

## **Importance and relevance of environmental education a geographical study**

**Dr. Ram Prakash Gurjar**

*Head & Associate Professor, Department of Geography, L.B.S. Government College, Kotputli, Jaipur (Raj.)*

---

### **Abstract**

*If we try to understand the concept of environmental education in general, environmental education is usually the education conducted under the school system from primary, secondary education up to secondary education. But nowadays it is being used more widely as an attempt to educate the general public. Such as printed material, website, media etc. Including outdoor learning and experiential learning.*

*By the way, the roots of environmental education are considered from the very beginning. Since ancient times Gurukuls and Ashrams were taught to protect the natural world. Along with moral education, environmental education is also mentioned in mythology. That is, from the very beginning, education has been given to solve social, economic and environmental problems.*

*Environment is a broad concept. The natural, social, cultural, religious, political and state in which man lives is his environment. But environmental education is limited only to the knowledge of its natural environment, it is another matter that under this it also studies the effects of its natural environment on the social, cultural, religious, political and economic environment.*

*Scientific inventions have further increased his material needs. Man is exploiting natural resources to meet these needs. Now a concern has arisen all over the world that these natural resources may not get exhausted and the future generations may not be deprived of them. That's why efforts are being made to save it. On the other hand air and water are getting polluted due to industrialization. The result of this is that pure air and pure water are not available for human beings to live. That's why efforts are being made to stop pollution as well. Environmental education is one of these efforts. Therefore, in this research paper, we are doing a geographical study of environmental education in the context of pollution prevention.*

**Keywords:-** *Meaning, definition, scope, curriculum, need, importance, problems and solutions of environmental education.*

---

### **I. Introduction :-**

Environmental education is the educational process that makes man aware of the relationship between his natural and man-made environment. It also includes the relation of man to the total environment of population, pollution, resource allocation, conservation, transport, technology and urban and rural planning. But there are two initiatives of environmental education in the country - knowledge of natural resources and their conservation and knowledge of natural environment and measures to protect it from pollution. From the point of view of the aims and curriculum of this education, it should be defined as follows.

Environmental education is the education by which children, youth and adults are introduced to the causes and consequences of natural resource exploitation and natural pollution, as well as the methods of conservation of natural resources and prevention of nature pollution.

It should be understood here that conservation of natural resources does not mean eliminating their use, but educating people about their judicious use so that they can benefit more and more people. And natural pollution refers to both damage caused by natural causes and pollution caused by humans. pollution for some reason. It is necessary to end it.

### **Objective :-**

1. To study the importance and need of environmental education.
2. To clarify the geographical importance of environmental education in environmental pollution protection.
3. To present the problems of environmental education and solutions.

### **Hypothesis :-**

1. Environmental problems are increasing continuously due to human activities, the proper solution of which is environmental education.
2. At present importance is being given to environmental education in environmental protection.

**Collection of data :-**

The presented research paper uses primary and secondary data. The data has been compiled by the Department of Environment, through personal surveys, interviews, schedules, diaries, letters, newspapers and various websites and books. The nature of this study is descriptive.

**Meaning of environmental education :-**

"Environmental education" is actually the education given to the world community related to the environment so that they can become aware of the problems and find their solutions as well as prevent future problems.

"Environmental education" is the process of clarifying responsibilities and ideas so that humans develop the skills and attitudes necessary to recognize and understand their own relationships between their culture and the bio-physical environment.

**Some definitions related to environmental education :-**

1) "Environmental education" also inculcates the habit of making codes of conduct and making decisions for matters related to the quality of the environment.

2) "Environmental Education" means the process of learning that can promote knowledge and awareness of environmental challenges and also help in developing the necessary skills to deal with them.

3) "Environmental Education" is a means to achieve the objectives of environmental protection. Environmental education is not a separate branch of study of any science or subject. It should be carried forward under complete education throughout life.

4) The main objective of "Environmental Education" is to create and increase awareness among citizens about their responsibilities to protect and manage the environment.

Because in today's time it is very important to have all-round awareness about environmental protection. Call it an important obligation, responsibility, duty of every citizen. But it would not be wrong to say that until every person becomes serious about environmental protection. Till then environmental protection will remain a question before us. If we harm the environment then it is our responsibility to protect and preserve it.

Therefore, in a very brief form we can say that - "Environmental Education" is the education to understand, solve, eradicate or remove environmental problems through one's skills.

**Area of environmental education: -**

Since both science and society are studied under environmental education. Therefore, to understand environmental phenomena, subjects like Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography, History, Civics, Sociology, Economics, Resource Management etc. are required. The knowledge gained from all these subjects under Environmental Studies is of utmost importance for the students to ensure their understanding of human relations and their place as members of human society.

The content of all these subjects helps students to understand their environment. With this, the child will continue to develop and be intelligent as per the level of education in every age group. The scope of his education will increase further. Also, the subject matter will continue to expand. Apart from these subjects, knowledge of some other subjects can also be included in the field of environmental education. For example-commerce, ethics, anthropology, political science etc. Efforts should also be made to include these subjects in the curriculum and in the time available in the department cycle during school hours.

**Objectives of environmental education :-**

The basic objective of environmental education is to stop the exploitation of natural resources and save nature from getting polluted. This objective is detailed as

Raising awareness among children, youth and adults about natural resources and the natural environment

To make them aware of the ill-effects of exploitation of natural resources and pollution of the natural environment.

They should be aware of the causes of exploitation of natural resources and pollution of the natural environment.

To encourage them to take and follow measures to avoid exploitation of natural resources and pollution of the natural environment.

To develop in them an attitude towards prevention of natural imbalance and pollution.

To develop attitude towards cleanliness among them.

To develop in them an attitude of public interest.

Not only this, but environmental education is a comprehensive and integrated education effort, which includes all the three aspects of behavior modification – the cognitive aspect, the affective aspect and the functional aspect. The main target of environmental education is the world. The population has to be made aware and active about the environment and its related problems, so that they can become environmentally conscious. We

can try as much as possible in this direction by developing a sense of commitment towards conservation. , The main objectives of environmental education can be written in an unmarked manner.

**1. Environmental Awareness -**

The first objective of environmental education is to make everyone aware and sensitive towards the environment. The first step in environmental education would be to help all individuals and social groups to become sensitive and aware of the overall environment and its problems.

**2. Knowledge of environment -**

The second objective of environmental education is to make everyone aware of the environment. Is . Therefore, individuals and social groups are affected by the environment, the changes that occur in it, and the consequences of these changes. The second objective of environmental education is to follow the problems that arise.

**3. Attitude towards environment -**

Another objective of environmental education is to educate the general public about the environment and its importance. To develop positive attitude towards conservation. For this, the environment in individuals and social groups. Related social values, goodwill towards environment and motivation for environmental protection and improvement should be developed.

**4. Participation in environmental improvement -**

To make environmental education a solution to environmental problems among the general public. It also involves its active participation and sense of responsibility. For this, individuals and social groups have to develop a sense of responsibility towards the environment and prevent environmental pollution and improve the environment. We have to be prepared to take appropriate steps in this direction. ,

**5. Environmental Improvement Skills -**

One of the main objectives of environmental education is to develop the skills of environmental coordination and improvement to solve environmental problems. Individuals and social groups have to be equipped with the necessary skills to solve environmental problems.

**6. Environmental Assessment -**

The purpose of environmental education is to develop the ability to evaluate the environment and make efforts to improve it. To help the development of environmental education among individuals and social groups, to develop the ability to evaluate environmental elements, to strive towards situational balance and environmental protection and in the context of social, economic, political, aesthetic and educational factors Improvement. Needed . Various objectives of environmental education relating to cognitive, affective and functional aspects are depicted.

**Environmental Education Course :-**

Scholars, especially educationists, are not unanimous on the curriculum of environmental education, but the main elements of the general curriculum prepared so far in the country and abroad are as follows:

1. Information about natural resources and natural environment, utility of natural resources and pure natural environment in human life. ,
2. Information about the side effects of exploitation of natural resources - Due to exploitation (cutting) of forests, the material available from forests is decreasing, ecological balance is deteriorating, air is getting polluted, rainfall is decreasing. And soil erosion is increasing.
3. Knowledge of the consequences of pollution of the natural environment
  - (i) Lack of pure drinking water and pure air.
  - (ii) Obstruction in the production of pure food items. , ,
  - (iii) Hindering proper nutrition and health development.
4. Knowledge of the reasons for exploitation of natural resources.
  - (i) Scientific invention.
  - (ii) Increase in material needs.
  - (iii) Unnecessary use.
  - (iv) Increasing population.
5. Knowledge of the causes of pollution of the natural environment.
  - (i) Deforestation.
  - (ii) Industrialization.
  - (iii) Oil-powered vehicles.
  - (iv) Use of chemical substances.
  - (v) Increasing population.
6. Knowledge of measures to conserve natural resources.
  - (i) More trees should be planted in forests than the number of trees that have been cut.
  - (ii) Minerals should be used judiciously. Plastic bags should be promoted as an alternative to them.

(iii) The work of fuel minerals should be done from solar energy.

(iv) Rain water should be stored in dams, lakes and ponds.

(v) Water should not be misused.

7. Information about measures to protect the natural environment from pollution.

(i) Forests should not be cut and trees should be planted.

(ii) The smoke and poisonous gases emitted from industries should be reduced by scientific methods, making them ineffective and preventing the air from getting polluted.

(iii) Toxic substances released from industries, dirty water and waste of villages and cities and dead animals should not be discharged into rivers and water pollution should be prevented, water of lakes, ponds and wells should be purified by chemical methods.

(iv) Vehicles running on oil should be made pollution free and air pollution should be avoided.

(v) Population growth should be controlled.

#### **Need of environmental education :-**

The work of environmental education is to save the living beings living on this earth from the calamities that occur on it and try to give them a happy life. Also, they should know in advance about the problems that may arise in the future and should find their solution in such a way that the problem also goes away and there is no hindrance in the regular life process.

Humans and other living beings depend on the environment for their basic needs. Environment plays an important role for pure air, pure water and pure food etc. In such a situation, environmental education is very necessary to understand the importance of all these things and to develop the thinking of conservation. Let us try to understand the reasons for the need of education as follows-

1) Earth is the only planet in the solar system on which life is possible. That's why it has to be saved from destruction at all costs. So that the animals living on it can be provided with a safe and happy life.

2) Population growth is the problem of the whole world today. Due to which the balance of nature has deteriorated. So try hard enough to balance it.

3) Nature has a limited stock of vast resources. The awareness about which are used correctly and wisely can come only when the related education is expanded.

4) Since the role of forests plays a very important role in converting carbon dioxide into oxygen. Therefore, to maintain the required amount of oxygen in the atmosphere and to make aware of the environmental distortions caused by the increase in carbon dioxide.

5) Knowledge of pollution, its causes and effects arising out of industrial revolution can be learned only when adequate education is received.

6) To provide proper information about how the various components of the environment interact with each other.

7) To discuss the effects on environment and health and create awareness about environment.

8) To study the problems related to the regional environment and propose ways to solve them.

That is, meaningful and directional efforts for human welfare and protection of the entire environment are not possible without environmental education. So we can say that environmental education is definitely an important "need" of today's times.

#### **Importance of environmental education: -**

Based on the detailed thinking about the environment when the intellectuals talked about the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment. Since then, emphasis has been laid on adopting some diagnostic and remedial methods for this. This point was put forth in the International Conference on "Human Environment" held at Stockholm (1972) and a resolution was also passed that there was potential for 'Environmental Education' program to solve and overcome environmental problems. Go. Certainly the basis points on which (Belgrade Charter-1975) the Tivlisi International Conference (1977) approved the program of environmental education and clarified the usefulness of the program of environmental education all fall under the importance of environmental education.

As a result of the various resolutions passed in the above conferences, we can broadly understand the importance of 'Environmental Education' -

1. To provide truth and factual information about the environment to all common people.

2. To find out the possible causes of any problem based on your knowledge.

3. To alert about such unwanted events that may completely unbalance public life in the near future, collecting information about these events in advance.

4. To try to find solutions to various problems and try to know in the simplest form.

5. To prepare the public mind in such a way that it is ready to understand any kind of problem and deal with it or find a solution.

6. To always inspire the public to work for environmental protection, conservation and improvement.

7. To inspire to do such work so that the future of the coming generation can be safe and happy.
8. To teach to imbibe the spirit of live and let live.

#### **environmental education tools**

Environmental education is a lifelong education. Today, new general and scientific methods are being discovered all over the world to conserve natural resources and make the natural environment pollution free, it is necessary to continuously give them information to human beings. The main mediums of environmental education in India are formal education, informal education, non-formal education, adult education, mass media and voluntary organizations.

#### **Importance and need of environmental education**

Today, due to the progress of science, industry and increasing population, natural resources are being exploited all over the world.

Ecological imbalance is increasing and natural pollution is increasing. While government rules and regulations are being made to prevent it, on the other hand, environmental education is being used to make people aware about it. The truth is that all the work is not possible with government rules and laws, for that public awareness is also necessary and education plays an important role in this work. Environmental education has great importance in today's context, it is very much needed.

1. To protect natural wealth - We are seeing that man is fulfilling his physical needs. For this purpose, the natural resources are being exploited very fast and if this happens then the coming generation will have to bear the brunt of it. There will be no natural resources left for this. Environmental education is of great importance to lead human beings towards limited use of natural resources and to preserve them for future generations. it is very needed
2. For the prevention of natural pollution- Today in the world industrial institutions are running due to deforestation. Due to the living population, our natural environment – water, soil etc. gets polluted due to the accumulation of dirt. Environmental education is very important for the prevention of this pollution.
3. For proper nutrition and health development of children - Man needs pure nutritious light and food grains to live. It is clear that environment is of utmost importance from the point of view of nutrition and health development of the child.
4. To protect public welfare and economic system - Today most of the human beings are concerned only for their selfishness, not for public interest and public welfare. And it is a matter of shame that in this storm of selfishness, they also do their own loss. They do not think that because of them the natural resources are depleting, due to which the economy will collapse in the future. Then it goes without saying that environmental education is of great importance for the welfare of the people and for the long-term maintenance of the economic system.

#### **Development of environmental education in India**

Indians have been very conscious of the natural environment since ancient times. Vedic hymns describe the qualities of nature and pray to its divine form. In the Vedic period, plants were considered to be a unique gift of God and cutting of trees and plants was considered as killing of animals. How much do you bathe in the waters of Nadya? There was a ban on the excretion of excreta, there was also a ban on the inhaling of air. Daily havan rituals were performed to purify the air, mind and soul. But as the country's population grew and materialistic civilization grew, we started exploiting nature instead of protecting it, polluting it instead of keeping it pure.

As far as the conservation of natural resources in our country and the protection of nature from pollution is concerned. For this, the Environment Protection Act was made in 1986. At present, there are many schemes going on in our country related to environmental protection and environmental pollution control, which are being run by the Central and Provincial Governments through the Central and Provincial Pollution Control Boards. , Various organizations like the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Conservation, Indian Wildlife Institute, Heavy Basti Tertiary Animal Survey Institute etc. get full support in conducting these programs and as far as environmental education in schools is concerned, this is the first initiative in our country. The book was published by the Indian Institute of Environment, New Delhi in 1981. Following are the main suggestions given in this book regarding environmental education.

- (1) The form of environmental education should be such that the consciousness of the environment is awakened in the students.
- (2) Environmental education should be such that man feels that he himself is a part of nature.
- (3) Environmental education should be such that the citizens are aware of the national policy, rules and laws related to the environment.
- (4) Different courses should be made for different levels of education, knowledge of local environment only at primary level, relationship between environment and human beings should be clarified at secondary level and specialized knowledge of environment at higher level More training should be given.

In the new National Education Policy, 1986, the importance of environmental education was accepted and its arrangement was announced at every level of education in primary, secondary and higher education. Scully curriculum for this. Responsibility for construction. Like . E . R . Ta . and the responsibility of preparing high level curriculum was entrusted to the willing universities. N . C . E . R . Tea . It has prepared environmental education syllabi for primary and secondary level of education as well as related textbooks and guidance material. In 1988-89, the 'Providing environmental form of school education' scheme was started by the Centre. Most of the universities have introduced Environmental Science as a subject at undergraduate level and as a complete course at masters level. Environmental education is being given to the general public through the medium of mass communication.

### **Problems and Solutions of Environmental Education in India**

Environmental problem is a world problem. This problem is more serious for India because its population is increasing very fast. Environmental education has been enacted to solve this problem. Although it has been introduced as a compulsory subject in primary education in our country, but now scholars are not unanimous as to what should be the content of this education, when it should be started and how this education should be imparted. Go these are the basic problems of environmental education in India.

#### **(i) Content problem of environmental education:-**

Nature of the problem - Firstly, there is no consensus among the scholars whether it should be made a separate subject of the school curriculum or it should be taught along with other subjects like language, geography, economics and science. Secondly, NC in our country. R . Tea . Most educationists disagree with the comprehensive curriculum designed by environmental education.

**Reasons for the problem** – The reasons for this problem are as follows

- (1) N.C. I . R . Tea . Environmental Education Curriculum Designed by
- (2) The children at this stage are unable to understand the syllabus designed for the primary stage.
- (3) N.C. I . R . Tea . The job of the government is to make a detailed program according to the policies of the government, instead of keeping the mental level of the children sitting there, to put forward the decisions of the government.

**Solution to the problem** - In our opinion the following steps should be taken to solve this problem:

- (1) Environmental education should not be made a separate subject of school education, it should be integrated with the subjects of language, geography, economics and science.
- (2) The subject-matter relating to environment with any subject should be linked in such a way that the subject-matter Do not affect the original.
- (3) At higher education level, it should be taught as an elective subject on a specific subject and its extension. A curriculum should be prepared in which scientific methods of reducing pollution should also be included.

#### **(ii) Problem of when to start environmental education:-**

Nature of the problem - Some scholars want to start it from the primary level, some from the secondary level. He is of the opinion that there is no need to make it a part of school education, it should be awakened in the form of public consciousness. should do .

**Cause of the problem** – The reason for this problem is as follows

- (1) Psychologists hold that childhood is the most suitable period for the development of knowledge and attitudes of any kind.
- (2) On the other hand, scholars argue that children at the primary level are not able to understand its content, hence its education should be started at the secondary level.
- (3) Some people also argue that there is no need for its knowledge, what is needed is its prevention, which is possible only by government rules and laws.

**Solution to the problem** - In our opinion the following measures should be taken to solve this problem:

- (1) Environment is related to human life, as soon as he is born he comes in contact with the environment, hence he should know about it from the beginning and in this view its education should be started from the primary level.
- (2) General information related to the environment should be given in the adult education program, they should be made aware of the ill effects of environmental pollution and at the same time they should be led towards environmental protection.

#### **(iii) Problem of providing environmental education: -**

Nature of the problem – Some scholars are in favor of teaching it like other school subjects and some scholars are in favor of awakening it as public consciousness. N . C . E . R . Tea . It has separately developed the content of environmental education and its methods of teaching.

**Reasons for the problem** – The reasons for this problem are as follows

- (1) Many good teaching methods have been developed for adult education, general information related to environmental education should be given to adults through the same methods.

(2) Today all literate and illiterate watch television, so it should be taught through television. Literate people also read newspapers and magazines, so this medium should also be used.

(3) At present, many slogans are raised in the field of education in the country – value education, population education, national integration education and environmental education. All these should be considered an integral part of life and should be developed by connecting them with life.

## **II. Conclusion:-**

The above points include all those things which we can also call the objectives of environmental education. We should use natural resources appropriately and wisely. One should always make efforts to save energy, protect forests, prevent pollution, provide clean water, pure food, airy housing and clean environment. The result of safe and healthy life lies in the success of environmental education. In this way, the scope of environmental education will expand and provide more detailed knowledge to the students, resulting in the creation of new dimensions related to environmental protection for the generations to come. Understand that students will begin to gain broad knowledge in the field of environmental education as easily as possible. The goals of environmental education can also be achieved equally easily. We hope you have liked our today's issue "Meaning, Scope, Need and Importance of Environmental Education". You can definitely give us your opinion. In future, we will try our best to provide some such important points for you. There is no doubt that conservation of natural resources and prevention of nature pollution can prove to be environmental or effective, but only when the knowledge related to it is used in life. That's why it is necessary. Along with environmental education, environmental laws should be strictly followed. Just now. Based on the decision of the Supreme Court in Li, the old vehicles were banned from running on the roads, the pollution caused by the vehicles in front has been reduced. That's why the government should strictly follow the rules made by it, knowledge and actions

## **Reference :-**

- [1]. Kumbhakar, Shivrai 1993 M.Ed. Dissertation 12 level
- [2]. Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla University Raipur: Study of environmental pollution related aptitude of students studying in class 12th and their impact in environmental protection. , pages 1-28
- [3]. Garrett Henry I. (1987), "Statistics in Educational Psychology", Kalyani Publishers, Ludhiana, page no. 160.
- [4]. Dwivedi Deepali. A Study of Correlation between Self-Confidence and Social Maturity of Male and Female Students of Science and Arts Faculties, 2006 M.Phil. Page no. 8-7
- [5]. Pachairi, Dr. Girish (2008) "Psychological Foundations of Education" Publisher – Vinay Rakheja R.Lal Book Depot Near Government College, Meerut – 250001 Pages 65-83, 116-124, 239-243
- [6]. Pathak P.D. (2006), "Education as Science", Vinod Pustak Mandir, Agra – 2, Page No. 136-138 196
- [7]. Pandya, Shakuntala, "Motivational methods of moral education in schools", Rajasthan Prakashan Jaipur, 1994, page 136.
- [8]. Bhargava, Mahesh, "Modern Psychological Testing and Measurement" Har Prasad Bhargava, Educational Publication, 1/230, Kachari Ghat, Agra, 1992.
- [9]. Bhatnagar, Sanjay, "Development of Education System in India", RL Lal Book Depot, Page No. 382, 383, 384, 385- 2005.
- [10]. Mathur, Dr. S.S (2009) "Shiksha Mane Vigyan", Vinod Pustak Mandir Agra-2, page 60
- [11]. Mishra, Anand, "Promoter of Indian Education", Vineed Pustak Mandir, Agra, Kanpur.
- [12]. Mishra, DC, "Development of educational system in India", Research Publications, Kanpur.
- [13]. Mishra, Shrikant, "A study of the attitude of teachers, students and parents towards moral education and their secular morality", Ph.D. Kashi Hindu University, Varanasi 1992, page 129.
- [14]. Mukherjee Ravindra Nath, "Indian Social Institutions", Vivek Publications, U.A. Jawahar Nagar Delhi, 1983.
- [15]. National Policy on Education 1986, Article 84, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India (Department of Education), New Delhi 1986.177
- [16]. Ruhesa, SP, "Sociology of Indian Education", Rajasthan Hindi Granth Academy, Jaipur, 1992.
- [17]. Rai Parasnath, (1978), "Introduction to Research", Laxmi Narayan Agrawal Publication, Agra, page no. - 28.
- [18]. Verma, Srivastava (2007, 2008) "Modern General Psychology", Publisher- Aggarwal Publication Nirbhay Nagar, Galana Road Agra-7 page 490-506-, 523-531
- [19]. Vyas, Harishchandra, "The First Dimension of Moral Education", Indian Modern Education, NCERT 1993.
- [20]. Sharma, R.A. (2008) "Education Research" Publisher - Vinay Rakheja, R.Lal Book Depot near Government College, Meerut.