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# Environmental Education

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## CHAPTER: 10

# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION: FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION

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### Introduction

Education plays a crucial role in our society. It is the process that disseminates knowledge, imparts necessary skills and helps learners in forming or changing attitudes to lead a good life, for the betterment of all human beings. There are so many areas about which we get educated for the fulfilment of several drives and one of the most basic among them is an understanding of how the system of life functions and how we humans fit into them. This is what constitutes environment. The word environment is derived from a French word 'Environ' meaning surrounding, hence everything surrounding us is called environment. **In the words of Trivedi & Raj (1992)** "Environment includes all the conditions, circumstances and influences surrounding and affecting an organism or a group of organisms". Environment has always influenced and shaped our lives from the ancient times. It is environment from where we get our food to eat, water to drink, air to breath and all the necessities of day today, therefore it is a life support system for all.

If we perceive the pristine environment, it was so pure, undisturbed, uncontaminated and quite friendly for all life forms to exist, but today people's ignorance, greed, self-centeredness and lack of respect for the nature has drawn all of us into one of the very serious problems of today i.e., environmental crisis. For this, today environment has become the concern of all; the academicians, intellectuals, scientists, policymakers and government across the continents (Kant and Sharma, 2013). Here It must be noted that environmental crisis is not only a matter of soil, air and water pollution but also includes diseases, hunger & poverty, global warming, malnutrition, destruction of forests, extinction of wildlife, soil