

**Environmental Education and One School's Initiative:
Using a Garden Project to Spread Environmental Awareness
and Poverty Alleviation**

Vuyisile Msila¹

*University of South Africa, College of Education, PO Box 392, UNISA 0003 South Africa
E-mail: msilavt@unisa.ac.za*

KEYWORDS Relevance. Subject Integration. School Community Links. Values. Democracy

ABSTRACT The current environmental education curriculum aims to ensure that all South Africans develop the responsibility to conserve and respect the environment. Schools are under much pressure to lead the effective spread of environmental education. This paper explores the findings of a case study from one school's garden project. Situated in the Eastern Cape, South Africa, the school started a Garden for All Project (GAP) to fight poverty among its learners. Not only was the GAP successful in combating poverty, it enabled the school to reach out to the community as they collaborated on environmental education. The researchers used qualitative approaches, gathering data through interviews and observations. Not only did the learners benefit from nutritious healthy meals made possible by the project, but they also learnt about other learning areas and the importance of the school's links with the community.