

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT****Sanjay J. Nimbalkar**

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Abstract

Earth is the only planet in this universe which has been gifted with life supporting elements. In the modern era development is more inclined towards industrialization and technology. Due to more population and urbanization forests are disappearing at rapid pace, the evil effect of industrialization and deforestation for human activities are now apparent. The wounds inflicted on the environment are so severe that nature has started sending us warning signals in the form of drought, floods, tsunamis, and change in climate pattern. The survival not only of human being but of entire planet is at stake. The present generation is mindlessly pursuing its needs without thinking for the future generation to come. Therefore to achieve the goal of sustainable development the citizens must be empowered with essential knowledge, sensitivity through environmental education. The author feels that it is need of hour to introduce the different measures like, use of 3-R, 3-A and interdisciplinary approach of environmental education, and undertake research for education for sustainable development. The present paper examine the need of environmental education and suggest the measures for sustainable development to be undertake at every level of education.

Key Words: Environment Education , sustainable development**INTRODUCTION**

We live on a giant ball of rock spinning round the sun, which we call The Earth. Earth is one of the planets in solar system and out of the four made of rock. However Earth is

unique, because it is the only planet in solar system and perhaps each in universe that can support life .Man is integral part of these earths Physical and biological world in which he lives. All the physical and biological aspects of human survival involve some kind of interaction with his environment ,as no living thing exist in isolation, such interaction is not only essential but also unavoidable for satisfaction of human needs, which are based for existence. If we utilize our environment and natural resources for satisfaction of our basic needs there is nothing wrong in it, but unfortunately man has exploited nature almost to the point of no returns, for satisfaction of his greed, being unable to distinguish between utilization and exploitation of natural resources man has endangered his own existence.

In the modern era development is more inclined towards industrialization and technology. The environment and development has not been keeping pace with each other, with such development human dependence on environment increased, he consumed more resources and effect of his action more visible on the environment, Due to more population and urbanization forests are disappearing at rapid pace, The evil effect of industrialization and deforestation for human activities are now apparent. The wounds inflicted on the environment are so severe that nature has started sending us warning signals in the form of drought, floods, tsunamis, and change in climate pattern. The survival not only of human being but of entire planet is at stake.

Immediate steps are needed to save the environment to overcome the environment problem it is necessary to make the people aware about its consequence. For achieving the goals of sustainable development it is necessary to increase the awareness of the importance of environmental protection, develop environment friendly attitude for this Environment Education will play a vital role.

What is Environment Education?

- Environment Education is a learning process that increases knowledge and awareness about the environment and develops the skills that enable responsible decisions and action that impact the environment.
- Environment Education is a process of providing learning experiences to obtain knowledge, understanding, skills with desirable attitudinal changes about mans relationship with his natural and man made surroundings. This includes relation of population pollutions and resource allocation, technology to the total human environment.
- Environment Education is a way of implementing the goal of environment protection.

Education for Sustainable Development:-

Education has made many valuable contribution to development globally and is recognized for playing important role in improving livelihoods worldwide. Quality education should prepare individuals to actively participate in global politics and Economics, as well as provide people with the skills necessary to make decisions and take

responsible action. Hence education is recognized as a key component of sustainable development.

Sustainable development is one of the major goals of environment education that has become a vital part of education at all levels. Constitutions also say to take measures to protect and improve the environment and safeguard the forest and wildlife (Article 48A, 51G) environment belongs to each one of us. We have to take responsibility towards its conservation and protection, development takes with the help of environment, when we talk about development it should be sustainable and ethical.

Sustainable Development:-

The world commission on environment and Development (WECD 1987) better known as the Brundland Commission describes, Sustainable development as “Meet the need of present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs”.

Environment Education contributes to sustainable development efforts by demonstrating ways to promote informed decision making and teach the benefits of linking conservation and economic development. Environmental Education has identified key strategies for sustainable development.

Measures for Education for Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is possible in different ways

Introducing 3A:-

Through Environment Education 3A's- Awareness Attitude and Action should be develop among individuals

Awareness: - To protection and conservation of environment individual should acquire an awareness of and sensitivity to the total environment and its allied problem.

Attitude: - Education should help individual to develop environment friendly attitude among students, also he should develop set of values and feelings for the environment and motivation for participating in environmental improvement and protection.

Action: - Education should provide opportunity to actively involve at all levels of working towards the resolution of environmental problem. Thus development of 3A's ultimately leads towards sustainable development.

By Using 3-R Approach

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle is necessary for sustainable development.

The 3-R Approach advocating minimization of use of natural resources, Using them again and again instead of passing it on to waist stream and recycling the material goes a long way in achieving the goals of sustainability.

Interdisciplinary Approach:

Environment Education should be interdisciplinary in approach. In interdisciplinary model relevant component of every discipline are use to teach the concepts in environmental education, bringing different perspective through the interrelationship between science, social science and mathematics. An activity oriented approach to teaching and learning is most suited to the integration of subjects with environmental issue through project.

Capacity Building Programme.

For sustainable development trained nature activists are important. So to create effective nature activists, organize capacity building programme. These activist will impart training on effective communication, conflict resolution, local resource mobilization, environmental conservation, capacity to handling in extreme difficult situation, beside this they will organize some camps for developmental and learn environmental issue.

Developing Environmental friendly life style.

Traditionally Indian culture promotes the environment friendly life style, every activity was in relation to nature, all traditions and festivals are celebrated in harmony with nature. India has developed a brilliant tradition of the prudent use and wise conservation of all environmental resources useful to mankind. Every generation has considered itself to be trustee of the resources of Mother nature for its generation next.

Undertaking Research

Lack of basic information regarding the state of resources capacity of regeneration, This difficulty could be overcome only by developing research, that can reveal two main aspects- namely to determine the exact carrying capacity of ecosystem and their potential. Research is the only way we can know what and how an ecosystem can produce, what and how can draw from it without damaging reserves, how to manage it as better possible to produce more.

New paradigm of Education

Transformative role of education in which people engaged in new ways of seeing thinking learning and working.

- Learning rather than teaching
- Lifelong and continues learning rather than confined to specific period
- Global and yet locale specific
- Participatory and project based learning with peers.

From above we can conclude that The planet Earth is in danger to save it environmental education is necessary .if we undertake good measures like use of 3-R, different approaches, research related to environment education .Then there is hope that the future generation pays attention towards the warning signal given by environment and will act to save the Mother Earth. .

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