



# *Essentials of* Environmental Education

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## ROLE OF TEACHER IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Dr.Sudhir Sudam Kaware

### Introduction

Environment is become an integral part of our life. We should be aware about environmental issues and make students aware the diversities in the world. As a teacher, I have more responsibility to handle environmental problems through education. It is environmental education. The current approach to environmental education and research sometimes contains too many factual details which fail to engage students in an active learning process. The result is counterproductive as students fail to learn at their maximum potential, does not challenge students with real and theoretical problem solving experiences, does not encourage them to critically think for themselves and may even persuade students to change to other programs of study and careers. This is not in the best interest of maintaining and improving our common biosphere in which we live, especially with the number of local, national and global challenges/problems facing humanity.

There are better approaches to environmental education and research and these have likely been implemented in numerous institutions. These approaches stimulate the student in active learning by engaging them in how science/technology and decisions are related to their everyday life and the common biosphere. From a student's perspective, leaning about everyday science/technology in the areas of environmental pollution, public and personal health, exercise and human biology, diet and human health, waste management, conservation, transportation, non-renewable resources and energy consumption are important for all humans' not just students in programs. Bringing challenges/problems into the classroom and seeking the best solutions may be more important than factual learning and recall on examinations.

### Policies and Studies on Environmental Education

We are aware the policies such as UNESCO Report, 1974 stated that Educational Education is not any different branch or special subject for study; it is a way to achieve goals of environmental conservation. National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 also agreed the importance of Education and Environment. It is very necessary to aware girls and boys about environment. Revised National Policy on Education, 1992 accepted the importance of environmental education and proclaimed that the awareness of environmental education should be spread from children to all classes and region of the society. It will be included in the process of education. Whereas according to National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005, we should make children sensitive for environment and protection of environment is the important component of curriculum. Now it is compulsory to conserve and protect environment for that it is important to give emphasis to protect environment is in primary studies. We have Water (Pollution Control) Act, 1974; Air (Pollution Control) Act, 1981; Factory Act; Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. We also have notable institutions like Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), World Wild Life Fund-India (WWF-I), Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), Centre for Environment Education, Ahmadabad, Bharati Vidyapeeth Institute of Environment Education and Research (BVIEER) Pune etc.

We also aware that the international contribution to protect environment through education. Belgrade Conference on Human Environment, 1972 discussed its goal to improve the environment awareness of all the people in the world, and make them concern about the environment and its problems, make the individuals or group have knowledge, skills and attitudes to solve the current problems and prevent new problems ,and make them engage into this work. World Conference on Environment and Development, 1992 stated to make people understand that the life on this planet are interdependent; Promote people's understanding of environment's promotion or encumbrance in sustainable development; Cultivate people's awareness, abilities, attitudes and values, so that they can participate the national and international sustainable development activities effectively , to get a fairer and more