

Environment Awareness-Role of Teacher

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Abstract

Environment pollution is today's one of the main problem in the world. Many countries spend serious time to solve and try to avoid environmental problems. Environmental awareness can play a most significant role in building awareness about the relation between modern developments and environment and the impact of developmental practices on the surrounding environment among masses, if imported properly. A teacher therefore can play an important role in providing environmental awareness and developing a positive attitude towards environment among students.

Environmental awareness is to understand the fragility of our environment and the importance of its protection. Promoting environment awareness is an easy way to become an environmental steward and participate in creating a brighter future for our children.

Environment awareness means "To help the social groups and individuals to gain a variety of experiences in and acquire basic understanding of environment and its social problems. It includes making the people conscious of the physical, social and aesthetic aspects of the environment. Environment Awareness is an integral part of the movement's success. By teaching our friends and family that the physical environment is fragile and indispensable we can begin fixing the problems that threaten it. Environmentalism is an ideology that evokes the necessity and responsibility of humans to respect, protect and preserve the natural world from its anthropogenic (caused by humans) afflictions.

Numerous resources are available to promote Environment Awareness, group learning (in or outside the class) informal and inspiration seminars, and environmental books and brochures etc.

Environmental awareness can play a most significant role in building awareness about the relation between modern development and environment, and the impact of development practices on the surrounding environment among masses, if imported properly. It is education which can enable a person to know about everything.

- Education enables to know a person about the impacts of his activities on environment.
- It enables a person to about his rights and duties.
- It makes him know about different processes going on in the natural environment and their importance in keeping up the natural balance.

Environmental education refers to organized efforts to teach how natural environments function and particularly how human beings can manage behaviour and ecosystems to live sustainably. Environment Education is the teaching of individuals and communities, in transitioning to a society that is knowledge able the environment and its associated problems, aware the solutions of these problems and motivated to solve them.

The United Nations Educational Scientific and cultural organisation (UNESCO) states that environmental education is vital in imparting an inherent respect for nature amongst society and in changing public environmental awareness.

According to UNESCO, "Environmental education is a way of implementing the goals of environmental protection. It is not a separate branch of science but lifelong interdisciplinary field of study."

UNESCO (1970) :- "Environment education is the process of recognizing values and clarify concepts in order to develop skills and attitude necessary to understand and appreciate the inter-relatedness among man, his culture and his bio physical surrounding. It also entails practice in decisions making and self-formulation of a code of behaviour about problems and issue concerning environmental quality"

Cook and Hearn (1971) : "Environment education is problem centred, inter-disciplinary, value oriented, community oriented and concerns with man's survival as species, based on student initiated activities and involvements present and future oriented."

UNESCO (1976) : "Environment education is a way of implementing the goal of environment protection. It is not a separate branch of science or field of study. It should be carried out according to the principles of the lifelong integral education."

Misha (1993) : "Environment education appears to be a process that equips human beings with awareness, knowledge, skills, attitudes and commitment to improve environment.

R.A. Sharma (1996) : " Environment education refers to the awareness of physical of cultural environment and perceive its relevance for real life situation. The problems and issues are to be identified. The imbalances of environment are to be improved in view of sustainable development.

The role of teacher is very important in nation making. They play a crucial role in forming, challenging and establishing attitudes and values. A teacher is the friend, philosopher, and guide of the student. Teacher can play an important role in educating their students about environments which is possible only when the teacher themselves have the necessary level of environmental education awareness. The role of teacher is to help the children as well as illiterate adults to know, to protect and to enrich the environment. Traditionally, teacher has been regarded as an agent of social change and modernization. Children emulate their teacher and draw inspiration from them. A teacher therefore plays an important role in providing environmental awareness and developing a positive attitude towards environment among students by following ways:-

- Creating awareness on renewal and non-renewal resources.
- Enabling students to acquire basic knowledge and understanding of the total environment.
- Providing opportunity to observe local environment of features, problems and phenomena and changes in community.
- Allowing children to classify living and non-living things on the basis of criteria chosen by children themselves.
- Helping them to draw obvious inferences from their observation and such classifications.
- Co-relating the environmental issues while teaching the curricular subject.
- To tell the students' the fundamental duties of Indian citizen with regard to environment.
- To bring on awareness to protect the environment.
- To produce environment literate citizens.
- To develop students' critical thinking.
- To consider environmental aspects in plans for growth and development.
- To develop eco-friendly habits in students.
- To develop students' psychological and spiritual relationship with nature.
- To focus on current and potential environment.
- To engage the students in various programmes like rallies and functions directed towards environmental protection and conservation.
- To foster positive attitude and values in the students.
- To help the students to acquire social and moral values and motivating them for their active participation in protecting and maintaining the balances of environment.
- To make use of play techniques to make them understand the concept and importance of food chains and food web.
- Should help the students in every possible way in conducting stage plays and dramas on environmental conservation.
- Should help individuals to acquire the skills for solving environmental problems.
- Should periodically organize field trips of zoos, national parks, wild life sanctuaries' etc.
- Should also plan visits to polluted cities, polluted rivers etc.
- Should organize seminars, workshops on environmental issues like soil erosion, population explosion, pollution, global warming and other related issues etc.
- Should help individuals to acquire the skills for solving environmental problems.
- Should make the students as well as members of society to aware about the importance of natural resources and their proper maintenance.
- Should also arrange specific lectures by the eminent resource persons of their respective field of expertise.
- Should help the students in developing a sense of course of action in solving the problems.
- Should motivate and train the students to acquire and spread knowledge and skills that will help the society in solving problems related to environment.

II. Conclusion

Therefore, we can say that environmental education is a process directed at creating awareness and understating about environmental issues that leads to responsible individuals and group actions. A teacher can play an important role in creating environmental awareness. So he/she must educate to his/her students about environment and motivate them to acquire the skills of solving environmental problems.

References

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