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Roll of the Education for Save Environment

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The term “environment” etymologically means “surroundings”. Literally, it is an English word formed by two words, “environ” and “ment” which means “encircle” or “all round”. It is derived from an old French word “ Environ”. In real world, everything that affects an organism during its lifetime is collectively known as its environment. Thus, environment is a complex of many variables which surround man as well as all living organisms. In simple words, environment is the surrounding in which any organization or living system operates and includes air, water, land, its resources, humans, flora, fauna and their inter relationships.

Environmental studies provide an approach towards understanding the environment of our planet and the impact of human life upon that environment. It is also a search for solutions to the environmental problems that confront us.

There was a time, when environment meant only public health and sanitation. Today, the subject has assumed vast connotations and its frontiers are ever widening, covering a bewildering array of topics. The only hope of approaching the whole subject with any measure of success is to establish a clear order of priorities with as sharp a focus as possible, and not to get distracted by proliferation of activities or Duplication.

With the power of science and technology modern man has been responsible for large scale degradation of natural resources. Human society of today has achieved growth and availability of materials but has miserably failed to attain the growth of value integrated mankind. It has been attributed to the lack of awareness amongst masses about the problems and their dimensions created due to unwise and exploitative use of natural resources by the technological social order. There is a need to develop a sustainable world with proper management of the environment.

It is the generation of appropriate awareness disseminated through the process of learning in the society that can bring the society out of myths and metaphors. Through such processes the problems can be socially shared and may lead to relative consensus. Through such participatory humane efforts the problems of environment can be shred and appropriate governance of the environment in the 21st century can be ascertained. In view of these realizations, it is essential to generate awareness to build an environmental strategy where the consciousness towards the problems of environment must percolate amongst all in the society.

The public has to be educated about the fact that if we are degrading our environment we are actually harming our ourselves. This is because we are a part of the complex network of environment where every component is linked to another. It is all the more important to educate the people that sometimes the adverse impact of environment are not experienced or noticed until a threshold is crossed. So, we may be caught unaware by a disaster.

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To ensure a meaningful public participation and involvement, it is necessary to create awareness about the environment, pollution and related implications and adverse effects on health. One has to get a feeling that the rivers, jungles and the entire environment is their own and for them and can be preserved by them only. This will result in a feeling of oneness and they shall start realizing that it is their duty to preserve the environment.

About 80% of our natural water resources are highly polluted. Even the mighty and holy rivers like Ganges, Yamuna, Gomati, Cauvery, Godavari and Krishna and their tributaries are highly polluted and people have lost their livelihood because of polluted marine life. Industrial pollution in Ganges near Kanpur and Yamuna near Delhi has seriously affected public health, fishing and agricultural operations. Similar problems are reported from several industrial belts in many states and all over the country. Air pollution from industries and automobiles is posing a serious threat to the health and welfare of man. Automobile pollution forms 60% of the air pollution in urban areas. New Delhi, Calcutta and Bombay are some of the highly polluted areas in India. Three- fourths of the traffic constables in the metropolitan cities face serious problems of respiratory disorders and cancer due to continued exposure to automobile and industrial pollution. The pollution of air and water due to automobiles and industries and pesticides result in food adulteration and the consequential reduction in natural powers of immunity. The fast growing incidence of cancer and other debilitating sicknesses are posing threats to the survival of mankind.

In this context it becomes essential that while imparting environmental education, Special attention must be paid to school going children and women because they alone constitute about half of the population. They should be made aware of health, nutrition, sanitation, hygiene and water and food contamination. The main objectives of environmental awareness programmes should be improving the quality of environment, creating awareness among people on environmental problems and conservation, creating such an atmosphere so that people find themselves fit enough to participate in decision making so that developmental programmes are presented after evaluation.

Bishnoi movement, Chipko movement, Narmada Bachao Andolan, Appiko movement, Silent valley movement, Tehri Dam conflict those all are the social public movement for the save environment. Many governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are already working actively to raise awareness. The scale of changes required, however and the vast number of people and interests that must be influenced, call for outreaching activities of a greater magnitude.

The Centre for environmental Education (CEE) was established in August 1984 as a centre of excellence supported by the ministry of environment and forests, Government of India and affiliated to the Nehru Foundation for Development (NFD). CEE has its main office in Ahmedabad, India and works towards developing programmes and material to increase awareness about the environment and sustainable development.

There is a Chinese proverb which says if you plan for one year, plant rice, if you plan for ten years plant trees and if you plan for 100 years educate people. The hope for the future of environment in our country is based on many positive factors rich biodiversity and other natural resources, increasing number of people's movements focusing on environment,

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greater public and media concern for the spread of environmental awareness among children and youth and compulsory teaching of environmental education at various levels.

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