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Need of Environmental Education from the start

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Abstract

It is utmost necessary for children to come to nature with their investigative mind in everyday life. The futuristic intuition must be realized from social, cultural, geographical, historical, moral point of view. Primary education is the first step to achieve this goal. Children must understand the existing relationship between human being and nature. They must come in direct contact with nature. Today we are facing environmental pollution (water, soil, air etc.). The temperature is gradually rising higher and higher on decadal basis. Thus, it is need of hour to comprehend the matter of environment from the early stage of education. It is primary education which can be used as tool to make children aware about the environmental degradation. Unity in diversity at our society can be achieved by children through their primary level of education. Therefore, history or lessons from the communities of country who set examples to protect environment must be included in the curriculum of primary schooling. For example- history, life, culture of 'Adivasis'. 'Adivasi' community in past had set examples to maintain balance in nature. They collect food, grain, wood from nature without permanently destroying it. Thus, the objective of the paper is to show the need of environmental education from very early years of education.

Keywords: Primary education, Curriculum, environmental degradation, primary schooling, environmental education.

Introduction:- According to National Curriculum Frame Work 2005, "Appreciation of beauty and art forms is an integral part of human life. Creativity in arts, Literature and other domain of knowledge is closely linked. Education must provide the means & opportunities to enhance the child creative expression & the capacity for aesthetic appreciation." Basic education is the foundation of all education. Hence, this is very much needed to build the surface of child's education holistically strong from the primary level of education. This is very much needed for children to be educated on environmental issues from their primary level of education. This is utmost necessary for children to come to nature with their investigative mind in their daily life. The futuristic intuition must be realized form social, cultural, geographical, historical, moral point of view. Primary education is the first step to achieve this goal. According to Rabindranath Tagore, "The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence."

Need of environment: Our society has lot of scholars who introduced their auspicious thoughts on environment. For example Margaret Mead said, we won't have a society if we

have a tendency to destroy the surroundings. Our nice visionary Gandhiji's vision reveals Earth provides enough to satisfy each man's wants, however not each man's greed.

Lady Bird Johnson thought on surroundings conjointly one among the ample examples that is following -The surroundings is wherever we have a tendency to all meet; wherever all have a mutual interest; it's the one issue all folks share.

John Paul II delivered his read on surroundings superbly, consistent with him, The Earth won't still provide its harvest, except with trustworthy berth. We have a tendency to can't say we have a tendency to love the land and so take steps to destroy it to be used by future generations. Here, another scholar John Ruskin's opinion may be coded on following means Nature is painting for US, day once day, photos of infinite beauty.

Definition of environmental education: Green and Brody (2016) describe atmospheric education as a series of stages of identity development that move from education within the atmosphere to education concerning the atmosphere and at last to education for the environment. Environmental education (EE) considers the ecological sciences, still as interest in nature and social needs/demands (Brody, 2005).

Importance of environmental education: Environmental education facilitates the learners to assess each and every elements of environment on holistic point of view. Palmer (1998), declared that the special feature of atmospheric education (EE) is that the data of atmospheric laws and principles of functioning of the natural system area unit studied among the environment that facilitate to develop sensible skills and therefore the ability to create assessment of the state of the environment.

In Nigeria, the National instructional analysis Development Council (NERDC) currently the National instructional analysis Council NERC (1992), planned the goals and objectives of EE within the country, and that they embrace one. To change children to participate in higher cognitive process associated with environmental problems two.

To change learners to develop operational understanding of a number of the fundamental idea and processes about environmental problems e.g. pollution, deforestation. To develop the flexibility to enquire into drawback things related to the atmosphere four. Taking into consideration social and cultural factors of the individuals and suggesting solutions.

Now, whole world is facing environmental degradation related problems which is needed to be comprehended as early as possible. Many people believe that environmental education is one of the most important factors for preventing environmental problems (Ozden, 2008). Investigating environmental issues will improve students' understanding of thinking and scientific observation. Implementing thinking skills will improve the training of science and environmental education (Balim. A.G., 2013). The balance of nature may be a most burning issue during this hour which might be imparted through environmental education. The atmosphere is that the place wherever organism move one another. Atmosphere conjointly affects the balance of nature and human. Negative balance can have a negative impact on the environmental carrying capability (Yeoman.K.H & Zamorski. B., 2008). Environmental education can facilitate students to develop skills

and ethics to know the link between humans and atmosphere. The main target of the student's life expertise needs typically a high level of participation in environmental education (Daskolia.M., Dimos. A and Kampylis.P. 2012). Environmental education supports the notion that learning about the environment should include how an individual develops a relationship or disposition towards the environment (Frantz & Mayer, 2014). Other studies have demonstrated how connection, and feeling a part of the physical environment and nature, is an important feature for developing positive environmental attitudes and behaviors in children and adults (Cialdini et al., 1997; Frantz & Mayer, 2014). Environmental education helps to develop self efficacy, empathy for creatures, sense of oneness, and responsible attitude among the learners. The connection to Nature Index developed by Cheng and Monroe (2010) measures enjoyment of nature, fellow feeling for creatures, sense of identicalness, and sense of responsibility. Their findings unconcealed that children's association to nature, previous experiences in nature, perceived family values towards nature, and perceived self-efficacy, absolutely influenced their interest in acting environmentally friendly behaviours. Environmental education is a marvelous tool to develop environmental awareness as well as thinking ability among students. The growth of environmental awareness illustrates the need for effective environmental education scheme that generate the new way of thinking (Markaki.V., 2014). According to the North American Association for Environmental Education as cited by Thompson and Hoffman (2003), declared that environmental education is learner centered; providing students with opportunities to construct their own understanding through hands on, minds on investigations involves participating learners in direct experiences and challenges them to use higher order thinking skills is corroboratory of the event of a lively learning community wherever learners share concepts and experience.

The development of environmental awareness affects the student character. The attitude of the environmental care is influenced by economic, parent attitude, and residence factors (Rickinson. M., 2001). Teaching methods for environmental education should offer learners with learning experiences and opportunities to confront their views and values associated with the environmental problems for them to handle the environmental problems (Sanera, 1998). Through environmental education students learn about forest and its utility. Positive behavior towards environment among students can be developed undoubtedly through this study. According to Pawar and Rothkar (2015), forests area unit important for human life as a result of they provide a varied vary of resources like interesting carbon or acting as carbon sink, generating atomic number 8 that is very important for life's existence on earth so that they are called earth respiratory organ, aiding to control hydrological cycle, world's climatical condition, water purification, providing home ground to life, decreasing warming, interesting toxic gases and noise, reducing pollution, conserving soil, and mitigating natural threats like floods and landslides.

Lastly, Korkmaz et al. (2018) well-lighted that environmental education targets to make positive and environmental-sensitive insights, attitudes and behaviors toward environmental protection. It primarily centers on shifting the attitudes and behaviors of scholars, instead of transmittal data. Tree planting activity at school may be a sensible a part of environmental education. This sort of activity not solely helpful to develop positive outlook towards atmosphere among learners however additionally necessary to send

positive message to the community relating to the school's in progress comes to avoid wasting the character. According to Bekele (2015), tree planting activity raised students' awareness and lots of college youngsters function a channel for disseminative numerous environmental messages to their oldsters and therefore the encompassing community. It's environmental education that develops cultural still as social qualities among the first college learners throughout their early stage of learning. "Environmental education entails a new pedagogy, which arises from the need to orient education within the social context and in the ecological and cultural reality where the subjects and actors of educational process are located" (Leff, 1998, p. 218). Need of modernization is a most demanding need in this generation. But, the prevailing process of modernization in the society has had many questions. So, environmental education helps us to show the way of modernization without harming the stability of the nature as well as the world. Environmental education questions the processes of modernization, which reify the subject and mold a type personality, where it does not go deeper than its productive, consumerist and pragmatic values, identifying the human being by its consumption power. One of the strategies that can be developed in the training of university students is the case study because the training requires the "close examination of people, topics, issues, or programs" (Hays, 2004, p. 218). Louv, (2008, p. 226) states that, "An environment-based education movement – at all levels of education- will help students realise that school isn't supposed to be a polite form of incarceration, but a portal to the wider world".

Primary schooling and environmental education: This is the time for primary school children to get knowledge & full understanding about different kinds of living animals around our society, and also their foods, their beverages, their habits, sounds, colour, qualities etc. can be learnt from primary level of education. How their existence makes our environment balance can be learnt from primary level of education.

Primary level of education of children is the ideal time to get knowledge about different type of trees & their ayurvedic qualities, their fruits, flowers etc.

Students from this level can get concept about the relevance of different trees through their primary education. Students can learn about different kinds of birds & their unique sounds, colour, habits, qualities etc. ideally from their primary school.

This is the fittest time to make aware students about the animals & birds who are going to obsolete from the earth, and what are the causes behind this can be learnt from this period. It is also necessary for students to get knowledge about those animals who are totally obsolete from the earth. Primary school or primary level of education is the first source that can provide this knowledge to students. It can also provide information to students about the negative effects of imbalance of the nature due to this obsolescence.

Through primary level of education students can learn about different kinds of nutritious foods, their sources etc. Students can learn about the process to maintain their health & hygiene from their primary level of education.

It is very much needed to understand about different body organs or parts & their necessities etc. for them. Primary school is the most trustable source to provide this information to them. For example-It is only primary schools that can aware students about the relevance of teeth for them etc.

How air can be purified, how air is polluted can be learnt from this stage. Which gas is harmful for human being can be learnt through primary level of education. How oxygen helps us to survive can be learnt from this stage. Weather & Climate related basic concepts can be formed through this primary education among children. Why & when typical different seasons come into our life can be learnt through this basic education.

It is through primary education students can easily understand which animal lives in which forest in our country, Example-Royal Bengal tiger lives in 'sundarban' west Bengal. Primary level of education is the ideal time for children to earn knowledge about different planets, stars, satellites etc. The causes behind day & night, high tide-low tide, climate change etc. can be understood by the children through primary level of education. It is only primary level of education that can aware children about the great history of space expedition of human being. Children need to understand the unhealthy effect of dirty garbage around our society & basic education can help the children to comprehend the matter perfectly.

Primary school children must understand the different geographical location of our country & the livelihood of people keeping in view of their geographical location. Examples- those persons who are living around the river or sea they generally choose fisheries occupation, those who are living in mount ant areas like Darjelling choose tea related occupation etc. Hence, basic education at primary level of students must be so formed that it gives students awareness about above mentioned issues.

Primary education is the first step that can provide concept about different kinds of occupations like- Doctor, Nurse, Barber, Carpenter, Teacher, Advocate, Businessman, Artist etc.

In current days we all are well informed that global warming along with pollution in water, sand is growing dangerously for human civilization. Hence, primary level of education is the first source of information about these issues for children. It can create awareness regarding these matters among the children.

We know that we have large prestigious cultural heritage. Some provinces of our country have unique characteristic on folk songs, dances, music, arts, handicrafts. Examples – 'Kathak' dance represents Uttar Pradesh and Rajastha, 'Bharat Natyam' represents Tamil Nadu etc. Students need to understand this. Hence, primary level of education will be considered the first source of information about these matters for children.

Children in their childhood are to make themselves conscious about different types of relationships present in the society & also they are to understand the relevance of these relationships prevailing in the society. They are to understand the need & relevance of father, mother, brother, elder brother, sister, grand father, grand mother, aunty, uncle in the family. They have to show their faith, honour, believe, love towards them. These behavioral qualities can be developed among children through their primary level of education. How to maintain congenial relationship with neighbors can be developed through primary level of education among children.

How society is formed, what are the relevancies of the society, how society can be developed, what are the necessities of different institutions in the society & how these institutions are developed can be learnt through primary level of education. Primary school is the first source of information about these issues.

Through primary level of education children can better understand different types of community present in our country, through primary education children can understand how 'Adibasi' community balance in the nature though they collect food, fruits, grains, wood from nature without harming the stability of nature.

Keeping in view the undesirable mishaps on cultural, religious, classism issues in recent past days it is utmost necessary to develop moral values among children. Primary schooling will be considered the first stage for creating awareness on religion, caste, colour, creed among the children to maintain religious, cultural harmony in the society. They are to understand the religious, cultural identity as well as the relevance of religious, cultural harmony. Primary education is the first medium to achieve this target. This is the first stage when students correctly understand the identity of 'Temple', 'Church', 'Masque', 'Gurudwara' etc.

The great heritages of our country can be understood by the children through their primary level of education. It will help them to understand nation's history, pride etc. Example – 'Tajmahal' which is treated 7th wonder in the world can be introduced before the children in their primary level of education.

It is only basic education which provides knowledge about different customs prevailing in different parts of the country among the children. It will help to retain & transfer the great cultural heritage of our country from one generation to another. Examples – Hindu's bride & groom both circumambulate the holy fire during their marriage ceremony. This is the unique custom prevailing in our society that can be learnt through primary level of education.

People of the different parts of our county feel like different dresses, this can be understood through basic education. People of the different parts of our county feel like different foods, basic education is the first source of education for children in this matter. Finally it will create tolerance, honour and understanding among the children for the inhabitants of our different parts of country. Example – Inhabitants of west Bengal, Orissa, Nagaland etc. Generally feel like fish in their lunch/dinner but inhabitants of C.G., M.P. etc. generally do not like fish in their lunch/ dinner. Some people of our country are vegetarian and some people are not vegetarian, but we have to maintain mutual respect to each other. Primary education is the prime foundation to develop this mutual respect among students.

Conclusion: After a long narration it can be concluded that environmental education at primary level helps children to form their character, increase their strength of mind, and expand their intellect. It will be helpful to sublimate the evil tendencies of mind of students at early stage of their life. Service for mankind attitude will be developed among children through environmental education. It is environmental education which trains individual to transform himself into the personality of man. Environmental education can create class consciousness among children at their early stage of life. It can be good tool to spread universal brotherhood, morality, humanity among children from very beginning of their

learning. Cultural constraints can be recovered through environmental education. Environmental education can help people to build strong balanced personality instead of fragile personality. Selflessness and universal brotherhood can be achieved through proper practice of environmental education at primary schools. It will help to maintain the integrity, sovereignty, secularism, nationalism and oneness in the nation. Ultimately aim of environmental education is considered as man making.

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