

AMOGHVARTA

ISSN : 2583-3189



Environmental Education in the Context of New Education Policy-2020

ORIGINAL ARTICLE



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Abstract

Education is the most powerful weapon which one can use to change the world. It has proved by many scholars around the world which is why we need to educate ourselves about the Environmental Education and its importance. Environmental Education is the need of house. As the whole world is suffering with many environmental problems such as global warming, climate change, deforestation and pollution therefore there is a need of Environmental Education. We are responsible for how we shape our environment because only by creating awareness about the harmful effects of environmental damage can help us to build a safe and secure future for our children. When we and our children will be educated about the environment, we will identify our responsibility as global citizens and make a positive change for our planet which will help us in utilizing our

resources more efficiently. Different countries of the world have taken initiatives towards Environmental Education for the masses so has India. In New Education Policy-2020 of India sustainable development had been given importance but it does not explain about the need and importance of Environmental Education. This article focuses the need and importance of Environmental Education in India and different roles of education policies in it.

Key Words

Environmental Education, Environmental Problems, New Education Policy-2020.

Introduction

If we see in India there is a long-term sustainability of traditional economic and cultural system and it is the result of traditional education programs. Unfortunately, traditional knowledge has been debilitated by colonial, industrial and global experience. The traditional education system has been replaced by the narrow that environment, nature and culture are only as important economic productivity. The deterioration that followed the world and culture means that the knowledge, values and skills of sustainable divinity have been played out in contemporary education. As a matter of fact, in many cases, the lessons learned and hiddenly play a role in reforming social and environmental values of our modern wealthy and consumer centered society.

Environmental Education

Environmental Education is the study of the natural environment. It enables an individual to explore and solve the problem related to environment and to do work for the betterment of environment. Through Environmental Education individuals develop deep understanding of environment, need and importance of the environment and environmental issues. It develops the ability in individuals to take proper decision towards the betterment of the individual and environment. Environmental Education also deals with that how human being manage their behavior and ecosystem to the sustainable lives.

Environmental Education is a multidisciplinary field that involves ideas, concepts and theories from different fields like Natural Science, Life Science, Geography, Geology and Atmospheric Science.

There are explained some related objectives to help in achieving the goal:

1. **Awareness:** Environmental Education gives the awareness about the environment, it's issues and solution of the problems.
2. **Knowledge:** Environmental Education provides knowledge and information to the individuals about the current happenings in the environment.
3. **Participation:** Environmental Education is a depth study of environment when we dive deeper in any subject, we get more involvement in it. Through Environmental Education individuals are motivated to take participation in saving and taking care of the environment.
4. **Responsibility:** When individual will be aware and will have knowledge about the issues of environment and the reasons behind the disruptions in the environment, he will take proper action and decisions responsibly for saving his environment.
5. **Attitude:** When social groups and individuals have set of values and feelings for the environment. They will be motivated to participate in the protection of environment, positive attitude will be developed towards environment.
6. **Skills Environmental:** Education helps social groups and individuals in acquiring the skills to identify and solve environmental problems.

New Education Policy 2020

The national Education Policy -2020 (NEP 2020) launched on 29 July 2020, highlights the vision of India's new education system, NEP2020 focuses on five pillars, Affordability, Equity, Accessibility, Quality and Accountability to ensure effective learning. This is the first education policy of India in last 34 years. It is based on the principle that education should not only improve cognitive skills, critical thinking and problem-solving abilities but also social, moral and emotional strengths.

This education policy looks at an education system with Indian roots that directly contributes to the transformation of India. This policy forces that curriculum and teaching of our educational institutions must develop a deep sense of respect and love among the students for their root and basic works and values of the country and its constitution.

Need and Importance of Environmental Education

When we talk about the Environmental Education many questions like "why is environmental education necessary?" "What is the need and importance of Environmental Education?" "Why is Environmental Education is needed to include in education?" Here are the responses of all these questions:

1. To help our new population our relationship to our biotic community.
2. To save planet and all its earthlings.
3. Environmental Education helps in growing a generation who are informed and can advocate the environment.

4. Environmental Education keeps environmental issues all in hostile environment.
5. To inform about the conservation to the next generation.
6. To connect children to their environment.
7. To empower children and new generation to become stewards of their environment.
8. Environmental Education is necessary to be continued conservation and preservation of the environment.
9. To understand the world around us and the system that keep it functioning and find our identity within it.
10. Environmental Education is necessary and important for the health of all of us and our environment.
11. Environmental Education is necessary to continue the love of nature in our life.
12. Environmental Education faster environmental relationship in youth.
13. Environmental Education is necessary in curriculum to build knowledge and passionate earth citizens.
14. Environmental Education is important because it requires us to continuously interact with the organisms and process around us.
15. Environmental Education important for bonding with an everchanging environment.
16. Environmental Education is necessary because it develops responsibilities in citizens in different ways including an understanding of the natural world.
17. To develop awareness and connection of the local environment in our community.
18. To inspire new generation to care for the love and protect it for all species.

Environmental Education and New Education Policy 2020

NEP provides us a roadmap restricting, re-articulating and reclaiming the Bhartiya self for becoming a Vishwa guru where equity, equality and fraternity will be given importance. It does not introduce any thing new in the present education system. It looks satisfied with the present environmental education arrangements. It gives more important goals which are related with the environment benefit it also emphasizes on providing indigenous knowledge which is also very important for the betterment of environmental issues.

But lack of awareness and responsibility towards the betterment of Environmental Education is very disappointing in Indian education system. The result of Indian education system is not concerned with the environmental issues and problems due to this attitude India is lagging behind in environmental researches. So, it is necessary to talk about the pedagogical curricular changes in Environmental Education.

There are some important environment related policies/remarks in NPE-2020:

1. Environmental Education should be given by rote learning, by heart learning and methods of teaching Environmental Education must be for over the student centric objective “learn how to learn”.
2. Every attribute of the environment must promote “discovery-based learning”.
3. The environment should make feel of India, its heroes and honor, in the minds of students.
4. It must allow multi-disciplinary learning.
5. The local community must be considered a part of the learning environment.
6. It must design a simplified curriculum and highly engaging pedagogy.

7. Students with special needs and backward students must find better support in the environment.
8. The learning environment must empower teachers.
9. It must demotivate commercialization of education and involvement of money minded parents.
10. Vocational training, development of life skills, cognitive skills and soft skills must be highly valued by the environment.
11. It must provide good care of physical and mental health of students.
12. It must follow “Unity in Diversity” principle.
13. The environment must promote the noble vision and mission of “Education to All”.

Conclusion

We should focus on global change to make Environmental Education more relevant. Student’s attitude towards the Environmental Education is not positive, they do not relate environmental issues with their own life problems. We can improve all these limitations and shortcomings by allowing students to introduce and find out more ways to protect their environment. It is seen that many environmental science and natural science classes are giving good results and are appealing students hearts and minds and motivating them to think and act positively. However, many studies have shown that doing something alone may not always give positive results. Teachers should encourage this by creating friendly environment in classrooms and give the stage to the students to build a personal point of view related the environmental issues and problems.

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