ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION: A CATALYST FOR EDUCATIONAL REFORM

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ARTICLE INFO

Article History:
Received 10th December, 2012
Accepted 5th January, 2013
Published online 17th January, 2013

Key words: Environmental education, need

ABSTRACT

The purpose of environmental education is to move into new meadows of knowledge to challenge existing paradigms to rock foundations. The environmental education teaches about real issues that impact our community such as drinking water quality, indoor and outdoor air quality, habitat improvement, pesticides use and exposure as well as solid and hazardous waste management which includes classification of it, laws and cost to deal with it. Environmental education is a process in which individuals gain awareness of their environment and acquire knowledge, skills, values, experiences and also the determination which will enable them to cut individually and collectively to solve present and future environmental problems. The main objective of environmental education is to develop knowledge based awareness that will lead to cultivation of responsible attitude to environment. The effectiveness of environmental education depends on the availability of environmentally trained teachers. The development of environmental education over the past decades is associated closely with an increasing awareness of global socioecological crises. Sustainable development is development based on patterns of production and consumption that can be pursued into the future without degrading the human or natural environment. Seminars, Conferences, Debates and Talks are important but it is vital that these results in action and deeds.

INTRODUCTION

Our environment is matter of great concern in this present day context. Modern communication and travel have brought all of us into closer contacts with each other and with every part of the world. This has made us realize that we share a common environment with both human and nonhuman co-inhabitants as well. Many issues are highlighted in the news of on various problems of our environment, such as human population growth, global climate change, worldwide loss of habitat and biodiversity, soilerosion, forestdestruction, air and water pollution, shrinking of F.F and accumulation of toxic waste etc. We can see evidences all around us that unless we learn to live more sustainably and with less impact on our environment the prospect of our future generation will be dim. Teachers should develop the similar attitude and competencies in learners to take individual or group decisions and actions, Thus teachers should have fundamentals competencies in environmental concern and positive attitude towards environment. Environmental education is interdisciplinary in nature. Each citizen must be responsible for making right decision on different environmental problems and issues by using accurate information from both natural and social sciences. Topics like water, air, land, noise etc. are being focused. Environmental education is important because it can be fulfill the requirements of the different programme set up for improving the present state of environment. Environmental education impacts us about the threat to environmental health includes both the direct pathological effects of chemicals, radiation and biological agents resulting environmental pollution. The release harmful amount contaminants. The release of harmful environmental contaminants like CO, SO, and NO produced by industry and motor vehicles are common air pollutants. Pollutant are play a vital role in a variety of maladies including cancer, immunediseases, allergies, asthma and many others. As a consequences of the improved technologies which are the brainchild of human intelligence, environment is getting polluted and harming the intelligence of millions of people across the world. The society as a whole should also follow some steps to reduce exposure to lead and other chemicals like Hg, dioxine, fluoride and pesticides. Individuals try to keep areas clean and dust free where children play, leave lead based paint undisturbed, stuffed toys should be clean regularly. Parents have rights to expect that products that are used in the home are not contaminating their children, thus restricted use of pesticides and insecticides should be practiced. Human development and sustainability areessential components of the some ethic of universalism of life claims. In some parts of the world community approach for ensuring sustainable development. A sustainable
community is one that can independently manage and maximize its resources in order to develop a strong economic and social environment for its population. A sustainable community is one whose prospects for long term health are good. Its residents do not deplete the resources that they depend on faster than those resources are replenished. The environmental education is at its initial stages and it could be framed in systematic manner for the future of sound sustainable environment. Environmental education at various levels students, peoples, academicians and politicians, could promote awareness and attitudes towards the nature. The basic purpose of environmental education is to generate the feeling of every individuals to realize her/his responsibility in the complicated ecological web to promote harmonious relationship between man and nature. The government educational institution as well as individuals has realized the importance of environmental education in the present day context. There is a need for generating awareness tends to lead to analysis of issues. Analysis promotes action. Education is fundamental to the fostering of healthy and dynamic awareness-analysis-action chain. We live in an environment with a substantial amount of pure water, air-pollution, declining natural resources, irreparable damage to sail and wildlife, all of which have a direct impact in our lives. Studies on environment should be introduced right from the low levels and continued to the highest levels of education. Students need to understand the environmental issues and solve them in an effective manner. Hence educational education is important because it can fulfill the requirements of the different programmes set up for improving the present status of environment. It gives insights to the teachers, students, planners and also the lay public on the environmental hazards present in our mother earth. Government alone simply cannot meet the challenge and so the business and social community too must perform the central socio-political role. Urgent action is needed to weaken the links between violent conflicts and natural resources. Environmental crises are the greatest crises of the day. To check the degradation of the environment and to restore the balance in the nature is the most important challenge to human race. An effect has been made to appraise the problem in broader perspective persons. Individual and organization of various circles of the world should come forward to accept the challenge for the survival of mankind. Man must give up the idea of exploitation of nature. They should give up anti ecological, unhealthy and inhuman technologies. Man has to recognize the importance of life and sanctity of the planet earth.

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