

Role of Environment Education in Environment Protection

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ABSTRACT

Environment is essential for all life forms on the planet earth. There is dependence of all living beings, including human beings, on the environment, with which they interact continuously. However human beings are solely responsible for changing the environment by indiscriminate use of the natural resources. Education plays a very important role in the life of man. It is this tool that makes a man a human being who can think, analyze and act judiciously. Environmental Education is the teaching of individuals, and communities, in transitioning to a society that is knowledgeable of the environment and its associated problems, aware of the solutions to 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 enhancing public environmental awareness. UNESCO emphasises the role of EE in safeguarding future global developments of societal quality of life, through the protection of the environment, eradication of poverty, minimization of inequalities and insurance of sustainable development. Environmental education is now being seen as an instrument and a process that enables participation and learning by people of all ages, based on two-way communication rather than the old paradigm of a one-way flow of information, from teachers to pupils. The content and substance of environmental education is also undergoing review and change. Reorienting education as a whole towards sustainability involves the various levels of formal, non-formal and informal education at all levels of society. Environmental education does not advocate a particular viewpoint or course of action. Rather, environmental education teaches individuals how to weigh various sides of an issue through critical thinking and it enhances their own problem-solving and decision-making skills. We can give education in formal and as well as in non-formal manner. Presently Society needs an Environmental literacy Programme like as English literacy, Computer literacy. There is a need of effective and experience based compulsory environmental education in all forms and levels of education for the students. Overall Environmental Education is necessary for each person to improving the environmental values and protecting environment.

KEY WORDS: *Environmental Education, Environment Protection, Quality of Life.*

I. Introduction:

Education is the process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits. Educational methods include storytelling, discussion, teaching, training and directed research. Education frequently takes place under the guidance of educators, but learners may also educate themselves. Education can take place in formal or informal settings and any experience that has a formative effect on the way one thinks, feels, or acts may be considered educational. Education began in prehistory, as adults trained the young in the knowledge and skills deemed necessary in their society. In pre-literate societies this was achieved orally and through imitation. Story-telling passed knowledge, values, and skills from one generation to the next. As cultures began to extend their knowledge beyond skills that could be readily learned through imitation, formal education developed. Presently Education is commonly divided formally into such stages as preschool or kindergarten, primary school, secondary school and then college, university, or apprenticeship. The branch of education which deals environmental contents called Environmental education.

Environmental Education:

Environmental education is a process that allows individuals to explore environmental issues, engage in problem solving, and take action to improve the environment. As a result, individuals develop a deeper understanding of environmental issues and have the skills to make informed and responsible decisions. Environmental education may best be defined as a process directed at creating awareness and understanding about environmental issues that leads to responsible individual and group actions. Environmental education focuses on processes that promote critical thinking, problem solving, and effective decision-making skills. Environmental education utilizes processes that involve students in observing, measuring, classifying,

experimenting, and other data gathering techniques. These processes assist students in discussing, inferring, predicting, and interpreting data about environmental issues. Environmental information is providing facts about specific environmental issues or problems. This may be accomplished through news releases, informational brochures, bulletins, videos, or other media techniques. It is often geared toward the general public instead of targeting a specific group or audience. Information can be very useful to the highly motivated individual who is concerned about a specific topic or issue and can be a critical element of environmental education. Environmental problems and issues are complex and there are not simple answers. Often there are many possible solutions or no obvious solution at all. It is through the processes of quality environmental education that students can sort through the frequently biased, emotional, and propagandized elements of environmental issues, weighing various sides of an issue in order to make informed, balanced, and responsible decisions. The main aim of Environmental Education is environment protection or conservation.

An important aspect of environmental management is environmental education, that is, giving proper information about the various aspects of the environment, its components, interrelationships with humans, ecosystems, pollution, development, urbanization, population, etc., and their impact on the environment. It is necessary to give this education to the masses, not just limited to schools and universities. Until every person of the country does not understand the environment and its importance in life, till that time he will not be able to understand his responsibility, which he has to fulfil towards the environment. Environmental education is a pious work, by doing which and following its path, we can make the future beautiful along with the present, protect humans from many tragedies, reduce natural calamities, save endangered animals and plants.

Area of Environmental Education:

1. Components of Environment:

- (i) Topography
- (ii) Climate
 - (a) Air
 - (b) Rain
 - (c) Atmosphere
 - (d) Solar Energy
 - (e) Temperature
- (iii) Natural vegetation
- (iv) Soil
- (v) water
- (vi) Animal life.

2. Human-Environment Relationship

3. Environmental Utilization and Developed Economic Scenario

- (i) Agriculture
- (ii) Animal Husbandry
- (iii) Irrigation
- (iv) Industry
- (v) Energy
- (vi) Mineral mining
- (vii) Transport

4. Environmental problems created by development

- (i) Pollution – water, air, land, noise, radioactive pollution.
- (ii) Deforestation
- (iii) Energy crisis
- (iv) Scarcity of resources
- (v) Natural calamities – flood, drought, earthquake etc.
- (vi) Desertification
- (vii) Decrease in fertility, expansion of barren land.
- (viii) Effect of urbanization and industrialization etc.

5. Environmental protection

- (i) control of pollution,
- (ii) protection of forests and afforestation,
- (iii) Conservation of mineral resources,
- (iv) energy conservation
- (v) Population control etc.

6. Environmental Management

- (i) Development of tourist places, sanctuaries,

- (ii) pollution control measures,
- (iii) development of wellness centres,
- (iv) clean environment in cities,
- (v) Coordination between population and environment,
- (vi) Regulation of Environment Acts,
- (vii) Development of environmental consciousness or protection movement.

Environment Protection:

Environment has been of great importance since ancient times, in fact protection of nature is its worship. In our India, human relations have been added to mountains, rivers, air, fire, planets, constellations, trees, plants etc. Trees are considered as children and rivers are considered as mothers. Our sages knew how human nature is, humans can go to any extent in their greed. That's why they developed human relations with nature. They knew that environment is the basis of life on earth. Therefore, in his books, he talked only about the protection of nature and environment. It is also said in the Vedas –

**‘Om Purnabhadah Purnamidam Purnatpurnamudchyate.
Purnasya Purnmaday Purnmevavasishyate.’**

That is, we should take only as much from nature as is necessary. Nature should not be harmed in its entirety. A healthy environment is necessary for human and animal life to survive. Drinkable water, breathable air, and edible food are some of the resources that are necessary for life to continue. Yet at the same time, people cannot maintain a desirable standard of living without the consumption of natural resources, which causes damage to the environment. In addition, using natural resources reduces their availability, which can lead to shortages of building and manufacturing materials, food, and water.

The environment has provided resources to man since time immemorial and man has also made full use of them. From ancient times till now, whatever we felt the need for, we have got it directly or indirectly from the environment. As time passed, our needs also increased and to fulfil these needs, we started showing cruelty towards the environment. We did not stop the population growth in advance, due to which people started getting less resources and excessive environmental destruction started. People started migrating from villages to cities, trees, plants and forests started getting destroyed, animals started being killed for their own benefit, pollution spread everywhere. Which caused a lot of damage to the environment.

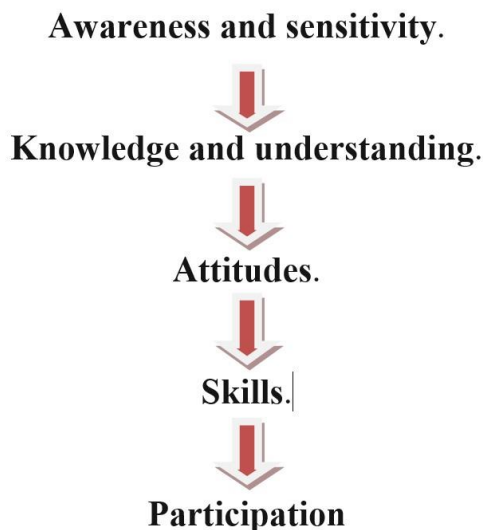
We bent on destroying the nature which gave us shelter and the balance of nature went on deteriorating. There are many side effects of environmental pollution such as genetic effect due to release of radioactive material from nuclear explosion, erosion of ozone layer which protects from ultraviolet rays, soil erosion, excessive temperature rise, air-water-ambient pollution, destruction of trees and plants. There are many bad effects like emergence of new diseases etc. Human activity that is harmful to the environment can cause public health crises, render areas uninhabitable, and otherwise reduce standards of living on a societal or global scale. When people protect the environment, they are protecting themselves and their future as well. Environmental protection is an increasingly pressing issue all over the world. Ozone depletion, green house effect, global climate changes or global warming, etc, are the main issues of environment protection. About environmental issue, we could not deny it is unrealistic to expect individual nations to make, independently, the sacrifices necessary to prevent environment changes. International leadership and worldwide cooperation are essential if we expect to protect the world for the future generations. Recent years, many countries and various organizations have paid more attention into environmental protection. Environmental protection means that human beings consciously protect and reasonably make use of natural resources and prevent natural environment from pollution and destruction; to the environment that has been polluted and destroyed comprehensive management measures have to be taken to create an environment suitable for human life and work. Meanwhile, environment protection has the meaning of the general terms of all kinds of actions taken by human in order to solve the practical or potential environmental issues, coordinate the relationship between human and environment, and ensure a sustainable economic and social development. To achieve this, we need

1. To control the environmental pollution resulted from production and life activity includes controlling the “three wastes” (waste water, waste gas, waste residues), dust and radioactive substance as well as noise, vibration, rancidity and electromagnetic radiation resulted from industrial production.
2. To prevent environmental damage caused by the construction and development activities includes the prevention of environmental pollution and destruction caused by large-scale water conservancy, railways, highways, major ports, airports and large industrial projects and other projects.

3. To prevent the destruction and influence of land reclamation and reclaiming land from lakes and the development of offshore oil field, coastal zones and wetlands, forest and mineral resources. To prevent the environmental damage, pollution and impact of the new industrial area, new construction of urban settings etc.

Way of Protection through Environmental Education:

Environmental education is a process that allows individuals to explore environmental issues, engage in problem solving, and take action to improve the environment. As a result, individuals develop a deeper understanding of environmental issues and have the skills to make informed and responsible decisions. The steps or task of environmental education are:



Environmental education does not advocate a particular viewpoint or course of action. Rather, environmental education teaches individuals how to weigh various sides of an issue through critical thinking and it enhances their own problem-solving and decision-making skills. We can give education in formal and as well as in non-formal manner. Presently Society needs an Environmental literacy Programme like as English literacy, Computer literacy. There is a need of effective and experience based compulsory environmental education in all forms and levels of education for the students.

II. Conclusion:

A clean and healthy environment is part and parcel of the wealth and quality of life that we desire for ourselves now and for our children in the future. People demand that the air they breathe, the water they drink, and the food they eat is free of pollution and contaminants; they want to live undisturbed by noise, and they want to enjoy the beauty of the countryside, unspoiled coastlines and mountain areas. They also want a world that is not threatened by climate change. Healthy and balanced natural systems are essential for supporting life on this planet. Society relies on nature to provide us with the resources for our survival: air, water, food, fibres, medicines, and building materials. Children need to grow up aware of the nature around them. As human beings we have a responsibility to preserve the actual value of nature both for ourselves and for future generations. Environmental Education is a major tool to protecting environment. It can change attitude of human beings towards environment values.

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