



CENTRAL ASIAN JOURNAL OF THEORETICAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Volume: 02 Issue: 11 | Nov 2021 ISSN: 2660-5317

Environmental Education and Awareness is the Key to Protect Mother Earth from Disaster

Dr. Richa Kukkar

Associate Professor, Ch. Balluram Godara Govt. Girls College, Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan, India

Received 23th Sep 2021, Accepted 26th Oct 2021, Online 30th Nov 2021

Annotation: *Environmental education is a process that allows individuals to explore environmental issues, engage in problem solving, and take action to improve the environment. As a result, individuals develop a deeper understanding of environmental issues and have the skills to make informed and responsible decisions. The components of environmental education are:*

- *Awareness and sensitivity to the environment and environmental challenges*
- *Knowledge and understanding of the environment and environmental challenges*
- *Attitudes of concern for the environment and motivation to improve or maintain environmental quality*
- *Skills to identify and help resolve environmental challenges*
- *Participation in activities that lead to the resolution of environmental challenges*

Environmental education does not advocate a particular viewpoint or course of action. Rather, environmental education teaches individuals how to weigh various sides of an issue through critical thinking and it enhances their own problem-solving and decision-making skills.

Keywords: *heavy metals, foods, toxicity, contamination, agriculture, fish, wide range.*

Introduction

Human activities such as pollution, deforestation, and over consumption can have negative impacts on the environment. These activities can lead to environmental degradation, resulting in serious consequences for humans and the environment, such as climate change, habitat loss, and resource depletion. It is for this reason that environmental awareness is so important. Most people are unaware of the various ways in which they can help the environment. It is important to be environmentally aware so we can do our part in preserving our planet. There are many things we can do to be more environmentally conscious, such as recycling, using less water, and using energy-efficient appliances.[1,2]

Environmental awareness is important because our earth provides resources that are essential to our well-being and quality of life. These resources include clean air, water, and soil, as well as a wide range of plants and animals that contribute to the richness and diversity of our planet. Another reason why environmental awareness is so crucial is that it can help people live healthier lives. People can protect themselves and their families from health risks by learning about the dangers of air pollution, water contamination, and toxic chemicals.[3,4]Our environment is not only essential for our survival but also home to a variety of animal and plant species. Due to human activity, many species are at risk of

extinction, and this loss of biodiversity can have a serious negative impact on ecosystems. By raising awareness of these environmental issues, we can help protect these vulnerable species and preserve the natural resources of our earth for future generations. Moreover, being more environmentally aware could help to reduce some of the effects of climate change, as well as reduce our impact on the planet. This can help to ensure that the resources and services provided by the earth will continue to be available to us and other living things. Schools can promote environmental awareness through curriculum integration, outdoor learning opportunities, and waste reduction programs, partnerships with local organizations, and hosting related events and activities. This can ultimately lead to a more environmentally conscious and responsible society, which is crucial for the long-term well-being of both humanity and the planet.[5,6]

Although there exist many ways to promote environmental awareness in schools, here are some of the most effective ones:

- **Host Events and Activities:** Schools can host events and activities, such as guest speakers, film screenings, or nature festivals, to promote environmental awareness and encourage students to get involved in environmental issues.
- **Celebrate Days Dedicated to Environment:** There are days in a human calendar that are specially dedicated to the environment and its awareness creation such as World Environment Day on 5th June. We can get the kids to celebrate and understand the importance of such days in the calendar.
- **Integrate Environmental Themes into The Curriculum:** Incorporating environmental themes into the curriculum can help students learn about the natural world and the impacts that human actions have on the environment. This could include topics such as conservation, renewable energy, and pollution.[7,8]
- **Set an Example:** As we know, Actions speak louder than words. We need to be an example for kids so that they can watch and learn from us. For example, Teachers in schools can all plant a tree and make the students follow them.
- **Implement Recycling and Waste Reduction Programs:** Schools can set up recycling programs and encourage students to reduce waste by using reusable containers and reducing their use of disposable products.
- **Encourage Outdoor Learning:** Taking students outside to learn about the environment and ecosystem can help to foster a greater appreciation for the environment. This could involve field trips, nature walks, or outdoor science lessons.
- **Partner With Local Organizations:** Schools can partner with local organizations, such as conservation groups or environmental NGOs, to promote environmental awareness and engage in conservation and restoration efforts.[9,10]

Environmental education helps individuals understand and address environmental issues, and empowers them to make responsible decisions. Through this process, individuals learn to think critically and creatively about environmental problems and gain the skills and knowledge needed to take action and make a positive impact. As a result, they develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of the world of nature and the role that they play in it. There are many ways in which education on environmental awareness can empower society, but here are some key benefits:

- It helps students understand how the environment works and how human actions can impact the environment.
- Encourages students to become more aware of the impacts they have on the environment and fosters an understanding of our planet.

- Helps students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills by providing opportunities to explore and learn about environmental issues.
- Promotes healthy behaviors and habits, such as conserving resources and reducing waste.
- Inspire future leaders and encourage students to take action on environmental issues and work towards solutions.
- Improves the school environment by promoting sustainability and reducing waste.
- Through education, students who learn about sustainable agriculture practices will be able to apply those techniques in their local surroundings.
- Students who study environmental science can develop innovative technologies or draft policies that contribute to environmental protection.[11,12]

From all this, we can understand that environmental education plays a vital role in promoting environmental awareness and fostering a broader understanding and appreciation of the natural environment.

It can help students develop important skills and behaviors that will enable them to be responsible stewards of the environment and contribute to a more sustainable future.

Discussion

We have seen the importance of environmental awareness, both for our planet and for us as humans. We need to take ownership of this responsibility to do everything we can to ensure that future generations will live in a clean and safe world. Educators can implement environmental awareness in schools by hosting events, integrating environmental themes into the curriculum, etc. Educating people about the environment is crucial for saving the planet from the hands of disaster and making it a better place for future generations to live. People can make a difference through simple lifestyle choices. These include reducing plastic waste, conserving water, choosing sustainable products, turning off lights when not in use, and walking or cycling instead of driving whenever possible.[13,14]

We bring to you 12 Act Wise Ways to Save Mother Earth. You know them but still you don't act upon them. Reason is just one "to kya hua, chalta hai, its ok ". Friends it might seem ok abhi (now) while you are sitting in an AC room with your iPads, iPhones, androids, laptops all working well. But remember those moments when there is a power cut and everything which is so much associated with your personality goes useless without that electric current. Think of those moments when you have to step out of you AC cars and comfy homes into the scorching sun. Think of those moments when the heat knocks you down with various infections and flues. Think of those moments when floods and tsunamis hit your fellow humans in various parts of the world.

Friends with each passing day, our lax attitude is just adding on to the climate change threat on our planet. Thousands of species of animals and plants are already bearing the brunt of the problem and signaling the emergency alarm for humanity. Scientists exclaim that if we don't act now there might be no tomorrow.[15,16]

It's time to act for saving the Mother earth. Here is your act wise key:

1. Use public transport and save fuel.
2. Eat only seasonal fruits and vegetables. Reduce import. Reduce Carbon dioxide
3. Turn off the tap while brushing and save water.
4. Turn off extra lights and fans. Switch to LEDs or CFLs and save energy

5. Wash your car using water in a bucket and save water
6. Reduce your paper usage simply by using emails and edocs and save trees.
7. Use car pool. Save fuel. Reduce pollution.
8. Say no to plastic bags and Save earth.
9. Harvest rainwater. Reuse resources and do your bit for mother earth
10. Adopt the mantra of Rethink|Reduce|Reuse| Recycle and save earth
11. Fix your dripping faucet. Save water. Save resources.
12. The mool mantra of environment protection; plant and take care of trees .

Mother Earth is clearly urging a call to action. Nature is suffering. Oceans filling with plastic and turning more acidic. Extreme heat, wildfires and floods, have affected millions of people. Even these days, we are still facing COVID-19, a worldwide health pandemic linked to the health of our ecosystem. Climate change, man-made changes to nature as well as crimes that disrupt biodiversity, such as deforestation, land-use change, intensified agriculture and livestock production or the growing illegal wildlife trade, can accelerate the speed of destruction of the planet. This is the first Mother Earth Day celebrated within the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Ecosystems support all life on Earth. The healthier our ecosystems are, the healthier the planet - and its people. Restoring our damaged ecosystems will help to end poverty, combat climate change and prevent mass extinction. But we will only succeed if everyone plays a part. For this International Mother Earth Day, let's remind ourselves - more than ever - that we need a shift to a more sustainable economy that works for both people and the planet. Let's promote harmony with nature and the Earth. Join the global movement to restore our world![17,18]

Results

United Nations observes a special day to celebrate Mother Earth on 22nd April. Launched in 1970 with 10000 people, today it covers one billion people in 192 countries. The basic objective is to raise awareness about the obligation of human beings to protect Earth and share its resources with future generations. The theme for 2017 is to create "Environment and climate literacy" to empower the knowledge base of common people towards the issue and inspiring them towards actions to defend the Mother Earth. According to IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change) India is most vulnerable to the impact of climate change, adversely impacting the health, economic development and food security. In order to address this challenge of climate change, India has evolved a comprehensive plan: 'India's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC): Working towards Climate Justice'. [19,20] This document addresses the issue holistically including the elements of adaptation, mitigation, finance, green technology and capacity building. While implementing these intended actions, it calls for the right of developing countries for an equitable carbon space to achieve sustainable development and eradication of poverty. The formation of Rs 3500 million or US Dollar 56 million 'National Adaptation Fund' will initiate policies towards renewable energy through multiple initiatives to achieve the target of reducing carbon emissions by 33 to 35 percent by 2030. The main focus is to revisit the National Missions under National Action for Climate Change (NAPCC) with additional missions on wind, health, water and redesigning missions on sustainable agriculture. The adaptation strategy is directed towards sustainable use of land and water resources. The implementation of soil health cards across the country, watershed and use of water efficient irrigation programme will pave way towards risk proofing agriculture. [21,22] The coverage of agricultural insurance of crops through climate change disasters is another initiative that comes to the rescue of farmers. In addition to the National Solar Mission that targets fivefold increase in solar power to 1000 GW, it also aims to develop smart power grids to enhance the efficiency of power

transmission and distribution across the country. To cap the wastage of energy consumption a nationwide campaign for energy conservation is launched to save 10 per cent energy consumption. While these are macro level policies to address the issue of climate change, the government of India has initiated micro projects that have direct benefits accruing to the poorest groups while contributing to saving energy. Under the ministry of Renewable Energy, UJALA scheme is launched in which 22.66 crore LED bulbs are distributed that will save Rs 11776 crores while reducing carbon emission up to 24 Metric tons per year.[23,24] This has direct impact on rural women empowering them by providing easy access to clean energy source that improves their health and reducing the pressure on forest resources as well as reducing the carbon emissions.[25,26]

Conclusions

The Swachh Bharat Mission is another strategy under which there are initiatives to create energy from the waste in urban areas. Similarly recycling and reuse of waste water is another initiative 23277 millions litre of water per day in 816 sewage treatment plants across the country.

Green India Mission is another initiative to reforest barren land with the annual target of increasing the forest quality and cover in 5 million hectares will sequester 100 million tons of carbon annually. The traditional Indian culture emphasised the need for harmonious co existence between man and nature. With the concept of “Basudaiv Kutumbakam” all life forms on the Earth is considered as one family and reinforces the concept of interdependence. Before the advent of Mother Earth Day in the modern world, the Vedas and Upanishads considered Earth as our mother and human being as the children.[27,28] Much before the arrival of climate change crises, our forefathers envisaged the concept of environmental sustainability and to become the trustees of Earth to be passed on to future generations. It will be appropriate to recall the statement made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi while addressing the United Nations summit in which he said “We should forge a global public partnership to harness technology, innovation and finance to put affordable clean and renewable energy within the reach of all. Equally, we must look for changes in our lifestyles that would make us less dependent on energy and more sustainable in our consumption.[29,30] It is equally critical to launch a global education programme that prepares our next generation to protect and conserve Mother Earth”.

Thus it is only through creation of environment and climate literacy that will result in global action of changing the life styles that leads to reduction in the carbon emission that we can save Mother Earth.[31,32,33]

References

1. Palaeolexicon; Word Study Tool of Ancient Languages;
2. Leeming, David Adams (2010). *Creation Myths of the World: An Encyclopedia*. Vol. 1 (2 (revised, illustrated) ed.). ABC-CLIO. p. 118. ISBN 978-1-59884-174-9.
3. Leonard, William Ellery (1916). "Proem – Lucr. 1.1". Perseus Project. Tufts University.
4. Catto, Bonnie A. (1988). "Venus and Natura in Lucretius: "De Rerum Natura" 1.1-23 and 2.167-74". *The Classical Journal*. 84 (2): 97–104. ISSN 0009-8353. JSTOR 3297566.
5. "Mitologia - Auñamendi Eusko Entziklopedia". aunamendi.eusko-ikaskuntza.eus (in Basque). Retrieved 8 October 2018.
6. Ortiz-Osés, Andrés (1985). *Antropología simbólica vasca* (in Spanish). Anthropos Editorial. ISBN 9788485887842.

7. Davies, Ann (13 April 2012). *Spanish Spaces: Landscape, Space and Place in Contemporary Spanish Culture*. Oxford University Press. ISBN 9781781387962.
8. Lira, Jorge A.; 1944; "Diccionario Kkechuwa - Español;" Tucumán, Argentina
9. Alemán Cleto, Teódula (2015). *Coateteleco, pueblo indígena de pescadores [Coateteleco, Indígena fishing town]* (in Spanish) (1st ed.). Cuernavaca, Morelos.
10. "This Day in Quotes: "It's not nice to fool Mother Nature"". 3 December 2010.
11. *Issues and trends in Education for Sustainable Development*. Paris: UNESCO. 2018. pp. 26, 27. ISBN 978-92-3-100244-1.
12. "Benefits of Environmental Education". NEEF. Retrieved 2018-10-18.
13. Curtis, Rick. "OA Guide to Outdoor and Environmental Careers". www.princeton.edu. Retrieved 2018-10-18.
14. "Environmental Education Degree - Bachelors, Certificates, Masters & PhD Programs Online | EnvironmentalScience.org". www.environmentalscience.org. Retrieved 2018-10-18.
15. Milstein, T., Pileggi, M., & Morgan, E. (Eds.) (2017). *Environmental Communication Pedagogy and Practice*. London, UK: Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315562148>
16. "Top 5 Environmental Science Careers". *Environmental Science Degree*. Retrieved 2018-10-18.
17. "How to Become a Park Ranger: Career and Salary Information". *Criminal Justice Degree Schools*. Retrieved 2018-10-18.
18. "What is a Park Ranger". www.parkrangeredu.org. 27 March 2014. Retrieved 2018-10-18.
19. "Careers in Environmental Education - oceans, important, types, system, marine". www.waterencyclopedia.com. Retrieved 2018-10-18.
20. "Careers in Outdoor Education: Options and Education Requirements". *Study.com*. Retrieved 2018-10-18.
21. Åhlberg, Mauri; Kaasinen, Arja; Kaivola, Taina; Houtsonen, Lea (October 2001). "Collaborative knowledge building to promote in-service teacher training in environmental education". *Journal of Information Technology for Teacher Education*. 10 (3): 227–240. CiteSeerX 10.1.1.609.1216. doi:10.1080/14759390100200113. S2CID 62615757.
22. "Environmental Scientists and Specialists : Occupational Outlook Handbook: : U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics". www.bls.gov. Retrieved 15 April 2020.
23. "Learn About Being an Environmental Scientist". *The Balance Careers*. Retrieved 2018-10-18.
24. Chang, C. H. (2014). *Climate change education: Knowing, doing and being*. Rutledge.[1]
25. Bill Cronon, WilliamCronon.net Archived 2010-11-18 at the Wayback Machine
26. Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Network. 2006. "Environmental Education in Canada: An overview for grantmakers," Toronto: ON. http://www.cegn.org/english/home/documents/EEBrief_Eng.pdf Archived 2013-08-22 at the Wayback Machine, p. 2
27. Swan, J.A. (1969). "The challenge of environmental education". *Phi Delta Kappan*. 51: 26–28.

28. Stapp, W.B.; et al. (1969). "The Concept of Environmental Education" (PDF). *The Journal of Environmental Education*. 1 (1): 30–31. doi:10.1080/00139254.1969.10801479.
29. EElink.net Archived 2010-06-11 at the Wayback Machine
30. Kalindi, B. (2014). "Learning engagement and environmental education for sustainability". *Primary & Middle Years Educator*. 12 (2): 14–23.
31. "7th World Environmental Education Congress - Summary". United Nations Environment Programme. 2013-06-14.
32. The Belgrade Charter, Adopted by the UNESCO-UNEP International Environmental Workshop, October 13–22, 1975. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0001/000177/017772eb.pdf> accessed 3 March 2011