

Need Of Environment Education In Current Scenario

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ABSTRACT:

Global environment and ecology are rapidly becoming the most demanding subjects for debate; decision and action as the emergence of environmental problem pose shift challenge for physical sciences as well as social sciences. Environmental education has single, defined but multi faced object the environmental crisis. Environmental learning about the factor causes and solutions to the environmental crises learning about the environmental is 'immediate' reaction to concrete problems in management of natural resources. Environmental education aims at ultimately for reaching and manifold behavioral changes in everyday life and at the work place. University education in India has three major components: teaching, research and extension. Out of more than 100 universities, there are about 20 universities teaching courses in environmental areas. It is humanity's best hope and most effective means to achieve sustainable development. Environment education must not be equated with schooling or formal environmental education alone. It includes non-formal and informal modes of instruction and learning as well including traditional learning acquired in home and community. This community of teachers can be widened to inform and educate people regarding the requirements of a sustainable future. While sustainable development is a long-term goal for human society and a process which is a necessary need to take place over time, there is a sense of urgency to make progress quickly before time runs out with a new vision of environmental education.

Introduction:

"World today is economically richer & environmentally poorer than ever"

Environmental education (EE) refers to organized efforts to teach about how natural environments function and, particularly, how human beings can manage their behavior and ecosystems in order to live sustainably. The term is often used to imply education within the school system, from primary to post-secondary. However, it is sometimes used more broadly to include all efforts to educate the public and other audiences, including print materials, websites, media campaigns, etc. Related disciplines include outdoor education and experiential education.

Environmental education is a learning process that increases people's knowledge and awareness about the environment and associated challenges, develops the necessary skills and expertise to address the challenges, and fosters attitudes, motivations, and commitments to make informed decisions and take responsible action (UNESCO, Tbilisi Declaration, 1978).

Environmental Education (EE) lies within the concept for Sustainable Development which is defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs (Brundtland, 1987), where needs can then be described as economic, social (cultural & health) and political needs and safeguarding the needs of future generations by minimizing the use or waste of non-renewable resources; sustainable use of renewable resources; ensuring that the waste from cities keeping within the absorptive capacity of local and global sinks (Global Forum, 1994).

Within this concept of sustainable development lies the concept of environmental education for sustainable development which has been defined by (Fien, 1993) as follows: "The development of human capacity and creativity to participate in determining the future, encourage technical progress as well as fostering the cultural conditions favoring social and economic change to improve the quality of life and more equitable economic growth while living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems to maintain life indefinitely" Rapid population growth in India causes untold suffering and all related hazards. It causes pollution and the resources like air, water etc. reduce the quality of life of man. It causes resource scarce. For these reason environmental education is need for population consciousness.

Scope & Importance of Environment Education & Awareness.

The scope of environmental studies is vast and wide. Sky is its limit and ocean is its depth. What is not covered in environmental studies shall take years and years yet to think as how to cover. Studies reveal that during the past, few decades there has been fundamental change in the attitude of man towards environment. There was a time when environment meant only sanitation and health. Today, the environment is conceived in its totality and a holistic approach is designed while planning a better quality of life stressing upon sustainable development.

Who will not agree with this fact that human activities have been changing with greater speed and velocity. Our number population-wise is increasing fast. In India the populations were only 34.7 crores in 1951 and today, are more than 100 crores.

This is the story of human population. But the story of animals and other organisms is not the same. On account of this reason human activities have been drastically changing the ecological balance of practically every component of the environment.

This makes the importance and scope of the study of environment wider in volume and deeper in depth. However, what mainly conversed in the study of environment is briefly presented below.

Need for Environment Education & Awareness.

Global environment and ecology are rapidly becoming the most demanding subjects for debate, decision and action as the emergence of environmental problem pose shift challenge for physical sciences as well as social sciences.

Environmental education has single, defined but multi faced object the environmental crisis. Environmental learning about the factor cases and solutions to the environmental crises learning about the environmental is 'immediate' reaction to concrete problems in management of natural resources.

Environmental education aims at ultimately for reaching and manifold behavioral changes in everyday life and at the work place. University education in India has three major components: teaching, research and extension. Out of more than 100 universities, there are about 20 universities teaching courses in environmental areas.

Besides these, there are also research institutes and professional institutions like Indian Institutes of Technology, several Engineering Colleges, Schools of Planning and Architecture etc. which offer courses in environmental education is the tool for sustainable development. Environmental education is humanity's best hope and most effective means to achieve sustainable development. Environment education must not be equated with schooling or formal environmental education alone. It includes non-formal and informal modes of instruction and learning as well including traditional learning acquired in home and community.

Formal & Environment Education & Awareness

Though formal education is the mandate of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), the Ministry of Environment & Forests has been interacting with the MHRD, NCERT, State Departments of Education etc. to ensure that environmental components are adequately covered at the school levels by infusion into the school curricula at various levels

At the formal level, schools, colleges and universities have taken up environmental education. In the year 2003, the Honorable Supreme Court of India directed that Environmental Education should be taught as a compulsory subject at all levels of education. In spite of this order, environmental education as part of formal education is still in its infancy. Environment Education would be very effective if:

- Teachers, who would integrate EE into the formal curricula, are properly trained and motivated. They should teach EE on a multi-disciplinary basis rather than as a separate subject.
- Greater emphasis is on practical experience related to the environment rather than classroom learning.

Non-Formal Environment Education & Awareness

Environmental Education, Awareness and Training plays a significant role in encouraging and enhancing people's participation in activities aimed at conservation, protection and management of the environment, essential for achieving sustainable development. The Ministry, therefore, accords priority for the promotion of non-formal environment education and creation of awareness among all sections of the society through diverse activities using traditional and modern media of communication. Non-formal methods could be more effective, as the theme of environment is topical, practicable and relatable. The focus is mostly on rural – largely illiterate – areas.

Most efforts in this field are by the local and international NGOs. The lack of educational resources and trained manpower are the major limitations in the effective utilization of non-formal environmental education.

Mass Awareness

Despite great efforts to spread environmental awareness by the Ministry through several schemes, it is felt that a large population especially in rural areas is still left out. The best way to reach out to them and make them aware of the environmental problems is through media, particularly the electronic media. "Mass Awareness" has therefore been identified as one of the thrust areas of the Ministry, not only to intensify the efforts already being made in this direction but also to launch new initiatives. The Social media is best source for environment

based program and infomercials. Professional Media agencies which are hired to assist the Ministry in carrying out the campaign also play a major role.

Measures taken by Indian Government for Environment Education & Awareness.

The Indian Constitution laid down the responsibility of Government to protect and improve the environment and made it a "fundamental duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife". On this background Department of Environment was established by the Government of India in 1980 and a Ministry was formed in 1985. The Constitution and the Government's commitment to the environment along with the environmentally sound practices is an important backdrop under which the Environment Education (EE) strategy has been evolved. EEAT Scheme was launched during the 6th Five Year Plan in 1983-84 with the following objectives:

Environmental Education & Awareness and Training Scheme

The scheme intends to enhance our understanding about the interactions between human beings and environment. Also, it aims to facilitate the development of skills for environmental protection. The objectives of the schemes are as follow:

- To promote environmental awareness among all sections of the society;
- To spread environment education, especially in the non-formal system among different sections of the society;
- To facilitate development of education/training materials and aids in the formal education sector;
- To promote environment education through existing educational/scientific/research institutions;
- To ensure training and manpower development for environment education, awareness and training;
- To encourage non-governmental organizations, mass media and other concerned organizations for promoting awareness about environmental issues among the people at all levels;
- To use different media including films, audio, visual and print, theatre, drama, advertisements, hoarding, posters, seminars, workshops, competitions, meetings etc. for spreading messages concerning environment and awareness; and
- To mobilize people's participation for preservation and conservation of environment.

Measures taken for consciousness:

1. Population awareness programme should be started from villages to towns.
2. Students are to be taught to restore and construct their surroundings. There should be a topic to educate them.
3. The areas must be taken up are human health, family planning nutrition of child and women rural development, slum improvement, prevention of food contamination etc.
4. The children in schools should be taught the role of trees, wild life etc.
5. The objective based training to be made to love for plants and animals.
6. They must be sensitive to environmental problems.
7. They must require skills for solving environmental problems.
8. National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC)
9. Eco-clubs (NGC)
10. GLOBE
11. Encouragement of non-governmental organizations, mass media and other concerned organizations for promoting awareness among the people at all levels.
12. Promotion of environment education through existing educational/scientific/research institutions.
13. Ensuring training and manpower development in environment education.
14. Mobilization of people's awareness for the preservation and conservation of environment.

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