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Environmental education (EE)

- Environmental education (EE) refers to organized efforts to teach how natural environments function, and particularly, how human beings can manage behavior and ecosystems to live sustainably. It is a multi-disciplinary field integrating disciplines such as biology, chemistry, physics, ecology, earth science, atmospheric science, mathematics, and geography

The characteristics of environmental education include:

- It is a life-long process,
- It is interdisciplinary and holistic in nature and its application,
- It is an approach to education as a whole, rather than a subject,
- It concerns the inter-relationship and interconnectedness between human and natural systems,
- It views the environment in its entirety including social, political, economic, technological, moral, aesthetic and spiritual aspects,
- It encourages participation in the learning experience
- It emphasises active responsibility,

Need of EE

- To protect the environment because .our environment is being increasingly degraded by human activities
- To make people aware regarding environment through newspapers, radio, television, etc.
- To make people aware regarding environment like BSI (Botanical Survey of India, 1890), ZSI (Zoological Survey of India, 1916), WII (Wild Life Institute of India, 1982) etc.

The characteristics of environmental education include:

- It uses a broad range of teaching and learning techniques, with stress on practical activities and hands-on experience,
- It is concerned with local to global dimensions, and past/present/ future dimensions,
- It should be enhanced and supported by the organisation and structure of the learning situation and institution as a whole,
- It encourages the development of sensitivity, awareness, understanding, critical thinking and problem-solving skills,
- It encourages the clarification of values and the development of values sensitive to the environment,
- It is concerned with building on environmental ethic.

Goals of environmental education

- 1. to foster clear awareness of, and concern about, economic, social, political, and ecological interdependence in urban and rural areas.
- 2. to provide every person with opportunities to acquire the knowledge, values, attitudes, commitment and skills needed to protect and improve the environment.
- 3. to create new patterns of behaviour of individuals, groups, and society as a whole, towards the environment (UNESCO, 1977.)

Guiding Principles of Environmental education

- (a) Creating the awareness about environmental problems among people.
- (b) Imparting basic knowledge about the environment and its allied problems.
- (c) Developing an attitude of concern for the environment.
- (d) Motivating public to participate in environment protection and environment improvement.
- (e) Acquiring skills to help the concerned individuals in identifying and solving environmental problems.
- (f) Striving to attain harmony with Nature.

Importance's of environmental EDN

- 1. To clarify modern environmental concept like how to conserve biodiversity.
- 2. To know the more sustainable way of living.
- 3. To use natural resources more efficiently.
- 4. To know the behaviour of organism under natural conditions.
- 5. To know the interrelationship between organisms in populations and communities.
- 6. To aware and educate people regarding environmental issues and problems at local, national and international levels.

Scope of Environmental edn:

- a) Environmental Science:
 - It deals with the scientific study of environmental system (air, water, soil and land), the inherent or induced changes on organisms and the environmental damages incurred as a result of human interaction with the environment.
- (b) Environmental Engineering:
 - It deals with the study of technical processes involved in the protection of environment from the potentially deleterious effects of human activity and improving the environmental quality for the health and well beings of humans.

Scope of EE

- (c) Environmental Management:

It promotes due regard for physical, social and economic environment of the enterprise or projects. It encourages planned investment at the start of the production chain rather than forced investment in cleaning up at the end.