

Environmental Awareness, Protection and Role of Education

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1. Introduction

Environment very simply means the totality of the various situation that surround men in a particular place or time. In wider sense, the word environment can be realized as a composite word. This word includes all the conditions that the lives required for living. Environment includes all the biotic and abiotic substances or things. Environment includes both natural and man-made surroundings. Degradation, in simple and general context means the state of being humiliated; the action of being broken down or made worse. By environmental degradation, we mean the activities which destroys our surroundings or natural qualities or specialties. The environmental degradation has been increasing gradually due to the increasing interest of men and women to make the material progress by destroying such specialties. Because of this, there has been discussions among the intellectuals sections of the world about the environmental degradation. The widespread problems caused by pollutions around

the world have been marked as the main factors of this degradation. The various activities taken for the gradual progress of civilization have polluted the land, water and air, the three aspects of our total surroundings. The environmental degradation has been horrible due to air pollution, water pollution, land pollution, radiation (nuclear) pollution, heat pollution, noise pollution, etc. Environmental scientists have made the people alert about the utmost necessity of selection and systematic study on the factor, natural and man-made, which have positive effect on environmental degradation. Global warming and population explosion have become global issue, at this time. We should be very conscious about the issues. Education can play a vital role in overcoming the issues. From primary to university level, environmental education has been included in the curriculum. Environmental Protection is the practice of protecting the natural environment by individuals organisations and governments. Its objective are to conserve the natural resources and the existing natural

environment and where possible to damaged and reversed trends.

1.1. Objectives of the study: The study is conducted with the following objectives:

- (i) To create awareness about the environment among the young generation.
- (ii) To protect our environment from deforestation and conserve our natural resources.
- (iii) To study various approaches for the protection of healthy environment.

2. Review of related literature

Review according to Webster's Dictionary (1987) is to examine again study critically general survey, critique. In research review of related literature means to conduct general survey of related studies to analyse them critically and put them logically such that a certain research frame work and dimension can emerge. The review of related literature throws light on the studies available and enables the researcher to final the topic of the study. Further, the review studies are also of great help when the researcher need to compare the results in the light of the other study findings. Hence, review is more or less a continuous activity. Some of the reviews of related literature are as follows:

(i) Ahuja (2009): Investigated on a study of environmental awareness among B.Ed teachers trainees of government and self-financed colleges. The chief objective of the study was to find the difference in environmental awareness among the male and female pupil teachers, to compare environmental awareness among the pupil teachers of arts and science streams. It was found that there is no significant difference in between environmental awareness among male and female pupil teachers.

(ii) Larijani (2010): Studied on "Assessment of environmental awareness among higher primary

school teachers". The study was an attempt to study the environmental awareness among the primary school teachers in Mysore city in India. The results revealed that on the whole, majority of the teachers had moderate levels of environmental awareness. Age-wise analysis also revealed that teachers with 31-50 years had higher levels of environmental awareness and lastly, teachers working in private schools found to have significantly higher environmental awareness than teachers working in government schools.

(iii) Aminrad (2010): Experimented on "A study on environmental awareness and attitude among Iranian students in Malaysian Universities". The focus of the study was environmental awareness and attitude among Iranian and Malaysian universities. It evaluates the awareness and attitude of a group of 541 from 14 universities. The results revealed that Environmental awareness was overall moderate while environmental attitude was high. It was found that the media positively affected the level of environmental awareness and attitude among students. The study concluded that increase on age and level of education would improve the level of awareness and attitude regarding to environmental issues.

3. Methodology of the study

Methodology is an essential and powerful tool for any kind of development. For undertaking any study, the investigator has to adopt proper methodology because a good study depends on a sound and effective methodology. It provides the investigator proper direction to plan and solve the problem under study. It is the systematic study of any problem. It involves all the steps that are adopted by the investigator while studying the problem along with the logic behind them. It can be compared to a blue-print that an architect prepares before starting of construction. For the present study, descriptive method has been used. This method includes different enquiry, etc. It is designed to obtain pertinent and precise information concerning the current status of phenomena. Descriptive studies involves

description, recording, analysis and interpretation of the existing condition. The investigator has been undertaken then present study on environmental awareness and protection among the young generation because the day by day environment is going to deteriorating due to lack of awareness. Education plays an important role for protecting the environment. Education helps to develop skills, knowledge, attitude and values. At the school level of education, students' knowledge skill, attitude towards environment and environment related behaviour will definitely leave impression on the tender minds of tiny tons, who are to become adult to tomorrow.

Tool: To fulfil the aim of the present study the investigator have developed an environmental awareness test questionnaire. The items of environmental awareness test were multiple types. With the help of expert opinion 10 items are developed to test the environmental awareness among the under graduate student.

No. of students	Awareness/Protection of environment	Yes	No
100	100 response	98	2

The above table reveals that 98% of the students are always aware of the environment and take initiative for the protection of environment. They are aware of global warming and environmental degradation at this present juncture. They also plant trees for the protection of environment. On the other hand, it is seen from the table only 2% students are unaware about the environmental awareness and protection. They are also trying their best for the welfare of human and show consciousness about the environment.

A Description on Environmental Protection: Environmental protection is the practice of protecting the natural environment by individuals, organisations and governments. Its objectives are to conserve natural resources and the existing natural environment and where possible, to repair damage and reverse trends. Due to the pressures of over consumption, population growth and

Data collection: Data have been collected from the U.G. level student for the said test. The data are basically primary data. After collection of data, they are arrange as per sequence.

4. Analysis and interpretation

The data collection has no meaning unless it is analysed and interpreted in a systematic way through statistical technique. Since it is difficult to explain the raw data for proper meaning. It is the duty of the investigator to analyse the data after collecting it. Data analysis involves the ordering or arranging the constituent parts for the purpose of interpretation to get the desired objectives. However merely analysis of data is not sufficient to get the desired objectives. Interpretation of the result of analysis is also necessary. It makes inferences and draws conclusions. Analysis involves the breaking up of complex factors into simple parts and them together in a new arrangement for the purpose of interpretation.

technology, the biophysical environment is being degraded, sometimes permanently. This has been recognised and governments have begun placing restraints on activities that cause environmental degradation. Since the 1960s, environmental movements have created more awareness of the multiple environmental problems. There is disagreement on the extent of the environmental impact of human activity and even scientific dishonesty occurs. So, protection measures occasionally debated.

Approaches with regards to environmental protection: Times are ever-changing. Having said this, it is important for societies, countries and organisations to avoid resistance and adapt to the needs of all living species and resources. Key concepts of conservation pertain to the sustain ability of resources and species, the longevity of individual product usage and the concerned

domino effects that reckless usage of resources is creating. Sustainable developments, ecological restorations alongside animal welfare are not only all important aspects when discussing conservation and change, but it also provides a valid reason as a topic of concern and awareness. By educating current and upcoming generations and equipping them with the necessary knowledge and tools change to help replenish the environment and a healthier living style as a society is bound to reap great results.

Voluntary environmental agreements: In the industrial countries, voluntary environmental agreements often provide a platform for companies to be recognised for moving beyond the minimum regulatory standards and does support the development of the best environmental practice. For instance, in India, Environmental Improvement Trust has been working for environmental and forest protection, since 1988. A group of green volunteers gets a goal of Green India Clean India concept. CA Gajendra Kumar Jain, a Chartered Accountant, is the founder of Environment Improvement Trust in Sojat city, a small village of state of Rajasthan in India. In developing countries, such as Latin America, these agreements are more commonly used to remedy significant levels of non-compliance with mandatory regulation. The challenges that exist with these agreements lie in establishing baseline data, targets, monitoring and reporting. Due to the difficulties inherent in evaluating effectiveness, their use is often questioned and, indeed the whole environment may well be adversely effected as a result. The key advantage of their use in developing countries is that their use helps to build environmental management capacity.

Ecosystem Approach: An ecosystem approach to resource management and environmental protection aims to consider the complex interrelationships of an entire ecosystem in decision making rather than simply responding to specific issues and challenges. Ideally, the decision-making processes under an approach would be a collaborative approach to planning and decision making that involves a broad range

of stakeholders across all relevant governmental departments, as well as industry representatives, environmental groups and community. This approach ideally supports a better exchange of information, development of conflict-resolution strategies and improved regional conservation. Religions also play an important role in the conservation of the environment.

International environmental agreements: Many of the earth's resources are especially vulnerable because they are influenced by human impacts across many countries. As a result of this, many attempts are made by countries to develop agreements that are signed by multiple governments to prevent damage or manage the impacts of human activity on natural resources. this can include agreements that impact factors such as climate, oceans, rivers and air pollution. These international environmental agreements are sometimes legally binding documents that have legal implications when they are not followed and at other times, are more agreements in principle or are for use as codes of conduct. These agreements have a long history with some multi-national agreements being in place from as early as 1910 in Europe, America and Africa.

Government: Discussion concerning environmental protection often focuses on the role of the government, legislation and law enforcement. However, in its broadest sense environmental protection may be seen to be the responsibility of all people and not simply that of government. Decisions that the environment will ideally involve a broad range of stakeholders including industry, indigenous groups, environmental group and community representatives. Gradually, environmental decision-making process are involving to reflect this broad base of stakeholders and are becoming more collaborative in many countries. Many constitutions acknowledge the basic right to environmental protection and many international treaties acknowledge the right to live in a healthy environment. Also, many countries have organisations and agencies devoted to environmental protection. There are international

environmental protection organisations, such as United Nations Environment Programme.

China: Formal environmental protection in China House stimulated by 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm, Sweden. Following this, they began establishing environmental protection agencies and putting controls on some of its industrial waste. China was one of the first developing countries to implement a sustainable development strategy in 1983, the state council announced that environmental protection would be one of China's basic national policies and in 1984, the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) was established. Following severe flooding of the Yangtze River Basin in 1998, NEPA was upgraded to the State Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) meaning that environmental protection was now being implemented at a ministerial level. In 2008, SEPA become known by its current of Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China (MEP).

Education has the power to modify the society and present better knowledge to its populace. Education can stand has a proper solution to solve different shorts of problem exist in a community and therefore, education has a prominent to play to save the environment. The primary purpose of education when it comes to environmental protection is offering awareness to everyone in a society. Education can provide better awareness of a variety of ecological issues that take place day by day. Everyone in society including kids, youths, adults and mature people can understand and become aware of the various environmental issues if they get proper education on it. Education can give right knowledge on how human beings can deal with behaviour and ecosystems for sustainability. The education system can play a huge role in saving the environment by imparting knowledge how to protect the environment to people in diverse communities. Saving environment is a practice of looking after the natural environment on individual oraganizational or societal levels for the gains of both the environment and humans.

Education aids to resolve main environmental problems like acid rains, ozone depletion, climate changes, global warming, etc. Giving education for saving the environment should start from primary school. Environmental education can be provided by the use audio-visual programs, seminars, training programs, environmental awareness campaign. There are a lot of environmental issues around the globe. Air pollution, water pollution, unexpected climate change, garbage and pollution of the natural environment are some of the challenges faced by many other countries in the world. Education plays a massive role in building up a society that is knowledgeable towards the environment.

Conclusion

The study made through only 100 sample purposively selected might have some limitations, because a sample of larger dimension might reflect a little different picture. Even then , a general conclusion may be derived from the study. The findings of the study indicate that the under graduate college students are generally aware to the environment and its protection. They also feel that environmental education should be given from school to colleges as compulsory subject because mankind will always have to depend on nature and therefore all students should develop as ability and positive attitude to conserve the nature. Because it is necessary to follow the policy of acting “ locally and thinking globally.”

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Access this Article in Online	
	Website: www.ijarm.com
	Subject: Education
Quick Response Code	
DOI: 10.22192/ijamr.2024.11.05.002	

How to cite this article:

Ranjit Kumar Das. (2024). Environmental Awareness, Protection and Role of Education. Int. J. Adv. Multidiscip. Res. 11(5): 14-19.

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22192/ijamr.2024.11.05.002>