



## Teacher's Role in Environmental Education

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### Abstract

*In this article, an attempt has been made to focus on environment, environmental education, its need, role of teacher in improving the environment and general suggestions for improving the environment. In the present era, everywhere is pollution to see. Due to polluted environment, various diseases are taking places. No doubt, state and centre both governments are taking steps to control the pollution, but it is not coming under the control. It's very serious problem and danger not only to a single country but the whole world. Governments are taking steps to control it and introducing the environment education in the national curriculum. However, it is need of the hour to introduce in national curriculum as compulsory subject not optional at all levels of education.*

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### Introduction

In this topic, an attempt has been made to focus on the Environmental Education. Catering to the needs of Advancement of service and technological development; human beings are trying to manipulate the environment. In doing so, they have caused climatic imbalance and a number of climatic problems like global warming, rise in sea level, effects on species distribution, effects on food production, depletion of ozone and green house effects. There is great impact on changing human behaviour. Human Existence is in danger, only Environmental Education can play an active role to educate the population to protect the human existence, positive change in behaviour, better livelihood and adjust with the changing environment.

To cater the needs of huge population and due to the inventions of science and technological advancement, human beings are trying to manipulate the environment. In doing so, they have caused climatic imbalance and a number of climatic problems like biomass, burning associated with agricultural practice, releasing large amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. Increase of a number of vehicles on roads and use of aerosols and others substances CFC and methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) nitrous (N<sub>2</sub>O) and CFC<sub>s</sub> to lower atmosphere.

Man is making his life comfortable and luxurious He is destroying his own environment day by day. He has established industries, internal caring for air and water pollution caused by the indiscriminate discharge of wastes and land erosion caused by deforestation. As a result, there is pollution and crises everywhere.

Environment pollution is major problem of the world because of the earth's own ability to absorb and purify minor quantities of pollutions. The industrialization of the society, the introduction of motorized vehicles, and the explosion of human population; however, have caused an exponential growth in the production of goods and services. Coupled with the growth there has been tremendous increase in wastes in to waterways, the spewing of thousands of tones of particulates and air born gases into the atmosphere, 'the throwaway' attitude towards solid wastes and the use of newly developed chemic without considering the consequences have resulted into major, environment disaster. Science and technology has begun to solve some awareness of the extent of pollution. It may eventually force government to undertake more effective environmental force and to undertake more effective environmental planning and adopt more



effective antipollution measures than those currently use.

Everyone wants to reduce pollution, but the pollution is as complicated. It is complicated because things that benefit the people cause much pollution. For example, exhausts from automobiles provides a large percentage of air pollution. Factories discharge much of the material that pollutes air and water, but factories provide jobs to the people and produce the goods that people want. Too much fertilizers and pesticides can ruin soil, but fertilizers and pesticides are important for the growth of crops. Now the time has come, when we should be careful. Man has to improve the environment for survival and welfare of his species. He should develop the sense to save the environment from the population by the environmental education.

Opinion of Douglas and Holland, "Environment is a word which describes, in a aggregate, all the external forces, influences and conditions which effect the life, nature, behavior, growth and development and maturation of living organism."

Albert Einstein states "Environment is anything that is not me" simply we can say that, Environment covers all the outside factors that have acted on the individual since he began life. It is of two types— natural environment related to nature and social environment related to society.

View of Wood Worth "Environment covers all the outside factors that have acted on the individual since and he began life. The environment is everything that affects the individual except his genes".

#### Environmental Education

The united state environmental Education Act (1970). "The term environmental education means the educational process dealing with man in relationship with his natural and manmade surroundings, and includes the relation of population, pollution, resource allocation and depletion, conservation, transportation, technology and urban and run planning to the total human environment"

Finish National Commission for UNESCO, report of the seminar on Environmental Education, Jammi, Finland 1974, states "Environmental Education is a way of implementing the goods of environmental protection. Environmental Education is not a separate branch of science or subject of the study. It should be carried out according to the principle of life-long integral education.

Environmental Education means education about the various aspects of nature and their importance in life of man. In the simple words we can say that environmental education is education, about the environment, from the environment, through the environment and for the environment.

#### Need of Environmental Education

Population is increasing day by day. rapid population growth in India causes untold self learning and all related hazards. It causes pollution and resources like air, water etc. reduce the quality of life of man. It causes resource scare. Due to these reasons, Environment Education is the need of hour for facing the challenges. We can focus on other aspects of need and importance of Environmental Education.

**1 To develop Different skills:** - Environmental Education is only the weapon, which can develop the different skills among the people to face the challenges of Environmental hazards.

**2 Development of Positive Attitude:-** Environmental Education plays an important role to develop positive attitude towards soil, water, trees and air, Human beings always need to save the environment, but it is not possible without positive attitude and it is possible only through environmental education.

**3 To aware and control over the pollution:** - Air, water, noise and soil pollutions are increasing day by day every type of pollution is very dangerous/harmful for several animals. To aware the public and control over the pollutions is very necessary. It is possible only through Environmental Education.

**4 Need for development of Awareness:** The development of Awareness of environment among the public is very urgent need. To do so, environmental Education should be given/importance. It should be



made compulsory at all levels and even at world level. For this different methods and syllabus should be prepared and included in the curriculum. Various types of projects should be carried on at all levels so that students and other members of the society should be aware of environment and pollution.

**5 For Balanced industrial development:** - Due to the industrial development, imbalance of the environments is increasing. There is only one cry of pollution. Due to the smoke of the industries chambers, various diseases are taking place. To teach a lesson of healthy environment to the public is possible only through the Environment Education.

**6 To control over pollution:** - Human activities are producing the pollution. To stop the population growth is a challenge not only for one country but for the whole world. Environmental Education can help to save the environment and stop the population growth.

**7 To encourage the exchange of research and information:** - Environmental education can increase the field of research and information regarding the environment and environmental problems. By doing research and on the basis of findings, environmental problems may be solved.

**8 Participation:** - To find control over the pollution, population and environmental problems, participation of every citizen of the country as well as the world is very necessary, but it is not possible without the education, Environment education may ensure the participation of every citizen by importing education of environment.

**9 Natural life:** - People are leading artificial life. They are away from the natural life. Natural resources are ending. Each and every thing is polluted. Natural life of human being means healthy life But due to different types of pollution life span is decreasing. Only environment education can help us to lead a natural life. We should educate the people and help them understanding the importance of environment.

**10 Development of Knowledge:** - Development of knowledge is not possible without education. Environmental education can provide the knowledge to students as well as the members of the society for the better living.

**11 Proper use of natural Resources:** - Proper use of the Natural Resources is not

possible without proper education. It has been observed that there is exploitation of natural resources. Environmental education can help us to proper use of natural resources and conservation.

**12 Food and Nutrition:** - Without environmental education students cannot understand the value of food, nutritive value of food, balanced diet, proper production and supply of food. Environmental education focuses on their issues and helps to understand.

**13 Role of environmental Education in improving Environment:** - Environmental Education can play an active role to educate the people for ecology and environmental balances. These are following suggestions for improving the environment for better living for social beings as well as animals.

**1 Positive Attitude:-** Environmental Education should motivate the people to work towards solving the problems of Bio-Physical environment and serve to inform them as to how they can play an effective role in achieving a pollution free environment. It should provide a body of information that will lead to the understanding of the total bio-physical environment and develop an emotional Commitment for environment quality. A positive attitude towards environment should develop among the people.

**2 Population Control:** - Population is increasing day by day. There is scarcity of electricity food, shelter, clothes and other things due to population growth. We must adopt birth control measures, if we want to preserve the world.

**3 Ecology:** - Ecology means the study of plants or animals or people and institutions in relation to environment in which they live. Therefore, Ecology should be considered as a part of teacher education. It should be included in the curriculum.

**4 Lectures, debates and seminars:** - We cannot ignore citizens of tomorrow. We should organize seminars, lectures and debates in educational disaster.

**5 Chipko Movement:** - We should give the full support and try to join the movements like CHIPKO. We should not make the



ridicule of these movements. We should start other movements like CHIPKO against indiscriminating felling of trees.

**6 Create more agencies:** - We should work for ecological balances by creating more agencies and set up proper plan against this malady. Government should take the full initiatives to do so.

**7 Publicity:-** The care and preservation of environment should be made a movement of the people. Newspapers should carry articles and suggestions concerning improving the environment. For maintaining the ecological balances, documentaries should be shown to make people aware. Talks and discussions on the environmental education should be broadcast Television and Radio, should be utilized for this purpose.

**8 Research in Ecology:** - It is very necessary to know about the environment imbalance, the problem and its solution is not possible without the research. Therefore, the research should be encouraged in the field of environmental imbalance and ecology.

**9 Environmental Studies:** - Environmental Studies should be made a compulsory subject in the college at all levels. The Syllabus prepared by NCERT should be given top priority in every scheme on environmental education.

**10 Legislation:** - The legislation should be suitably commended and enforced. Our environmental legislation does not include the issues of preventing air and noise pollution, over exploitation of natural resources, controlling the impact of mining on environment, a provision for taking over the treatment of industrial effluents by the government and preservation of landscapes of special significance.

**11 Create more jobs:-** The existing programme of Government should be improved for the people who encroach upon the forest areas and hills. We should engage them in the jobs like a forestation and conservation etc. as providing alternative jobs to them. An attractive and

comprehensive programme of plantation should be undertaken by government of India.

**12 Values development:** - Values should be developed among the people by education. We should give up the selfishness and other corrupt practices and think in terms of ecological problems.

**13 Government Loan:** - Government should give loans to setup new factories and introduce modern protective devices against pollution.

### Role Of Teacher

Education can play active role in improving the environment. In the education system teacher can play a major role to convince the society to adopt the urgency of environmental education. He can convince the people of society in the following manners.

**1 Articles:-** The teacher should write articles on pollution and its solution for central and other aspects of environmental education. He should encourage the students to write the articles on the aspects of environmental education.

**2 Public lectures:-** Teacher should deliver the lectures on the different aspects of the environmental Education in front of the groups of the society.

**3 Awareness:-** The teacher should aware the public about the environmental education, its needs and importance over the pollution. He can convince the society about the urgency of environmental education.

**4 Skits and dramas:-** The teacher should organize the various types of skits and dramas on the various aspects of environmental education at school and college levels.

**5 Movements for improvement:-** The teachers should start various movements to save the environments. They should start planting in the college, school and universities. They should start cleanliness movement to clean the institutions campus or even society areas.

**6 Literature:** - Teacher should produce the literature related to environment for the schools colleges and universities libraries, to increase the knowledge of the students.

**7 Films and video cassettes:** - Some films and video cassettes showing land being



converted into *bastis*, Agricultural polluting land, ruthless felling trees, noise, water and air pollution, waste water polluting rivers and their prevention should be shown to the students and members of the society.

**8 Environment Pollutants:** - The teachers should impart the knowledge to the students and other members of the society about environmental pollutants and techniques of preventing pollution.

**9 Educational Tour:-** Teacher should organize educational tours to slums areas, thick forests areas, flora and fauna and places of heavy rush, so that students witness the environmental conditions and also neat and clean environment, take note of ecological problems and realize its impact on humanity and smoke polluting the environment.

**10 Declamation contests:-** Declamation contests should be organized by teachers, on various aspects of environmental education.

**11 Curriculum:-** Environmental education should be included in the curriculum of school college and university level as a compulsory subject.

**12 Contact with environmental study related institutions:-** The teachers should contact other environment study institutions to get the information pertaining to pollution and improving, e.g. Bombay central public health engineering, Bombay-The ministry of Environment and forests, Delhi-The ministry of Environment and forests etc.

**13 Co-Curricular activities:-** The teacher should organize various types of co-curricular activities to present environmental education like NSS, gardening, seminar, extension lectures, exhibitions, community cooking etc. for the purpose of understanding pollution free environment.

**14 Art campaigns:** - The teachers should organize the art campaigns in the colleges schools and university levels on the environmental education. The teachers should make the posters on the pollutions and encourage the students also to bring out posters on the environment imbalances.

### Suggestions

The following suggestions for the public and Governments :

1 Steps to be taken for the conservation of biodiversity.

2 To develop audio-visual aids, interactive exhibits, permanent and temporary

exhibitions, school loan kits etc to promote environmental education.

3 National environment fund planned and set up for saving the environment

4 To develop the museum in the country's capital to achieve the highest level of quality to promote environmental education.

5 Seminars, workshops, paper reading contests, declamation contests should be conducted to aware the people about environment

6 There should be a 'Punishment' under Govt. acts that the person who breaks the rules and regulations and play havoc in destroying the environment should be punished.

7 A worldwide programme should be conducted for the study of environment with respect to its productivity and its conservation.

8 Environmental surveillance squad must be established for checking industrial pollution

9 All the wastes should be segregated, treated and disposals regulated under biomedical wastes rules 1988

10 In the schools, environment awareness should be included in the school curriculum. It should be conducted from the primary classes. The interesting textbooks should be there, which consist of pictures of pollution and environment.

11 Drive less in general avoid making multiple trips to run errands.

12 Keep a mug handy at work, so you do not have to make use paper cups to drink water.

13 Use biodegradation garbage disposal bags that is now available in most big supermarkets to get rid of your garbage every day.

14 Take the train instead of a plane where possible, especially on vacation. Avoid driving cars over long distances. Trains are safer, more fun, and are the greenest long distance transportation mode.

15 Avoid using air-conditioning at home. Discover air coolers, eco-friendly alternatives that cool rooms using water and consume 1/20<sup>th</sup> the power of a conventional



A.C. New state-of-the-art models being manufactured by Indian electrical companies are as efficient as ACs at providing relief from scorching summer temperatures.

16 Do not use plastic bags at supermarkets; carry your own canvas, linen, paper or jute bags. Buy a handful of such bags and keep them in your car at all times

17 Drive the most fuel different car on the market or better still, a hybrid or an electric car. Luxury cars and SUVs are killing people and the planet.

18 Use low energy CFL/LED light bulbs that last longer, burn brighter and consume up to six less energy than conventional, incandescent light bulbs.

19 Turn your computer off, when you are done using it for the day.

20 Buy recycled paper for personal and office use. Read newspapers and magazines that are printed on recycled paper. Use recycled toilet paper.

21 Consider using stairs instead of escalators and elevators, it is good for health

22 Find ways to cut out noise, air, water and radiation pollution where possible

23 conserve water by bathing with a bucket or two of water instead of standing under a shower

24 Plant-trees Find every empty square area of public property in residential areas and plant trees.

25 Buy locally-produced organic food.

26 Construct green buildings.

## Conclusions

Cater to the needs of advancement of science and technological development; human beings are trying to manipulate the environment. Imbalance of the Nature is increasing day by day. Human existence is in danger, it is need of the hour to save the environment. It is not possible without proper environmental education. Environmental Education can solve the problem of imbalance of the nature. No doubt, Governments both of states and the centre are trying to launch various programmes to save the environment; ban on the plastic is example for us. It is not India's problem; it is

global problem; We should all join hands to uproot this problem. We should co-operate the Government to frame the policies and make programmes and implement them. We should support environmental education and educate the people regarding environment and its problems.

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