



## INDISPENSABLE AND RESPONSIBLE ROLE OF EDUCATION IN GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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### ABSTRACT

Now a days the word environment is often being used by almost all people around us, on television and in newspapers. Everyone is speaking about the protection of environment. Global summits are being held regularly to discuss environmental issues. During the last hundred years, the mutual relationship among environment, social organization and culture has been discussed in sociology, anthropology and geography. All this shows the increasing importance of environment. Besides, it is a fact that life is tied with the environment. Social sciences have borrowed the concept of ecology from biology. The present paper identifies the indispensable and responsible environmental behavior , socio-economic status and locus of control and scientific attitude with regards to environment and environmental education.

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### INTRODUCTION

Environment refers to the sum total of conditions which surround man at a given point in space and time. In the beginning, the environment of early man consisted of only physical aspects of the planet earth (land, air and water) and biological communities, but with the march of time and advancement of society, man extended his environment through his social, economic and political functions.

Environment consists of various types of forces like physical, intellectual, social, moral, economic, political, cultural and emotional forces. Environment is the aggregate of all the external forces, influences and conditions, which affect the life, nature, behavior and the growth, development and maturation of living organism, a favorable environment caters to the development of native abilities of child.

The word 'ENVIRONMENT' is used for the surroundings, whatever exists around the living beings, above as well as on the surface of the earth.. We must know what environment is? And why it needs our attention? Environment is a surrounding or condition which influences development or growth, which includes all living and non – living things; air, water, soil, vegetation, flora and fauna. On the other hand there are two terms namely ecology and ecosystem, which are to be acquainted with in this context.

Responsible Environmental Behavior is a measure to know that how far a person is prepared to take an active part in protecting the environment. All individuals' knowledge of environmental concepts does not guarantee that individual will adopt environmentally responsible behavior. An individual possessing more knowledge on environment would be more aware and would thus adopt a more favorable attitude. The degree of environmental awareness and attitude may determine an individual' behavior, i.e., actions which contribute towards environmental preservation and conservation.

Concept of Ecology:



Ecology is a new science which deals with the various principles which govern the relationship and interdependence between the organisms and their environment. The Ecology has been defined as the study of structure and function of Ecosystem. The science of Ecology concerns with all phases of development and helps in the process of development. Ecology is an interdisciplinary discipline and it includes not only the life science but also chemistry, mathematics, statistics, sociology, climatology, hydrology etc. It is a science of environment which study about the change and development of the nature. Ecology is the study of the total relation of the animals, both to its organic environment including those animals and plants with which it comes directly or indirectly in the contact. In essence ecology is the study of ecosystem.

#### Concept of Ecosystem:

The term Ecosystem is most preferred in Ecology, where eco implies the environment and system implies an interacting, inter dependent complex. The ecosystem is the study of any unit of ecology within given space and time unit. It is a functional aspect of ecology which includes interacting system composed of living organism and their effect on one another. It deals with a system of environment and as an important ecological unit.

**Ecosystem:** An ecosystem is a small system of nature embracing the community of living things plus the physical environment. The basic and most important concept of an ecosystem is that everything is somehow related to everything else in nature. Major types of ecosystems are the seas, seashores, fresh water system, deserts, grassland and forests

**Stability of Ecosystem:** The stability of ecosystem refers to balance between production and consumption of each element in the ecosystem. In other words, Ecosystem stability means balance between input and output of energy and normal functioning .This is self-regulating mechanism with the system, and the system returns to stability.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The term environmental education is made of two term ‘environment’ and education. Environment is defined as “The sum total of all conditions and inflames affecting the life and development of organisms”. Education is “Forming desirable attitude, values, skills, understanding and interest about the environment so as to preserve it and improve it for survival of the present and future mankind”. Environmental Education is inter-disciplinary in nature. It involves subject matter from sciences and social sciences. It focuses on topics such as water, air, noise, land / soil, thermal, nuclear pollution, natural resources which out across the various subject matter disciplines. Environmental Education recreates overall perspectives which acknowledges the facts that natural environment and man made environment are profoundly interdependent and links the acts of today to the consequences for tomorrow. It demonstrates the economic, political and ecological interdependence among national communities and the need for solidarity among all mankind. It also provides foundation for a new international order which will guarantee the conservation and improvement of the environment.

The goal of environmental education is to PRODUCE ACTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL – ORIENTED CITIZEN. Active describes an individual who is personally involved in decisions and practices regarding man’s interaction with his environment. Environmental oriented citizen describes an individual whose values and attitude are sympathetic to responsible use and management of the earth’s resources. Citizens



must be able to make decisions on environmental problems by using the most current and accurate information from the natural and social sciences.

The difficulty of choosing specific targets for environmental education at educational organizations will be reduced if there is a well developed informal environmental education system accessible to adults too, especially if it impinges upon most of the population. The basic premises of environmental education are those problems caused by industrialization and technological development in recent days and are pressing and requiring urgent solutions.

Environmental issues have a two fold place in mass education. Firstly, they can present problems that need solutions developed by educated people. Secondly they can be used as relevant and immediate examples in the teaching of much basic adult education such as literacy, health, welfare and competence, obviously following an androgenic approach.

The demand for solutions can be best fulfilled when such education will lead to following specific objectives :

- 1 Integration of knowledge, skill and attitude in all pertinent dimensions of learning, mostly related to public health.
- 2 Development of a sense of hygiene.
- 3 Development of environmentally aware, literature, skilled and participative citizens.
- 4 Preparation of expert groups, qualified to deal with specific environmental problems.

#### CONCLUSION :

The role of education in achieving the goals of environmental education is quite dispensable. Though the task in countries like own is mostly performed by the non-formal sector and media (both electronic as well as print) even today, however, time has come to integrate it with all possible levels of formal education. It has been realized by the planners and educationists that the prime task of integrating environmental education is best possible if the mass awareness can be created.

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