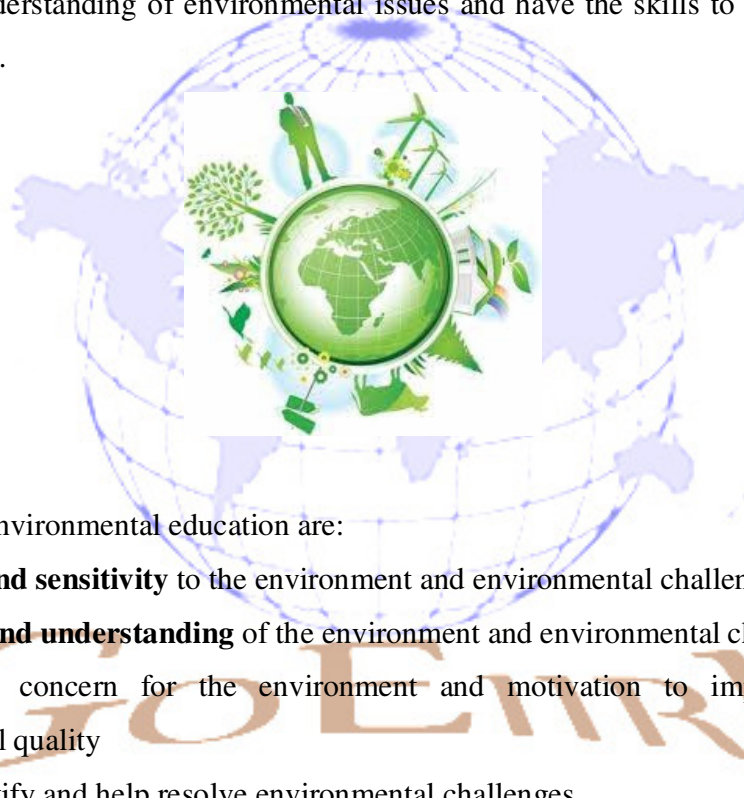


ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION FOR CLEAN INDIA ABHIYAN

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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 components of environmental education are:

- **Awareness and sensitivity** to the environment and environmental challenges
- **Knowledge and understanding** of the environment and environmental challenges
- **Attitudes** of concern for the environment and motivation to improve or maintain environmental quality
- **Skills** to identify and help resolve environmental challenges
- **Participation** in activities that lead to the resolution of environmental challenges

Environmental Education is More than Information about the Environment.

Environmental education (EE) refers to organized efforts to teach how natural environments function, and particularly, how human beings can manage behaviour and ecosystems to live sustainably. It is a multi-disciplinary field integrating disciplines such as biology, chemistry, physics, ecology, earth science, atmospheric science, mathematics, and geography. The term often implies education within the school system, from primary to post-secondary. However, it sometimes includes all efforts to educate the public and other audiences, including print materials, websites,

media campaigns, etc.

Environmental Education (EE) 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.

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. Successful 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.



Mahatma Gandhi communicated a quintessential message to the nation through his efforts to educate people around him about cleanliness. He wished to see a "Clean India" where people work hand in hand to make the country clean. To work seriously towards this vision of Gandhiji, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi - External website that opens in a new window launched the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan - External website that opens in a new window on October 2, 2014 and asked people from all walks of life to help in successful implementation of this mission.

The mission seeks to achieve the goal of Clean India in next five years so that the 150th birth anniversary of Bapu can be celebrated as an accomplishment of this duty. Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan - External website that opens in a new window exhorts people to devote 100 hours every year towards the cause of cleanliness. As many as nine public figures: Mridula Sinha, Sachin Tendulkar, Baba Ramdev, Shashi Tharoor, Anil Ambani, Kamal Hasan, Salman Khan, Priyanka Chopra and Team Tarak Mehta ka Oolta Chashma - have been invited by the PM to make a contribution towards Swachh Bharat, share the same on social media, and invite nine other people to do the same, hence

forming a chain.

A Clean and Green India

Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan - External website that opens in a new window is not just about cleaning surroundings but also seeking the participation of people in planting tree, creating trash-free environment, providing sanitation facilities and paving a way for Swachh Bharat eventually. A Clean India is of utmost importance for promoting the nation as an ideal destination for tourists from across the world. Images of unclean India often become a matter of embarrassment for Indians therefore this is the right time and opportunity to participate towards Swachh Bharat. This campaign will not only help citizens adopt good habits of cleanliness but also boost our image as a nation, sincerely working towards cleanliness.

Proper hygiene and cleanliness has the capability to change the global perception about India and may attract more tourists every year which in turn may increase economy of India to a great level. According to this campaign, every Indian citizen has been requested to devote their 100 hours only annually for cleanliness in India.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (English: Clean India Mission) is a national campaign by the Government of India, covering 4041 statutory towns, to clean the streets, roads and infrastructure of the country.

This campaign was officially launched on 2 October 2014 at Rajghat, New Delhi, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself cleaned the road. It was a remembrance to Gandhi's words. It is India's biggest ever cleanliness drive and 3 million government employees and school and college students of India participated in this event. The mission was started by Prime Minister Modi, who nominated nine famous personalities for the campaign, and they took up the challenge and nominated nine more people and so on (like the branching of a tree). It has been carried forward since then with people from all walks of life joining it.

Objectives

This campaign aims to accomplish the vision of a 'Clean India' by 2 October 2019, the 150th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. It is expected to cost over ₹ 62000 crore (US\$9.4 billion).[3][6]

Specific objectives are:

- Elimination of open defecation
- Conversion of unsanitary toilets to pour flush toilets (a type of pit latrine, usually connected to

two pits)

- Eradication of manual scavenging
- 100% collection and processing/disposal/reuse/recycling of municipal solid waste
- A behavioural change in people regarding healthy sanitation practices
- Generation of awareness among citizens about sanitation and its linkages with public health
- Supporting urban local bodies in designing, executing and operating waste disposal systems
- Facilitating private-sector participation in capital expenditure and operation and maintenance costs for sanitary facilities.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan: Clean India is responsibility of all 1.25 billion Indians, says PM Narendra Modi

Why Teach Environmental Education

As a student and most importantly an Indian citizen tomorrow's leaders need to be equipped for tomorrow's challenges, and we must adequately prepare our children for the future they will inherit. Environmental education (EE) is often lauded by educators as an ideal way to integrate academic disciplines, stimulate the academic and social growth of young people, and promote conservation of the natural environment. Just a few of EE's many benefits are listed below

Studying EE Creates Enthusiastic Students and Innovative Teacher-Leaders

In a world where it is increasingly challenging to get students interested in classroom lessons, EE offers an enriching way for both students and teachers to connect their appreciation of the natural world to academics.

EE Helps Build Critical Thinking and Relationship Skills

Environment-based education emphasizes specific critical thinking skills central to “good science”—questioning, investigating, forming hypotheses, interpreting data, analyzing, developing conclusions, and solving problems. These are the same skills fifth-grade students in Texas teacher Jane Weaver's class are learning as they use the local and regional prairie environment to learn about science, mathematics, history, social studies, and language arts.

The subject matter is standards-based, but students are learning it by tackling real-world projects as opposed to merely doing workbook exercises. For example, Weaver's students have restored a prairie and designed and built a bridge. As a result, students learned more than just the

immediate project skills: they developed their thinking and problem-solving abilities. They learned important life skills, such as cooperation and communication. And, as often happens in project-based learning, they found unique opportunities to build relationships.

EE Instructional Strategies Help Foster Leadership Qualities

Environmental education emphasizes cooperative learning (i.e., working in teams or with partners), critical thinking and discussion, hands-on activities, and a focus on action strategies with real-world applications. As a result, students who study EE develop and practice the following leadership skills:

- Working in teams
- Listening to and accepting diverse opinions
- Solving real-world problems
- Taking the long-term view
- Promoting actions that serve the larger good
- Connecting with the community
- Making a difference in the world

EE Makes Other School Subjects Rich and Relevant

Using outdoor settings like wetlands, schoolyard habitats, or even national parks can infuse a sense of richness and relevance into a traditional school curriculum.

EE Teaches Students to be Real-World Problem-Solvers

Students at the School of Environmental Studies in Apple Valley, Minnesota, attend high school on the Minnesota Zoo's grounds and have daily opportunities to hone their problem-solving skills. Environment is degrading at a much faster pace than our imagination. Most of this mess is caused by human activities. The damage is both at global and regional level. Depletion of ozone layer and increase in the emission of greenhouse gas are the examples of the damage at global level whereas groundwater pollution, soil erosion are some of the regional consequences of human activities and their impact on environment.

Therefore whatsoever wrong has been done by us must be rectified by us only. To protect and manage environment it is imperative to have a sound environmental education. It is a way to teach people and societies on how to use the present and future resources optimally. Through environmental education they can gain knowledge to handle the fundamental issues leading to local

pollution.

Environment is defined comprehensively to include all relationships between humans and all that impact upon them, and all that they impact (Caldwell L K 1993).

Why Environmental Education is necessary ?

Every country is putting efforts to integrate environmental concerns with education. According to these countries, EE should not only be a part of the education system but also the political system where actions, policies and plans can be formulated and executed at national level.

Environmental education must be able to assess environmental situation and the conditions leading to the damage of the environment. EE must target the routine and how simple changes in a daily life can make a huge difference to the environment.

Protecting environment is the responsibility of everyone, hence environmental education cannot be confined to one group or society. Every individual must be prepared for saving the environment. It must be a continuous and a lifelong process. Above that environmental education must be practical so that teachings can be implemented directly.

Conserving nature and environment will be much easier if children are taught about depleting resources, environmental pollution, land sliding and degradation and extinction of plants and animals. Education is a sort of investment that turns into a valuable asset over a period of time.

Universities in India focus on teaching, research and training. In more than 20 Universities, different colleges and institutes courses in Environmental Engineering, Conservation and Management, Environmental Health and Social Sciences are taught.

To promote environmental awareness across the Nation, the Centre for Environment Education (CEE) was established in August 1984 with a support from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. One of the tasks of the CEE is to put efforts to give due recognition to the role of environmental education. The CEE runs many Educational Programms in this regard.

Because of the societal shifts, today's children are busy playing indoor games and electronic gadgets. They spend most of their time in watching Television, listening to music, playing video games or surfing Internet or using Computer. They have no time to travel around and to explore the natural world around them. This not only impacts the health of children but also detach them from their surroundings and nature. They are grown up into adults who are least bothered about

conserving nature. Raising an environmentally educated generation is also necessary because of the depleting of natural resources.

Students must be encouraged to understand their surroundings and a framework for action plan must be formulated. EE is the need of the day. It must encourage social participation. Hence integrating environment education into a curriculum is a wise option to connect students with the nature right from their childhood.

