

Implementation of guided inquiry models to improve problem solving skills and environmental stewardship of elementary school students in Papua.

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- **Abstract:** Papua's rich forests are experiencing rapid conversion every year, which has led many to campaign for increasing awareness from the public to support forest and environmental protection. Developing stewardship for the environment must be balanced with the ability to solve the problems that lead to these changes in the first place. Environmental stewardship is important to be cultivated to achieve the golden generation of Indonesia in 2045. This study applies a guided inquiry model to improve stewardship of Papua's forests by engaging with younger generations in elementary schools. This research consists of classroom action research conducted in two cycles, including planning, implementing, observing, and reflecting. Based on the analysis of data from the results of evaluation and observation of 47 grade 5 students of SD Inpres Gudang Arang Merauke, findings highlighted that students' problem-solving ability increased from a value of 67 at the pre-cycle, following by increases to 71 in the first cycle, and a value of 77 in the second cycle. Students' character and awareness about the environment increased from the pre-cycle by 25% to the first cycle, at 49% to the second cycle, and an overall increase of 76% in the developing categories. The character of environmental stewardship that develops early on in a child's education can provide the basis for leading towards solutions on multiple environmental problems in the future.
- **Keywords:** environmental stewardship, evaluation,school student, younger generations