



MAURITIUS RESEARCH COUNCIL

Science Education

What Do You Have To Say About Science Education In Our Schools?

The Council wishes to thank all those who have forwarded their views and comments on Science Education.

Following the encouraging response from various stakeholders and the public in general, the Mauritius Research Council is extending the date limit to **28th November 2003**.

Recent studies, commissioned by the Mauritius Research Council have shown many shortfalls in the way the teaching and learning of science is perceived in our schools, so much so that increasingly pupils are shying away from scientific subjects. This situation calls for concern as future development, both globally and locally, will increasingly be technology oriented calling for human resources with a high rate of scientific literacy.

The Ministry of Education and Scientific Research has set up two Task Forces, one for primary schools and the other for secondary schools, to review the teaching and learning of science. The MRC has been called upon to steer the Task Forces with a view to making recommendations to the Ministry.

In the light of the above, the MRC wishes to consult all stakeholders. Pupils, teachers, parents and the public in general are invited to write, phone or e-mail the Council to express any views they may have, that could lead to improvement and reposition, science as an interesting and popular subject.

Please forward your comments on any of the issues listed below by **28th November 2003**.

You may visit our website <http://www.mrc.org.mu/ScienceEducation.htm>.

Kindly note that any information given to the Council will be treated in strict confidentiality.

ISSUES FOR THE PRIMARY SECTOR

- *At what age should science be introduced?*
- *Science curriculum to be reviewed to be locally relevant.*
- *Science being taught in an abstract form.*
- *Are teachers adequately qualified, trained and motivated to teach science?*
- *Lack of practical classes.*
- *Introduction of group learning.*
- *Use of multimedia to teach practical (Virtual Laboratories).*
- *Use of local low-cost equipment and hands-on for practical.*
- *Introduction of Mobile Science Laboratories.*
- *Science should be fun and attractive.*

ISSUES FOR THE SECONDARY SECTOR

- *Science perceived as difficult.*
- *Lack of career opportunities.*
- *Extremely few girls are attracted to physics.*
- *Lack of infrastructure for practicals.*
- *Review of practical and field work.*
- *Training and recruitment of Laboratory Assistants.*
- *Science not an option in some schools.*
- *Science curriculum to be locally relevant.*
- *Recommend science to be compulsory up to Form V.*
- *Phase out and eventually ban "Alternative to Practical Exams".*



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