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Voices of the Rainforest

Short description / Abstract:

This documentary film explores the relationships between indigenous communities in Malaysia, their traditional ecological knowledge, and the importance of curriculum development approaches in decolonising education. The film centres on the experiences of indigenous communities and highlights how climate and nature shape their ways of understanding the world. Through interviews with teachers, children, parents, and community members, the documentary illustrates how traditional ecological knowledge is embedded in everyday practices. These forms of knowledge are traditionally transmitted through participation, observation, and lived experience within communities. A central theme of the documentary is the relationship between traditional ecological knowledge and formal education. The documentary showcases the Voices of the Rainforest project, which works collaboratively with Indigenous communities and schools to co-develop a traditional ecological knowledge-based climate change curriculum. Teachers, parents, and community members describe how the project strengthens children's ecological understanding of the climate–nature–Indigenous peoples nexus. Children's voices are also foregrounded throughout the film to highlight their experiences, perspectives, and connections with their local environments. The documentary advocates for a participatory approach to curriculum development and decolonising education that recognises Indigenous lived experiences, supports intergenerational knowledge transmission, and values Indigenous communities as important contributors to climate understanding.