

Sustainable Development — Role of Teacher to Protect Environment

*Dr. Anuj Kumar**

ABSTRACT

Prevention is better than cure, is an old saying which is very apt in the context of environment and education, environment and disasters and sustainable development. Awareness and education is an important tool in creating this culture of prevention and preparedness. We use the environment and its resources to serve our many purpose, the fact of the matter is that because of ignorance, arrogance and defiance of the natural laws of the environment, the net result of the human occupance of the Earth has been an environmental crisis of grave dimension. Global changes in terms of green house warming, depletion of the ozone layer and radioactive fall out drew our attention to the environment. 'Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. In this context, Environment Education is a learning process that increases people's knowledge and awareness about the environment and associated challenges, develops, and fosters attitudes, motivations and commitments to make informed decisions and take responsible action. The role of teacher is very important to build the nation making. They play a crucial role in forming, changing and establishing attitudes and values. A teacher is a friend, philosopher and guide of the students. Importance of sustained Development and environmental Education must teach Knowledge of the environment based on a balanced presentation of current scientific information. Professionals in higher education can play one of the most decisive roles through innovative programme by finding ways to integrate interdisciplinary and system approach in their higher level courses. Through Eco-club, project work, environmental labs, quiz, debates etc., we can provide proper information and knowledge to the students. In this way the new generation can imbibe and spread to families and community and prepare, leading to reduced vulnerability and possible reduction in impact of the disaster on lives, livelihood and property and can contribute in nation building.

Key words: *Environment Education, Sustainable Development, Professional, nation building*

Prevention is better than cure, is an old saying which is very apt in the context of environment and education, environment and disasters, sustainable development. Awareness and education is

* Teacher (Social Studies), Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Sirmour, Distt. Rewa (M.P.).

an important tool in creating this culture of prevention and preparedness. Our environment is a system of interaction between the natural system and the social system for meeting. Our Human needs and wants are dependent on the biophysical environment which is governed by a set of sovereign immutable laws. The basic approach to the study of man-environment relationship and the core of the environment is ecological analysis of spatial attributes of inter-relationship between technologically advanced man and natural environment of the earth in term of ecosystem. So, Here we can say that environment may be defined as the study of spatial attributes of interrelationship between living organisms and the natural environment in general and technologically advanced “economic man’ and his natural environment in particular. We use the environment and its resources to serve our many purpose, the fact of the matter is that because of ignorance, arrogance and defiance of the natural laws of the environment, the net result of the human occupancy of the Earth has been an environmental crisis of grave dimension. Global changes in terms of green houses warming, depletion of the ozone layer and radioactive fall out drew our attention to the environment. In this context, sustainable development is the most valuable thing to protect environment. It is a solution to environmental crisis. Sustainable development is a balancing concept between ecology and development.

Sustainable development aims at improving the living standards and the quality of people’s lives, both now and for the future generations. We can save the nature by using our resources more efficiently. All countries strive to ensure that citizens both in urban and rural areas have clean wind to breathe, safe pure drinking water and adequate supplies of energy. Agriculture and industry are the important sectors in which natural resources- land, river, soil, forest, sea and mineral deposit upon which they rely have to be used efficiently and responsibly.

Population growth is also linked with pressure on natural resources as well as on the capacity to provide, amenities like housing, education, transport, sanitation & drainage, health care etc. Some of the resources are renewable and others are nonrenewable. We cannot continue to expand our requirement of natural resources indefinitely. We have already crossed the carrying capacity level in most parts of the world. The quality of our environment has been constantly degrading and the stocks of nonrenewable resources are decreasing at a very fast rate.

At this speed of exploitation of these resources, extinction of wild life, loss of fossil and mineral, pouring in of toxic chemicals, including many no biodegradable ones in soil, water and air, it won’t be possible for humanity to survive for long period. Many of our environmental problems are the manifestations of our developmental activities. The concept of sustainable development had its origins in the World Conservation Strategy Report, published in 1980. According to this report—“Conservation is the management of human use of the biosphere so that it may yield the greatest sustained benefits to present generations, while maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations”. Sustainable Development was formally defined for the first time in the Brundtland Report, Published in 1987. It said- ‘Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’.

The concept of sustainable development has gained a lot of importance in the present time

of limitation of natural resources and at the same time degradation of these natural resources by human activities. Sustainable development does not slow down economic growth or technical development, rather it aims to achieve that sustainable rate of growth which is necessary to meet mans material needs while conserving scarce natural resource and protecting natural environment. Sustainable Development means sensible utilization of resource for development. All resources are finite and there is also a limit to the growth of the living system. In effect, one should utilize the limited natural resources wisely and with intelligence.

In this context, Environment Education is a learning process that increases people's knowledge and awareness about the environment and associated challenges, develops, and fosters attitudes, motivations and commitments to make informed decisions and take responsible action. Environmental literacy goes beyond possessing knowledge and skill, since even well honed skills for taking action cannot have an effect unless they are used. During the years of their formal education, learner develops the inclination to put their knowledge and skills to work, acting on their own conclusions about what should be done to ensure environmental quality. Environmentally literate persons possess a sense of good citizenship. He understands the role of citizen in a democracy and accept their part with responsibility and commitment. During their school years, students grow into the role of citizen, developing the personal and civic insight and traits that motivate action, cultivating their own environmental and social ethic, help learners make difficult decisions and accept personal responsibility for those choices.

The role of teacher is very important in nation making. They play a crucial role in forming, changing and establishing attitudes and values. A teacher is the friend, philosopher and guide of the students. Importance of sustained Development and environmental Education must teach Knowledge of the environment based on a balanced presentation of current scientific information. Change is a common phenomenon in each every society, it happens more when they inch closer to any new thought, ideas and with new innovations and development. Knowledge of sustainable development and environmental awareness is a burning issue these days therefore it should be the first lesson for the child. The environmental education should be a essential part of the curriculum at all the levels i.e primary to higher education. The role of formal environmental education in building society is to help students to determine what is best to conserve in their cultural, economic and natural heritage and to nurture values and strategies for attaining sustainable development in their local communities while contributing at the same time to national and global goals. The central goal of environment and sustainable development must include helping students learn how to identify elements of unsustainable development and how to address them.

They need to practice thinking, which helps them in finding alternative ways of achieving development and living, more sustainable consumption and production pattern and learning how to negotiate and justify choices. These are the skills and abilities that underlie good citizenship and make environmental education for sustainable development part of a process of building an informed, concerned and active student. Teacher should take a leading role in pursuing the action on sustainable development and environment education, whether acting as individuals infusing environmental perspectives into their classes or collectively fostering environmental education

through their educational institutions. We can give through more of outdoor activity. It is not only concerned with social science or science teachers, it is the moral duty for all type of teacher who are involved in imparting education. Professionals in higher education can play one of the most decisive roles through innovative programme by finding ways to integrate interdisciplinary and system approach in their higher level courses. Through Eco-clubs, project work, environmental labs, quiz, debates etc., we can provide proper information and knowledge to the students. In this way the new generation can imbibe and spread to families and community and prepare leading to reduced vulnerability and possible reduction in impact of the disaster on lives, livelihood and property and can contribute in nation building.

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