

AWARENESS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

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Introduction

The need to spread environmental awareness is giant in the context of successfully addressing environmental problems. It is linked to environmental education.

On the one hand, provision of environmental education creates greater awareness in individuals and communities with respect to putting environmental resources to use even while conserving them. On the other hand, greater environmental awareness increases the scope of environmental education—as a discipline as well as inclusion of aspects of it within the scope of other disciplines.

Various media and means are used to spread environmental awareness among the student and people. The electronic media and the print media are the main mediums of distribution information about environment among the common people—educating them about environmental concerns and ways to address these. News, features, talk shows and discussions on television and radio are more and more focus on environmental themes of today.

Global warming, air and water pollution, overuse of fertilizers, the negative allusion of use of plastics and polythene, conservation of energy and fuel resources. Newspapers and magazines too are, one may say, more environment aware than ever before. Articles and analyses explore the environmental debacle that our globe is headed towards and create awareness in the student and common man about environmental problems.

Schools and colleges play an extremely major role in generating environmental awareness among student and the youth. Textbooks expose an increasing concern with environmental problems and solutions and several courses are available at the school and postgraduate level that provide environmental education connecting to running and protection of environment, environmental health, social ecology and so on. The issue of environmental education has been a major cause of concern. Several national and international seminars, conferences and workshops have stressed the need of environmental education.

The United Nations Conference on Human Environment at Stockholm in 1972 played a key role in the emergence of the United Nations Environment Programmed (UNEP). The UNESCO held

an International Workshop on Environmental Education (ICEE) at Belgrade, Yugoslavia in 1975 to identify the guiding principles of promoting environmental awareness education.

It was followed by the International Conference on Environmental Education at Tbilisi, USSR, in 1977 which formulated objectives and principles for developing environmental education at formal and non-formal levels.

The ICEE has been held at New Delhi in the past—in 1980 and in 1985. It was observed during these conferences that the need of the hour was to help create social consciousness and awareness about the harm caused by ecological disruptions.

Environmental education is concerned with those aspects of human behavior which are more directly related to man's interaction with bio-physical environment and his ability to understand this interaction.

One of the most glaring problems which the world faces today is the environmental pollution. man has exploited nature excessively at the cost of the environment. There is an immediate need to make people aware about environmental deprivation. Education and student participation may change and improve the quality of environment.

According to UNESCO, "Environmental education is a way of implementing the goals of environmental security. It is not a separate branch of science but lifelong interdisciplinary field of study." It means education towards protection and improvement of the environment and education as an tool of development for improving the quality of life of human communities.

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.

Objectives of Environmental Education:

The following are the objectives of environmental education:

1. Awareness among student :

To help the students and individuals to acquire knowledge of pollution and environmental degradation.

2. Acquire knowledge of the environment :

To help college and schools and individuals to acquire knowledge of the environment beyond the immediate environment including distant environment.

3. Attitudes:

To help college and schools and individuals to acquire a set of values for environmental protection.

4. Skills and Capacity Building:

To help college and schools and individuals to develop skills required for making discriminations in form, shape, sound, touch, habits and habitats. Further, to develop ability to draw unbiased inferences and conclusions.

5. Student Participation:

To provide college and schools and individuals with an opportunity to be actively involved at all levels in ecological decision making.

There are four areas of decision making:

- (a) The types of environmental issues on which decisions might be made;
- (b) The physical setting of the prospective environmental decision, including its spatial scale;
- (c) The types of social groups and individuals who might interact in a process leading up to an environmental decision; and
- (d) The time frame within which the decision must be made.

Conclusion :

1. college and schools should help the students and individuals to acquire knowledge of pollution and environmental degradation.
2. college and schools should help students and individuals to acquire knowledge of the environment beyond the immediate environment including distant environment.
3. college and schools should help students and individuals to acquire a set of values for environmental protection.
4. college and schools help students and individuals to develop skills required for making discriminations in form, shape, sound, touch, habits and habitats. Further, to develop ability to draw unbiased inferences and conclusions
5. college and schools provide students and individuals with an opportunity to be actively involved at all levels in environmental decision making.

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