

Environmental Education and Sustainable Development

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ABSTRACT

The term “Environment” is commonly used to describe natural calamity surrounding us and blend of all living and non-living things. Environment comprises of constituents, factors and circumstances that have some impact on growth and development of certain organism. The life on earth could not be possible without environment. Environment issues are negative aspects of human activities on the biophysical environment. There are many concerns and issues that can cause damage to the environment. The rapid growing population and economic development is leading to a number of environmental issues. Increased human activity, urbanization, industrialization have led to rapid deterioration of the environment. To reduce or prevent effect of environmental issues sustainability is the important key. The aim of this paper is expose you to the various global environment issues or concern and possible strategy to cope with them.

Key Words: Environment, Issues, Concern, Human Activity, Sustainability.

INTRODUCTION

Environmental education and sustainable development are closely related concepts that aim to promote awareness, understanding, and action towards the protection and preservation of natural resources and ecosystems, while promoting social and economic well-being for present and future generations. Sustainable development provides a framework for environmental education by outlining the key principles of sustainability and providing a blueprint for action. This includes promoting sustainable lifestyles, reducing waste and pollution, conserving natural resources, and protecting biodiversity. Together, environmental education and sustainable development can help create a more sustainable future by promoting a deeper understanding of the environment, encouraging responsible behaviour, and promoting positive change at the individual, community, and global levels.

Environmental Education and Sustainable Development

Environmental education refers to the process of teaching and learning about the environment and its interconnectedness with human societies, cultures, and economies. It encompasses a broad range of topics and disciplines, such as ecology, conservation, environmental policy, climate change, environmental justice, and sustainability. Sustainable development, on the other hand, refers to a holistic and integrated approach to economic, social, and environmental well-being that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It involves balancing economic growth with social equity and environmental protection, and integrating ecological, economic, and social considerations into decision-making processes.

Goals of Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal set of goals, targets, and indicators adopted by the United Nations in 2015 to guide global development efforts towards a sustainable future for all. The 17 SDGs are as follows:

- **No Poverty:** End poverty in all its forms everywhere. No poverty is about creating a world where everyone has access to the resources and opportunities, they need to lead a dignified and fulfilling life. Free from the constraints of poverty.
- **Zero Hunger:** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. Achieving zero hunger requires more than just increasing food production; it requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes of hungers of hunger and malnutrition, including poverty, inequality, lack of access to resources.

- **Good Health and Well-being:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. It also emphasizes the importance of addressing emerging global health challenges, such as infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and environmental health risk.
- **Quality Education:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities that enables individuals and communities to achieve their full potential and contribute to sustainable development.
- **Gender Equality:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. This requires promoting gender-responsive policies and legislation, investing in women's leadership and economic empowerment and promoting women's decision-making power in each field.
- **Clean Water and Sanitation:** recognise the importance of water scarcity, water pollution, and the impact of climate change on water resources and ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- **Affordable and Clean Energy:** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. Promote the energy efficient measures such as energy efficient buildings, appliances and transportation.
- **Decent Work and Economic Growth:** Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- **Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure:** these are the key indicators of economic development. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.
- **Reduced Inequalities:** inequalities are a significant barrier to sustainable development, undermining social cohesion and economic growth. To achieve this goal, the international community must work together to promote policies and measures that reduce inequalities in all forms, including income inequality, gender inequality, racial and ethnic inequality, and inequalities in access to education, healthcare, and basic services.
- **Sustainable Cities and Communities:** urbanization is an important driver of economic growth and social development, but also a significant contributor to environmental degradation, greenhouse gas emissions, and social inequality. To achieve this goal, the international community must work together to promote sustainable urban planning, infrastructure, and services that are inclusive, resilient, and sustainable.
- **Responsible Consumption and Production:** it recognizes that current patterns of production and consumption are unsustainable and urgent action is needed to promote more sustainable and responsible consumption and production patterns. This requires promoting resource efficiency, reducing waste and pollution and promoting sustainable supply chains and production practices.
- **Climate Action:** it means to recognize that climate change is one of the most significant threats to sustainable development and urgent action is needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.
- **Life Below Water:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development. These resources provide food, livelihood and economic opportunities for millions of people worldwide and regulate the global climate and water patterns.
- **Life on Land:** Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss.
- **Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- **Partnerships for the Goals:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

These goals aim to balance economic, social, and environmental sustainability to promote a better future for people and the planet. They are intended to be achieved by 2030, and require the collective effort of governments, civil society, and individuals worldwide to bring about meaningful change.

Role of environmental education in sustainable development

Environment education plays a critical role in achieving sustainable development by promoting understanding, awareness, and action on environmental issues. Here are some of the ways in which environment education contributes to sustainable development.

- **Educating individuals and communities:** about the impacts of their daily choices and behaviours on the environment, and providing them with the knowledge and skills to adopt more sustainable practices and lifestyles.
- **Awareness and Understanding:** Environment education helps individuals understand the complexities and interdependencies of environmental issues, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. It promotes awareness of the impacts of human activities on the environment and the need for sustainable practices.
- **Empowerment:** Environment education empowers individuals to take action on environmental issues, such as reducing their carbon footprint, conserving natural resources, and protecting wildlife. It equips people with the knowledge and skills needed to make informed decisions and take responsible actions.
- **Innovation:** Environment education encourages creativity and innovation in finding sustainable solutions to environmental problems. It fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration, which are essential for developing new technologies and strategies that promote sustainable development.
- **Policy Development:** Environment education helps shape policies and regulations that promote sustainable development. It informs policymakers about the environmental impacts of different activities and provides evidence-based solutions for mitigating them.
- **Behaviour Change:** Environment education can lead to changes in behaviour and attitudes towards the environment. It can encourage individuals to adopt sustainable practices, such as reducing waste, conserving water, and using renewable energy.

CONCLUSION

Environmental education plays a critical role in achieving sustainable development. By raising awareness and understanding of environmental issues and promoting sustainable lifestyles, environmental education can help individuals and communities take action to protect the environment and promote sustainable development. This sustainable development helps us for national development and individual development in the form of economic growth, physical development and healthy environment.

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