

STUDIES ON AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN OUR SURROUNDING LOCALITY

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Abstract- Environmental problems have tremendously increased at the global, regional and local levels during the last few decades because environment is being abused beyond its capacity by human beings. Issues related to environmental problems have become a major concern for the international community particularly for educational policy makers and curriculum developers. Several measures and strategies have been considered to intervene. Among these is the use of school curriculum by the teachers to create public awareness on the need for environmental preservation and protection.

KEYWORD: - Environmental awareness and environmental issues.

I. INTRODUCTION-

Environmental issues are the result of harmful effects of human activities on the biophysical environment. Social and environmental movements can address the environmental issues through advocacy and activism. The carbon dioxide equivalent of greenhouse gases (CHG) in atmosphere has already exceeded 400 parts per million (NOAA) (with total “long term” CH₄ exceeding 455 parts per million) (intergovernmental panel on climate change report). The amount of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere is already above the threshold (Tipping Point) that can potentially cause dangerous climatic changes. “We are already at risk of many areas of pollution. It’s not next decade, it’s now.”-report from the UN office for the coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Major environmental issues include climate changes, pollution, environmental degradation and resources depletion. The conservation movement lobbies for the protection of endangered species and protection

of any ecologically valuable natural areas, genetically modified foods and global warming.

The nature has always given a lot to the human beings, but very rarely the people had responded to the nature in the way they were actually supposed to reciprocate. Human beings have always been known for being the superior one compared to the nature because of their thinking ability. But then one should not forget that the relationship between men and nature is interdependent. There are some people who have a very strong intellect and they do feel like doing their bit for nature. But the problem with them is that they feel they are alone in this self-initiated go green campaign. As a result, they land nowhere in this long struggle and give up.

Types

The major problems in our local environment are abandoned vehicles, air pollution, Stray animal’s nuisance, flooded sewers, litter, mobile phone masks, noise, pest control, traffic management and parking, waste disposal, etc. Environment problems can further be classified as local or regional on the basis of the area which they are affecting. A District place in Madhya Pradesh Rewa is facing water shortage. This problem is not facing by any other state or country then it is a local environmental issue. The earlier environmental problems caused by people were local in nature. Many of today’s environmental problems are also local, where “local” may refer to a municipal jurisdiction, a neighbourhood or ever a specific property, such as dump or industrial site. Air, water and soil pollution are all examples of local environmental problems.

Reduced habitat caused by urbanization or industrial activities, perhaps even leading to extinction of endemic species, other examples are local deforestation, soil erosion or loss of soil fertility due to industrial agriculture. Many local environmental

problems may create a nuisance, but this does not mean they are sustainable scale problem.

A local environmental problem becomes a sustainable scale problem if:-

1. A local nonrenewable resource is being used
2. A local renewable resource or sink is being used faster than it can be renewed.

Local environmental problems

Local environmental problems are as old as man. In pre-agricultural times, if a local site was hunted or finished out the clan could move to other site with more resources. In the past, the nomadic lifestyle meant moving on to another site was "normal". Today, moving entire communities and abandoning a buildup infrastructure is virtually sites to move to. Relying on trade to move resources or bio capacity or even waste is more likely than moving people. Flow to raise environmental awareness Green blog you can make a green blog on any free blogging platform like blogger or Word Press to simply communicate to community what they need to do for the proper maintenance of cleanliness in their area.

Social media

We need to create a page or group on any popular social media account with a name that reflects the area where you live and you just have to basic all your neighbours and other people living in your area to be the member of that group. From that group you can share your environmental concerns with them and can motivate them to make collective efforts for the improvement of your local environments.

Green club

If you have more time you can establish a community based green club to interact in free time to discuss the environmental issues of your area and to make them act together for the green club. For this purpose you need not to get registration of your club. You just need to write on a plain paper the name and objectives of your club to distribute it among community members.

Women forum

The societies where earning livelihood of the family is the job of men folk and this women live in homes as housewives the option of women forums can bring best results to raise environmental awareness in community to solve the environmental problems o your area on self-help basis. If women folk has to stay at home they have usually free time to campaign for the environmental care of their area and can solve their green issues on self-help basis.

Religions podium

The societies where religion dominates, the religion podium of either church or mosque can also be a good platform to bring community there and discuss with them the issues of surrounding environment. Here religious leader of the community can also play leading role to thrice all people together for the enhancement of environmental awareness and resolution of green issues.

Environmental problems, and our perceptions of their current and future health effects, have changed over the decades. About 20-40 years back, public health was most concerned about localised environmental degradation as exemplified by air and water pollution. Although it was often difficult to measure the direct health effects, the paradigm of health effects, and the paradigm by public health effects, the paradigm of health worked reasonably well to cope with these problems.

As a result, some of the localised environmental problems of the 20th century have been solved at least in the richer part of the world. A better understanding by the (potential) health effects of global environmental change is only just emerging, partly based on observation of current exposure health outcome association, partly based in scenario analysis, and in both cases surrounded by considerable uncertainty. These health effects are mediated by number of casual pathway, of which the most important probably are her waves and other extreme weather events, changes in the spread of microorganism, change in biological productivity of land and water and pollution of air and water. Here are the most effective ways in which one can develop environmental concerns in their area.

Start a tree campaign

This is the simplest method to develop environmental concern. When you start a tree campaign, there is no body who is going to stop you. This is because somewhere down the line the people do know the fact that tree campaign are meant for the good of nature and is a good thing. You can propagate or popularise your campaign through small brochures or bill bonds.

Car pooling

When you live in a society, you can always try carpooling to create awareness among others. When to or more people have to go to the same area for work, they can always go in one vehicle.

Waste management

The generation of waste is one of the most worrying issues for the nature. This issue can be very well used for spreading the awareness among the people. Waste has to be managed well in order to minimize the adverse effects that it causes. You can create awareness about waste management by getting a few disposable bins installed in our society.

General public awareness

It is one of the best methods to instigate your apprehension over the environment with the help of other people in our locality a few street plays depicting the environmental problems, their causes and the remedies is always an effective idea. Peoples are too busy with their day to day schedules and it is our responsibility and duty, as responsible citizens to teach them small awareness lessons that can help the environmental raise a small group of people comprising of your friend and relative fir this purpose. Prepare small brochure and give it to the people walking in your main roads. There are sponsors who are ready to provide you with the necessary monitory benefits to do such public awareness programs.

From the above discussion the following suggestions emerge:

- a. The problem of environment abuse is a serious one and needs to be addressed at the local, national and international levels. To achieve a good quality of life on earth for all living beings, it is essential to spread awareness about and educate humankind for sustainable development and environmental problems.
- b. Teachers are potential change agents and are capable of generating a workforce of enlightened, skilled and motivated learners. They can empower the citizens with the ability attitude and values to protect the environment using formal and non-formal channels of education. It is essential that teachers themselves need to be trained and equipped with the requisite knowledge skills and values to effect such a change.
- c. Universities and schools have to play an important role to translate the objectives and recommendations of the various commissions and committees into practice for achieving environmental literacy and awareness among learners (Kumar, 1986). Research activities in the field of environmental education may be enhanced by providing attractive incentives.
- d. Environmental Education should be introduced as a voluntary, extra-curricular activity to arouse the interest and awareness of students.
- e. Technological interventions and mass media should be employed to create environmental awareness among the teaching community. A convergence of the conventional and open and distance learning systems should be employed to meet this challenge.
- f. There is a need to train teachers in additional competencies regarding environment education (UNESCO-1985). The teacher training curricula should integrate environment education with the methodology component of all disciplines, since environment is a part of all areas of study. Instead of burdening the existing teacher training curriculum with an extra subject on Environment Education, some weightage could be assigned in the practical component of the content-cum-methodology courses of all disciplines, for environment education.
- g. Non formal channels of education like t.v., radio, and press and satellite technology can be effectively utilized for capacity building of environment educators.
- h. Online courses on environment education with a thrust on the practical, skill and value development aspect could be developed for the teachers, educators, administrators, development workers or any person interested to become knowledgeable and aware of environmental issues.
- i. User friendly, multi-media courseware on environment problems and awareness can be prepared, particularly for the rural-agro based communities in India.
- j. Collaborative ventures could be created between the teachers and community through the agencies of schools, colleges, universities and other institutions. Such collaborations could include campaigns on environment awareness, tree plantations, and waste management or also in developing instructional materials.
- k. Electronic and computer networks could be employed to connect globally and acquire information and expertise on latest developments in the area of environment education and training.

Hence the above suggestions can play a major role in dissemination of knowledge, skills and values regarding environment, among teachers and through them to sensitize our present and future generations. Indeed environmental education as a hands-on extracurricular activity

rather than an academic classroom subject is

arousing growing enthusiasm across the country.

II. CONCLUSION: -

There is a strong need to protect our environment and to conserve our natural resources and make judicious use of them. Hence, the sensitization towards the protection and conservation of environment should be developed within each human being, so that they can prevent themselves from exploiting the resources of nature and contribute towards sustainable development. Unfortunately, experience shows that in the environmental community there are many who do not understand the true meaning of sustainable development. Therefore, the environmental community must discharge its collective professional responsibility in ways that are consistent with the core requirements of sustainable development and environmental sustainability. We must think earth as a habitat, not of today but of distant tomorrow where there will be place and means for every being alive. The preservation and conservation of environmental heritage is our sacred duty. Thus, we need environmental literate citizens. For this environmental education is required, so that people become aware and take active part in protecting the earth's environment by making informed decisions and taking environmental friendly actions. It is essential that people are made aware through education and training by the teachers about protection and conservation of the environment. This will then inculcate in them sensitivity towards environmental issues and develop a responsible attitude towards the environment. However, for teachers to succeed in their endeavour for spreading environmental sensitization, it is important that the educational institutions should provide conditions conducive for it, so that teachers may contribute towards the delineation of the educational plans on environmental awareness issues and make efforts to incorporate indigenous knowledge into the formal education system.

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