

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AT HIGHER LEVEL

Dr. Narendra M. Kadu,

Registrar , Savitribai Phule University of Pune, Pune.

And

Smt. Poonam B. Waghmare,

Adv.V.H.College of Education, Nashik.

Introduction :-

Student is a part of his environment. Due to his interaction with nature balance of nature have been disturb and environmental degeneration occurred. This might be because of environmental pollution or improper and unscientific exploitation of natural resources. It has posed a great problem to the existence of a human beings, plants and animal life on earth. So there is a need to increase awareness and understanding of those environments and human beings impact on them also to find out effective ways to manage them. In Kautilya's Arthashastra it was stated that the stability of an empire is dependent upon the stability of its environment. To achieve the above goal environmental education is the need of era.

Environment:-

The word Environment is derived from the French environner which means to encircle or surround.

The Encyclopedia Britannia

The entire range of external influence acting on an organism both physical and biological i.e other organism forces of nature surrounding an individual

The environmental protection act 1986 Sec.2

Environment includes water air and land , the inter relationship with exists among and water, air, land and human beings, other living creatures ,plants, micro organisms and property.

Environmental education :-

Environmental education is a process to promote the awareness and understanding of the environment , its relationship with human being and his activities its also aimed at developing responsible actions necessary for preservation, conservation and improvement of the environment and its components. It is the education about the environment, from the environment and for the environment. Education about the environment is acquired and understanding of the total

environment. Its learning from the environment when the environment is used as a vehicle for gathering concepts, knowledge and skills related to specific academic disciplines. The development of attitudes, skills and evaluation of abilities for the proper use and the development of the environment is education for the environment.

Environmental education is a style and subject matter education. style of education means using environment as a teaching learning aid and an approach to education subject matter means teaching about the components. Teaching for environment means controlling the environment, establishing proper ecological equilibrium and proper environmental planning.

In the International working meeting on Environment Education is the school curriculum held under the auspices of UNESCO in paris in 1970 as Environmental Education is the process of recognizing values and concepts in order to develop skills and attitudes necessary to understand and appreciate the interrelated among human beings, theirs culture and their biophysical surroundings. It also practices in decision making and self formulation of a code of conduct about issues concerning environment quality.

Indian Constitution and Policy:-

In the constitution of India it is stated that it is the duty of the state to protect and improve the environment . Reference to the environment has also been made in the directive principles of the state policy as well as the fundamental rights. The department of environment established in india in 1980 to ensure a healthy environment for the country. This later became the ministry of environment and forests in 1985. The constitutional provisions are backed by a number of laws, acts, rules and notifications.

Indian constitutional article 48A;

In the directive principles of state policy article 48A was inserted which enjoins the state to make endeavor for protection and improvement of the environment and for safeguarding the forest and wildlife of the country (42nd amendment w.e.f. 3rd jan 1997)

Indian constitution article 51A(G);

It shall be the duty of every citizen of Indian to protect and improve the natural environment including forest lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures. (42nd amendment w.e.f. 3rd jan 1997)

National policy on education (1986) emphasizes that: there is a paramount need to create a consciousness of the environment it must permeate all ages and all sections of society beginning with the child. Environmental consciousness should inform teaching in schools and colleges. This aspect will be integrated in the entire educational process. The ministry of environment and forest has been conducting a national environment awareness campaign since 1986 for creating environmental awareness at national level. Educational institutions and state government departments working in the field of environment and development for conducting various activities like seminars, workshops, camps, rallies, competitions, festivals etc. for environmental awareness. An environment council has also been set up under the chairmanship of the prime minister to advise the ministry of environment and forest on environment policy.

Objectives of Environmental Education:-

- 1] To help social groups and individuals acquire awareness of the environment and their problems.
- 2] To help social groups and individuals gain experience and acquire a basic understanding of environment and their problems.
- 3] To motivate social groups and individuals for actively participating in environmental improvement and protection.
- 4] To help social groups and individuals acquire skills for identifying and solving environmental problems.
- 5] to provide opportunity to social groups and individuals to participate actively towards solution of environmental problems.

Implementation:-

- 1] Environmental education should be closely linked with Indian constitution, policy and laws.
- 2] The environmental education should be so designed as to integrate the environmental concepts with existing course.
- 3] The university grant commission should give high priority in establishing courses in colleges and universities on environmental education.
- 4] The instructional materials on environmental education should be produced according to social needs. The textbooks and teaching aids should be developed to supplement instruction.
- 5] Trained teachers should be appointed.
- 6] Adequate funds should be provided UGC, State governments for effective implementation of

environmental education.

- 7] Every educated professional should voluntarily get involved in this program.
- 8] The government should establish the environmental research centers and takeover research projects on environmental problems.
- 9] Seminar conferences and workshops should be organized from time to time on environmental education.
- 10] A committee including students teachers and administrators should be appointed to establish and evaluate the environmental education program.

References :

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