:
 - Wall paper with a message of water conservation
 - A puppet show with a message of water conservation (project ideas for making puppets could be useful)
 - They could organise a rally within or around the school to raise awareness about the issue.