

## **TEACHER EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL BEHAVIOUR: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

Environmental Education is an important factor within our educational system. This education aims to protect our atmosphere and to build a strong relationship between man and his surroundings. The objective of environmental education includes concept, knowledge, awareness, behaviour, skills and attitudes of people in protecting the environment for environmental preservation. Environmental degradation has become evident in globalization studies. Teacher education has an important role in responding to the environmental issues. For effective teacher education policy planners and teachers should actively participate in environment-related problems. On the basis of current studies, behaviour is one of the most important factors of learning process. Behaviour can help the teachers to reveal whether they appreciate or not appreciate their surroundings. Very few researches on the behaviour in environmental education have been found in current times. Teachers play a significant role in developing preferable behaviour towards environment among students. Therefore this study is very necessary for the behaviour of the teachers for changing the mindset of our new generation towards environment.

***Keywords: Teacher Education, Environmental Education, Environmental Behaviour***

### **Introduction:**

Environmental Education is a multidisciplinary discipline, a science, a process of providing learning experiences for getting knowledge, awareness, values and involvement of people with desirable attitudinal changes about their relationship with their environment. It is a process that allows people to know about environmental problems and take necessary actions to solve it. The environment provides resources which assist life on the earth and help to increase the relationship between living things and environment. Environmental Education is a structured attempt to educate the people about the environment, its concept, need, functions, importance and how people can manage their attitude to live in a sustainable manner. In other words Environmental Education is concern about the environment, through the environment and for the environment. It is important to perceive that humans enjoy a unique place in nature for their exceptional quality so generally it has been believed that man can do anything with nature. All types of social, cultural and technological projects carried out by human beings also have a huge influence on environment. Environmental education recognizes values, develops attitudes and skills and clarifies concepts which are required to acknowledge and cherish the relationship between mankind, their culture and their surroundings (Council of Europe, 1976).

National policy of Education (1986) highlighted the necessity of environmental awareness. It should be permitted to all age groups in our society. The main key of good successful environmental education depends on teachers and students. Without proper knowledge, awareness, attitudes and behaviours of teachers it is not possible to assemble environmentally educate students. There are three levels of environmental education in the conventional education system in India. At Primary and Secondary level it is known as combined subject named environmental science but it is an independent subject at higher secondary level or college and university level. It is very difficult to save our environment from various effects if students do not bother about their proper behaviour and attitude towards their environment. The degradation of environment is ultimately a human problem which requires advanced scientific knowledge and correct environmental behaviour.

### **Components of Environmental Education:**

Environmental Education is a branch of study which be prepared knowledge about the environment, its components, problems and suggests solutions of different environmental problems. The Tbilisi Conference (1977) analyzed that Environmental Education involves:

**Awareness:** Environmental Education should aware people about the environmental problems and its challenges. This education will help people to understand environmental issues like global warming, depletion of ozone layer, energy resources which are going to affect the human life as a whole.

**Knowledge:** People should get profit from Environmental Education by gaining experiences from environment.

Knowledge and understanding of the environment and environmental issues are related to each other.

**Attitude:** Proper attitude towards environment can improve or maintain the quality of the environment.

Environmental Education should focus people in developing environmental concern, social values in its conservation and preservation.

**Skill:** Ability to recognize the environmental issues or problems and try to solve with problem solving skills with critical thinking.

**Participation:** Participate in various activities which shows to the purposefulness of environmental issues. This should create a social responsibility to solve the environmental problems.

### **Objectives of Environmental Education:**

Environmental Education is very mandatory for every person of our society to save our earth for which we need some knowledge and skills about environment. Some objectives are mention for teaching environmental education:

- To create awareness to become aware and sensitive to environment related problems.
- To develop attitude to have values and responsibilities for the environment and actively participate in environmental challenges.
- To develop basic ideas and knowledge about environment and environment related problems.
- To encourage young generation to be actively participate in environmental problems and solve the problems.
- To develop to evaluate environmental activities in terms of social, economic, educational and environmental problems.
- Giving opportunities for gather knowledge, experiences, values and skills needed to save the environment.

### **Environmental Behaviour:**

In 1940's Industrial Revolution reversed the form of human beings life style and also changed the society which initiated an outburst of population growth. Such expansion leads to a quick deterioration of the quality of environment and reduction of some natural tenants from this earth. The Environment Report, India (2009), claims that total 45% of the land is deteriorated by serious problems like land, air and water pollution. Main problem of the developing countries like India is not only the proper information of environment but also the determination to act. Its our duty to guide and give proper knowledge about environment to our future generation to secure our future. Environmental education has a vital role to enlighten people about the analytical purpose of the dangerous sides of environmental pollution.

In the behaviour of man several problems of environment are embedded today. Human being is directly accountable for this environmental degradation which we notice today. It's high time to change the behaviour towards environment. Mankind should avoid the limitless use of environmental resources and try to protect the natural resources as much as they can. Positive behaviour towards environment is the only way to save and protect our environment. Tbilisi declaration (1977) stated that one of the objectives of environmental education is involvement to assist mankind and social sectors to generate a sense of accountability and to concern about the protection of our environment and to take forward suitable actions to conserve our environment (Singh, 2005, p. 11-14). The final output of environmental ethics and awareness should conduct necessary outputs in the behaviour of the mankind. Man need to be dedicate to preserve and conserve our environment and to employ his knowledge and values to develop behaviour and attitude which will save our environment.

Stern (2000) defines environmental behaviour as the behaviour which alter the accessibility of resources from the environment or change the composition and mobility of biosphere or the ecosystems itself (p 408).

### **Teacher Education and Environmental Education:**

Teachers learn children about environmental challenges which also some of the relevant challenges that are prone to affect the environment. Environmental Education helps the children for their career enhancement with prerequisite skills to become professionals. It is detected that students become more responsible in future who go through environmental education become better. Centre for Environment Education (CEE) and The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) have jointly worked over last few years to give new energy to Environmental Education through teacher education in the country. Resource books of Environmental Education has been come out and published in English and Hindi. Subject experts of these

subjects assisted the development of these environment related books. These books are based on the NCTE based curriculum and are suitable for different levels of teacher educators like D.El.ed, B.Ed and M.Ed . NCTE distributed these books to different types of teacher education institutions through six workshops which is conducted by NCTE and CEE. First workshop was initiated by Prof. M. Akhatar Siddiqui Chairperson of NCTE, New Delhi in November 2008.

Environmental education means build up awareness among at large scale and focused group in our society. This education should be formal or informal or a mixture of both. Many steps to enlarge and enhance the topic of the environmental awareness and education programmes have been taken. The Supreme Court has also stated that “Environmental Education” must be provided at all educational level in the conventional education system.

### **Importance of Environmental Education in Teacher Education:**

Environmental education aims to impart knowledge for the protection of the environment. Only knowledge can empower people to take necessary steps for protecting the environment. Teachers have a vital role in environmental education. Teachers can actually explain what environment means and what importance it has in our lives. With proper education students become aware of how to lead a good sustainable life. For this awareness from an early age is essential. Environmental education is now an essential part of all educational level. Obviously Environmental Education has several benefits:

- Environmental Education helps students to learn new experimental learning outside of the classroom which enables students their learning to real world.
- EE encourages students to develop and enhance critical and creative thinking to research and investigate new things.
- Teachers can integrate math, science and many more subjects by incorporating Environmental Education practices.
- Environmental Education promotes respect, sensitivity and appreciation towards the environment.
- EE encourages a feeling of responsibility and involvement through brotherhood involvement.
- EE authorizes young generation to experience their knowledge and make a sense at their school and communities.

### **Role of Education in Environmental Behaviour:**

Environmental education has a meaningful role in making the youth aware about their environment, adopting green behaviour and responding to the environmental problems. Promoting positive environmental behaviour among youth may empower them to grant actively to their environment through positive behaviors and attitudes. The educational policy planners figure out that adding a subject called “Environmental Education” is best as a first step. EE need a new adaptable framework that allows teachers to attract the students in interesting ways. So teacher educators should be interested enough to do this noble job. Syllabus needs to be more flexible to the environmental issues with good concept. Many different websites we can follow the latest updates regarding environmental laws and compliance. Environmental law in India concerns the protection of the environment. The major laws of environment in India are:

- Water Act (Prevention and Control of Pollution) 1974
- Air Act (Prevention and Control of Pollution) 1981
- Environment Act (Protection) 1986

Government of India had inaugurated to recommend Environmental Education Centre (EEC) environmental awareness nationwide with the help of Ministry of Environment and Forests in August 1984. Main objective of this recommendation is to give proper acceptance of environmental education.

Programmes of Teacher Education for Environmental Education:

Environmental Education makes provision the concept and methods which can bring to sustainable development and environmental literacy. Mankind can promote knowledge, questioning, analysis and skills for understanding environmental issues. There are increasing numbers of examples of linkages between Govt., Non-Govt. and educational institution to reach environment education to Higher education levels. The modules help a lot to organize Environmental Education training, workshops and to train teachers in developing materials in EE. Modules incorporate introduction, concept, processes methods and activities of Environmental Education in Higher education level. In the time of 1995-1996 a wide curriculum framework and pertinent instructional materials were developed through a collaborative process involving B.Ed, M.Ed by National and Regional Institutions. The MHRD, IGNOU, NCTE, NCERT promotes the development of specific teaching-learning materials for this purpose. Environmental Education helps students for realizing the issues of environment in addition they can infer in necessary actions to maintain our environment sustainable and healthy for the future. Environmental Education organizations supply

materials to teachers and students with support through resources and grants and other resources for action projects.

### **Conclusion:**

Environmental Education is now a new pillar of our education system. Teachers are the ones who could the form of minds of little ones from early to the responsible citizen towards nature. Teacher educators need to be produced to become Environmental Education communicators, who will proactively engage in the activity-oriented approach to teaching and learning process. This will need additional teacher training, constant support that will affect the Environmental Education program. Education has a vital role to the challenges which India can face due to the environmental problems. Educational activities have a vital role in carrying the environment of the problem and in comforting the intellectual, ethical and emotional dimensions which are likely to help and create a meaningful response.

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