

## A STUDY ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

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### **ABSTRACT:**

*Environmental education is education for environment during the present century, to use Max Nicholson's phrase, has undergone revolution; population has exploded, physical resources are being increasingly depleted and technological growth has been phenomenal, resulting in an unprecedented air, water and noise pollution, land dereliction, and accumulation of pesticide residues. All these facts remind us of Tanat's of death instinct, which may sweep the entire world. We have started to realize and are rather haunted by the feeling that the world is moving headlong towards disaster, or perhaps we might have reached its brink and may soon destroy ourselves. It is therefore, very urgent that we may diagnose this malady and adopt preventive and curative measures. In this connection the first problem that merits our attention is that of population explosion. This problem is multiplying everyday. Everyday the pressure of population on agricultural land is increasing. And since this land cannot employ all these people. The remedy is the 'population control'.*

**Key Words:** *Increasingly, Curative, Explosion.*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Now for a few den and dungeons made by man, his environment is so beautiful and lustrous; the azure sky, the blue lakes, the starry nights, the rolling waves, the crescent moon, the conifers, the jacarandas, the gulmohars, the shade trees, the flowers, the insets, the breeze, the books, the birds, the wild life etc. all are breathtaking. Wordsworth was rightly drawn towards them. His heart leapt up when beheld a rainbow in the sky, or when daffodils flashed upon that inward eye which was a bliss of solitude for him. Not only the natural environment but also the Taj mahal, the Qutub Minar and many other historical, social and cultural places fascinate men day in and dryout. Why shall they be not used in their natural setting as a teaching-learning aid? Why not teach about a brook or a bird or a butterfly when children are attracted by it, instead of teaching the topic

within the leaden walls of the classroom? In short, a lot of teaching-learning can be carried out through environment. And that is the aspect of environmental education. Teaching-learning about environment is important for man has to tackle about environment every day for his survival, sustenance and prosperity. He can not escape it under any circumstances, right from birth to death. It is one's own interest that one should learn about environment, more so the immediate one, one should know the trees in one's neighborhood, how they are planted, how they are used for fuel and energy, for fruit and food and for the beautification of one's surroundings.

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The second problem is, we cut forests or destroy our plants without caring for them, the equilibrium in nature would be disturbed. The food chain would be affected. Thus erratic use and destruction of even renewable resources may land us into such serious ecological problems which may be difficult to be solved, and which may result in the wiping way of many species of animals, so necessary to maintain equilibrium in nature.

The third problem is that of controlling environmental pollution which is increasing, by and by, on account of technological growth. We have to think of controlling this pollution too, as we are thinking of controlling air and water pollution if ecological balance is to be maintained and if living beings are to be saved from extinction.

It is totally impossible to inform every people about environment so it should be started from the grass root level which is nothing but the school. The school is such an institution where the root of environmental awareness is emerged. With the other subjects of school curriculum, the learner can acquire knowledge about environment in school. Knowledge of environment is equally important for the students like the other subjects. Students are the backbone of our nation. Through them the knowledge of environment can be spread out to the

other section of the people. This knowledge will help them to know about the every item of the environment. Thus they will be aware of the environment. This environmental awareness will help to revive the environment. So education is necessary for the awareness among people. Education only can build a positive attitude of the people about environment and thus the environment would be healthy and beautiful.

### **EMERGENCE OF THE PROBLEM:**

Today man is living in a world of crises. The socio economic, political and value crisis are some of the threats that are quite alarming. Added to this, in the recent decades, the environmental crisis has become another important factor that has made everyone in the world to think of its gravity. Ever since man has been on this earth, there has been a constant interaction between him and the natural world. In the beginning, man lived in harmony with nature, but as his numbers grew and his scientific discoveries and inventions led him on the path of industrialization, he became the predator and his increasing demands on the environment and its resources have led to its exploitation and degradation. (Mercy and Arjunan, 2005) The role of education in understanding protecting and solving problems related to environment has been realized all over the world since 1970. Education for environment might succeed if it deliberately directed towards school children. Realizing on education (1986) emphasized that “there is a paramount need to create a consciousness of the environment. It must permit all ages of sections of the society, beginning with child (Chethana, 2003). Environmental education has developed as pragmatic educational response to the problems and concerns of environment. The concept of environmental education is still evolving and awaiting institutionalization in the education systems. As such there is a dire need to understand the subject in proper perspective. Environmental education has two components, viz., environment and education. Environmental education is the process of recognizing values and the clarifying concepts in order to develop the skill and attitudes necessary to understand and appreciate the interrelatedness among man, his culture and his biophysical surroundings (Council of Europe, 1976).

Today environmental degradation and preservation have emerged as major issues in globalization studies. Our environment is being deteriorated every now and then due to various factors like population explosion, uncontrolled and lavish consumption of precious environmental resources, industrialization, urbanization and exploitation of abiotic and biotic components of environment have resulted in the present day environment crises condition. In the past because of lack of awareness about the environment nations developed in science and technology, but at the expense of degradation of environment. From here it is not surprising that half of the environmental degradations are due to human activities. With the progress in science and technology man has made a lot of revolution in various filed.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The objectives of the study will be as follows:

- To find out the Environmental pollution.
- To find out the difficulties of pollution.
- To find out the impact of pollution in the next generation.

## DISCUSSION OF THE OBJECTIVES:

### *Air Pollution:*

Transport and industry burn a large amount of fossil fuels. It releases a variety of chemicals and particulate matter into the air. Most of the pollutant contain carbon, sulphur and nitrogen. Their chemical reaction with one another in the presence of ultraviolet sunlight is very harmful. Acid rain is a type of air pollution. Sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxides are released into the air with the burning of fossil fuels. When they react with water (moisture) in the air they form sulphuric and acid and nitric acid. These pollutants are brought down by rain, which is called acid rain. This rain causes widespread damage of the environment.

### *Ozone Depletion:*

The upper part of Stratosphere contains large amount of ozone gas. The ozone gas blocks the harmful ultraviolet rays from reaching earth. It has been proved that chlorofluorocarbon of CFC are released from the refrigeration system, air conditioning system, spray-can etc. Here they react with the ozone gas. It breaks the ozone molecules thus reducing them in the Stratosphere.

As a result, the ultraviolet radiations able to reach the surface of the earth. These rays can cause skin cancer, cataract and affects the immune system of the body.

### *Green House Effect:*

The Green House Effect is one of the most important issues and is one which humankind has the capacity to change. Short wave radiation can pass easily through the atmosphere, whereas long wave terrestrial radiation from the warm surface of the earth is partially absorbed by a number of trace gases in the atmosphere. These trace gases are called greenhouse gases. The main Green House gases are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), Water vapour (H<sub>2</sub>O) and Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) in the troposphere and stratosphere. Further human

activities in recent decades are adding new halo carbons (HFC<sub>5</sub>) as greenhouse gas. Excessive release of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) leads to Greenhouse effect that increases the average temperature of earth.

Thus the greenhouse effects arises because the atmosphere is largely transparent to incoming solar radiation, again it heavily absorbs the outgoing thermal radiation from the planetary surface and the atmosphere. Since the beginning of the universe, the effect exists as a natural process. But since the 20<sup>th</sup> century the effect is enhanced by man's activities that are able to destabilize the natural balance.

#### ***Noise Pollution:***

Noise is unwanted and disagreeable sound without musical quality. Sound is caused by the vibration of molecules and is the periodic mechanical disturbances. In modern civilization noise has become a major environmental pollutant. Sources of noise pollution are factories, building sites, industrial machineries, vehicles, jet crafts etc. The most acute effect of noise pollution is deafness, chronic damage of hair cells in the inner ear, heart beat may increase or decrease and high intensity pulse affects nervous system. Other causes are headache, irritability and sleeplessness.

#### ***Water Pollution:***

River water pollution is one of the critical problem. Sewage disposal and industrial waste disposal are main sources of river water contamination. The industrial waste disposal contains many toxic chemicals. The ground water is contaminated by leaking industrial pits or sewage pits. Pesticides blow down with water and contaminate the ground water. Polluted water severally affected the life in water bodies as well as the life of other living beings. If polluted water is consumed that these can damage any organ of the body like kidney, liver, heart etc. Water pollution occurs in lake, steam and ocean river.

#### ***Deforestation:***

Deforestation is a result of human activity. Man is destroying the forests, vegetation and grasslands for obtaining timber, fiber, wood and also to use land for agricultural, industrial and tourism purpose. The rapid expansion of population has generated the need for more agricultural production, expands requirement for fuel and commercial wood and grazing land. About 30% of the earth's surface is covered by forests. As a result of deforestation certain varieties of birds, insects, snakes, tigers etc. loss their habitat and migrate to other places. In addition to this, cutting down of plants and forests result in soil erosion, climate changes, flood, drought etc. Ultimately it disturbs the ecological balance and degrades the quality.

***Recreational and Tourism:***

The uncontrolled tourism destroys the landforms, flora and fauna. Tourism has so developed that it has become the third largest industry. The natural areas of vegetation has damaged in the countryside for tourism and recreation. It has accelerated the loss of soil and disturbs animals. Sports, cutting, boating, riding, trekking, picnicking etc. adversely affect the landscape and environment. It brings significant environmental change.

So from here we come to know how much the environment is being destroyed every now and then. Today the environment face a number of other problems beside mentioned above like Noise Pollution, soil pollution of erosion, radiation pollution, extinctions of plants and animals etc. These problem are not decreasing but growing everyday. The world environment stared becoming an issue of concern in the late 1960's. many nations came forward with comprehensive programs to clean the environment. In 1972, United Nation conducted the first environmental conference at Stockholm in Sweden. The second conference was held at Navoibi in Kenya in 1982. And in 2002, world conference was held at Johannesburg in South Africa with more than 200 countries participated. New goals were established for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Further development if possible can take place only when sustainable conservation methods are adopted which can meet the needs of man as well as protect the environment. So here comes in the 'Dharma of Paryavaran'.

"Every citizen of welfare states like India has to obey and maintain the principle of maximum of well-being with the minimum of consumption".

So, the researcher has selected such a topic that it is not only necessary for the students but significant for future generation.

**CONCLUSION:**

Research in this area indicates that although environmental education is taken up as a subject in the curriculum the subject faces certain limitation in regard to its proper implementation. Environmental education aspects only then he can make the future generation aware of the environmental problems and their solutions. Taking into consideration this situation, the investigators felt a need to conduct a study to know about the environmental awareness of secondary school teachers in relation to residential background. Gender and type of school management so that necessary actions could be taken up to come forward with prolific result for enhancing the efficacy of the content provided to them as well as sustain their inner urge for desirable actions.

Today environmental degradation and preservation have emerged as major issues in globalization studies. Our environment is being deteriorated every now and then due to various factors like population explosion, uncontrolled and lavish consumption of precious environmental resources, industrialization, urbanization and exploitation of abiotic and biotic components of environment have resulted in the present day environment crises condition. In the past because of lack of awareness about the environment nations developed in science and technology, but at the expense of degradation of environment. From here it is not surprising that half of the environmental degradations are due to human activities. With the progress in science and technology man has made a lot of revolution in various filed.

Man has made a lot of progress in every field through science and technology but at the same time overuse and misuse of environmental resources is destroying the equilibrium of environment. Man in an effort to fulfill his demand has exploited the environment. The environment has its own system of recovery but depletion of large amount of resources due to the activities of man has failed the self-recovery system of environment in many areas. So, it has led to many adverse impacts on the environment like Air Pollution, Ozone Depletion, Green House Effect, Noise Pollution, Water Pollution, Deforestation, Recreational and Tourism etc.

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