



Importance of Environmental Education for Eradicating Environmental Issues

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Abstract: *The present work is going to focus on the relevance of environmental education for solving present day various environmental problems. Man is surrounded by biotic and abiotic component known as environment. It includes atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere and lithosphere. Environmental issues are related to all of them. It includes climate change, global warming, various types of pollutions, loss of biodiversity, ozone depilation, ecological misbalance, increasing level of green-house gases, destructive development etc. Environmental issues are now become the problem for all the countries in the world. They pose the threat for the survival of human beings and other living animals on this earth in near future. Sustainable development is the need of the day. Lack of education is the root cause of all problems therefore right type education will provide permanent solution for all the issues related to environment. The main object of this work is to understand the various environmental problems, its causes, effects and measures for tackling them. For completing this work literature review is must and that will be based on both primary and secondary sources. Conceptual analysis, comparative study, exploration and critical evaluation are some methods that will be used for this work. There is no problem which can not be solved and environmental issues are not exception. As this work falls in the category fundamental research so defiantly it will going to add new information in the existing field of knowledge which can be used in applied or action research for solving environmental issues.*

Keywords: *Environment, Education, Climate Change, Global Warming, Sustainable Development.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The word 'environment' is derived from the old French word 'environer' – which means to 'surrounding'. Man is surrounded by biotic and abiotic components known as environment. It includes atmosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere and their interaction. Man and environment relation is as old evolution of man itself. Man and environment are



interconnected therefore both affects each other in many different ways. Life of living beings including humans, plants and animals are totally dependent on environment. Human beings are totally dependent on nature directly for their basic needs and survival. Man and its relationship with environment has never been the same and anthropogenic activities are most powerful factor which is responsible for the destruction of environment. Education is a process by which we get knowledge, skills and moral values which can be used for so many good causes. Education is a process in which through teaching knowledge is transfer from teacher to the students for the all-round development of learners that is known as learning. The goal of environmental education is to increase the awareness, concern and information about the various aspects of environment and also about the major environmental problems facing the world today.

In today's time environmental education for sustainable development is a very important subject of study because today's age is known as age of environmental crisis which includes environmental issues such as climate change, pollution, loss of biodiversity, and resource degradation. Motive behind all the anthropogenic activities is nothing but increasing comfort and quality standard of living through science and technology. Earth is the planet in our solar system that have the favorable conditions for life. There are three components namely lithosphere, atmosphere and hydrosphere because of which life is possible on this earth and our life survive. These three are elements of land, air and water. The lithosphere, hydrosphere, and the atmosphere gives rise to the biosphere. Environmental education is an attempt of infusing into the educational system environmental content so that masses can first of all become know the importance of environment for their survival and day by day increasing deteriorating conditions of environment. for solving any environmental issues people first know about importance of man environment relationship, second they must know that there exist environmental problem which is real, and thirdly a methodology for solving environmental issues.

Before the industrialization, urbanization and population explosion man had healthy environment. Nature was able to recover the damage and replenish the loss of its resources. Modern civilization has deteriorated the original healthy condition of environment. Since last fifty years people around the globe become aware and are continuously trying to protect, preserve, and restore our environment. People are turning towards the concept of sustainable development. There is a need for focus on environmental management, laws governing environment protection, pollution and recycling of non-bio-degradable material, etc. There is an urgent need for responsible consumption of natural resources in the present time to for attaining the goal of sustainable development sustainability in every aspect of nature. There is an urgent need to educate the masses in the right direction about what is environment and how to conserve and maintain ecological balance.

Humans are also part of natural environment so indirectly all the human race will suffer the adverse effects of those crime which is committed by humans against environment. Concern for environmental protection and preservation started globally in the second half of 20th century. If we think deeply about the issue we will find that human greed and ignorance are the main cause of this. Greedy desires to possess more and more wealth and comfort and luxuries have made humans blind because of which humans are not able to see the disastrous effects of their so called material development for which they are ready to degrade, damage



and destroy natural environment through their illegal and immoral activities against environment. Because of ignorance humans are not able to realize their interconnectedness with natural environment. By damaging and destroying environment for our selfish purposes, we are unknowingly damaging and destroying ourselves as well as our future generations indirectly. Despite being various laws and regulations related to environment conservation and protection condition of our environment are degrading year by year. All the leaders of the globe since the last fifty years came to realize the importance of natural environment for human survival. Environment can regenerate itself after few centuries but we can not. Our whole existence is depend of natural environment be it water, air, food, temperature, or other natural resources. We need environment but not vice versa. Because if the entire human race is wiped out from the face of earth still environment will be there.

Human beings need environment. Environment does not need us. They are not dependent on us for their existence. But our existence is totally dependent on our environment. We can only pollute, degrade and damage environment but we can not keep our environment in the same degraded manner in future time because earth has the limited and slow capacity to regenerate itself. Therefore people should be educated in such a way that they can limit their unnecessary material wants and apply their knowledge for solving the various environmental problems which are arise by none other than us. The degrading quality of environment has threatened the possibility of survival of humans and animals in future on this planet. Man made activities like industrialization, transportation, technological advancement, agriculture, mining etc. have disturbed the natural balance of our environment.

Environment plays very important role in developing economies, livelihood and livestock. Clean environment provide the platform upon which future food production and life of future generations will depend. There are two types of activities which affects environment weather, and climate. They are natural activities and man made activities. Man made activities are also known as anthropogenic activities.

Environmental problems since last five decades have become a matter of not only national concern but of international importance. Conservation and protection of environment is essential for survival of human beings on this planet. Now it has been said that human beings are natural environments' worst enemy. Man is rapping the nature. Humans are exploiting nature for making their life comfortable. The environment proves that all human activities are interconnected with the nature.

Destruction of environment is a kind of genocide in which humans have completely wiped out some species from this earth and some are going to extinct in future if proper care is not given and some are endangered species. Humans have damaged our earth beyond its capacity to regenerate itself. We, humans have used natural resources in such a huge quantity in just few centuries for fulfilling our material wants which can not be made available in future because it is beyond the producing capacity of earth. We are not only used natural resources extensively but also polluted it. Desire to have a better living standards in terms of material comforts leads to various types of problems like rise in temperature, low agricultural productivity, loss of ecosystem & biodiversity, deforestation, rise in sea level, various types of pollution, uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources and various adverse effects on human health.



Anthropogenic activities are mainly responsible for climate change and climate change is nothing but rising of earth's temperature year by year which negatively affecting various life forms on earth. Humans are also part of natural environment so indirectly all the human race will suffer the adverse effects of climate change. Environment can regenerate itself after few centuries but we and other species can not. Our whole existence is depend of natural environment be it water, air, food, temperature, or other natural resources

First of all we should educate ourselves so that we can stop ourselves from polluting air, water and land. We should not cut trees and build buildings instead we should plant more and more trees and make sure that after some years they will grow and turn into a full fledged tree. Today's technology has become so advanced that we can use it without much polluting our natural environment. We should use of unleaded petrol and compressed natural gas in automobiles for reducing air pollution. We should plan a comprehensive program for the prevention and control of air pollution through automobiles. Environmental education depend on both formal and non-formal teaching techniques for realizing the ultimate goal of encouraging citizens to make informed and positive actions toward the environment.

Apart from education, strict implementation of environmental law for the environmentally sound development serves to prevent the occurrence of pollution and or destruction of the environment so that the environment and natural resources are not disturbed continuity and carrying capacity. Strict and effective environmental laws will be conducive for the continuation of environmentally friendly development or sustainable development. Due to awareness, there has been a rise in the activist movement related to environment. Activist movements are the voice of voiceless which is our nature or environment. The ultimate aim and goal of all the legislations and acts related to environment is to preserve planet, protect environment and prevent pollution of various kinds. Out of all the species all kinds of damage to our natural environment is caused by only one single species that is homo sapiens.

Due to anthropogenic activities, environmental degradation is in an alarming rate and it results in various environmental issues such as global warming, ozone layer depletion, greenhouse effects, raise in sea water level, improper monsoon and acid rain. In spite of conducting more conferences, seminars and world summits towards the protection of environment for the past two decades, the present world is environmentally less sustainable than in the previous days. Since educational institutions are the places where the contact of the society is more, it is possible to bring remarkable changes in the mindset of the public. It is the need of the hour to propose environmental education with the essential elements of moral philosophy. Now what we need is to bring the change in attitude of people about environment with the help of education. In the young minds, it is essential to reinforce the environment-respecting moral value.

If science and technology can deliver sustainable development, then the rich developed countries should be the most sustainable. On the contrary, they are the biggest consumers and polluters. Science and technology have brought immense benefits but we are paying a high 'price' for it. Developing a 'responsible environmental behavior' became one of the tasks of environmental education. Environmental education provides students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences essential to become successful community leaders, as well as making intelligent decisions pertaining to the management of their natural resources.



Environmentally aware and empowered youths are potentially the greatest agent of change for the long term protection and stewardship of the environment.

2. CONCLUSION

The world as a whole currently facing so many environmental problems which are just because of ignorance. So if ignorance is the root cause of all problems then definitely knowledge would be the best remedy for complete eradication of all these problems. Education is a process by which we get knowledge, skills and moral values which can be used for so many good causes. Education is as old as humanity. It would be better if we say Education is the best medicine for all types of all types of illness. We have to accept the fact that since last 8 centuries war and conflicts had increased despite if increasing literacy rate, technological invention, scientific discoveries and establishment of so many educational institutions all over the world. So what we need is right type of education through which youth can differentiate between right and wrong and perform only those actions which are beneficial for environmental sustainability. Sustainable education practices, such as environmental education and sustainability literacy, can promote awareness and understanding of sustainability issues among students and educators. It is a established fact that educating students about sustainability and climate change not only motivates, but also improves attitudes to learning and wellbeing, in turn advancing their academic and personal development.

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