

# Climate Change and its Impact on Environment

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"We don't have Society if we destroy the Environment".  
Margaret Mead*

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## INTRODUCTION

The sign of the global warming are everywhere and more complex than just climbing temperatures. Many people think of global warming and climate change as synonyms but scientists prefer to use climate change.

Since we know that the nature is the mother of human beings, has blessed us with a beautiful environment. it is sun total of precious things like land, water, air and all living and non living things. Environment is creature if men, cause of its existence and factor which decides how long a manki d can survive. As per Environmental determinism, environment decides human life style. Environment fulfills our all needs but due to our greed, we harm it in many ways. In the name of so called development human has indulged himself in various activities like deforestation, air pollution, soil pollution, water pollution, global warming etc which is leading towards environmental problems. So the sustainable development is the need of hours.

Pollution is increasing day by day. The increasing amount of dangerous substances in Environment can be destroyer for civilization. In the name of so called development and industrialization we have polluted earth, water and air quality. Delhi is one of the most polluted cities in the world where many dangerous substances have been found in air and water. Air pollution causes acid rain, ozone depletion, photochemical smog and other such phenomena. It may cause diseases, allergies or death in human. It may also cause harm to other living organism such as animals, food crops and many damage the natural or built environment. So it's the need of hours to save environment and sustainable development.

## Sustainable Development

Sustainable development has been defined in many ways, but the most frequently quoted definition is from our common future, also known as the Brundtland Reports:

"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. "

Sustainable development is a strategy by which communities seek to accommodate within economic development approaches that also benefit the local environment and quality of life. It has become an important guide to many communities that have discovered that traditional approaches to planning and development are creating, rather than solving, societal and environmental problems. Where traditional approaches can lead to congestion sprawl pollution and resource over-consumption sustainable development offers real, lasting solutions that will strengthen our future.

Sustainable development provides a framework under which communities can use resources efficiently create efficient infrastructures protect and enhance their quality of life, and create new business to strengthen their economies- It can help us create healthy communities that can sustain generation as well as those that follow ours generation, as well as those that follow ours.

Sustainable development is not a new concept. Rather, it is the latest expression of a long-standing ethic involving people's relations with the environment and the current generation's responsibilities to future generations.

For a community to be truly sustainable, it must adopt a three-pronged approach that considers economic, environmental and cultural resources.

Communities must consider these needs in the short term as well as the long term.

Some common descriptions of sustainable development are given below:

- Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. <sup>1</sup>
- Then I say the earth belongs to each . . . generation during its course, fully and in its own right, no generation can contract debts greater than may be paid during the course of its own existence. <sup>2</sup>
- Sustainability refers to the ability of a society, ecosystem, or any such ongoing system to continue functioning into the indefinite future without being forced into decline through exhaustion of key resources. <sup>3</sup>

- Sustainability is the [emerging] doctrine that economic growth and development must take place, and be maintained over time, within the limits set by ecology in the broadest sense by the interrelations of human beings and their works, the biosphere and the physical and chemical laws that govern it. It follows that environmental protection and economic development are complementary rather than antagonistic processes.<sup>4</sup>
- A sustainable community effort consists of a long-term, integrated, systems approach to developing and achieving a healthy community by jointly addressing economic, environmental, and social issues. Fostering a strong sense of community and building partnership and consensus among key stakeholders are also important elements of such efforts.

The focus and scale of sustainability efforts depend on local conditions, including resources; politics, individual actions, and the unique features of the community. The sustainable communities approach has been applied to issues as varied as urban sprawl, inner-city and brownfield redevelopment, economic development and growth, ecosystem management, agriculture, biodiversity, green buildings, energy conservation, watershed management, and pollution prevention. Many of these issues and other community problems cannot easily be addressed by traditional approaches elements within our society.

"Many people feel it is better to address such problems through a more collaborative and holistic systems approach because such problems are diffuse, multidisciplinary, multiagency, multi stakeholder and multi sector in nature."<sup>5</sup>

Sustainable Development can be thought of as a process requiring simultaneous progress in four dimensions - economic, human, environmental and technological. The close links between these different dimensions and actions in one area can reinforce goals in another, for example, it cannot neglect environmental constraints or be based on the destruction of natural resources. It cannot succeed without the parallel development of human resources; and it will require transformation of the existing industrial base and the development and diffusion of more earth-friendly technologies (World Resources Institute, Environmental Education Project, Teacher's Guide).

Sustainable Development also means that the following principles should underlie the activities undertaken within these four dimensions:

- The principle of inter-generational justice or futurity.
- Equal access to the world's material and energy.
- Diversity of social and ecological systems leading to the strengthening of local cultures and stability.
- Participation by citizens.

### Sustainable Development through Educations

We need to identify and develop educational programmes that focus on the causes rather than just the symptoms of the environmental crisis. It is imperative therefore, that we become acquainted with the global environmental crisis such as Greenhouse effect, risks to ozone layer, acid rain, pollution of world's oceans, desertification, loss of tropical forests and soil loss, more particularly with the environmental problems of Third World countries such as hazardous products and technologies, the green revolution, destructive fishing techniques, destruction of mangrove forests, and energy mega-projects. In India, we face the dual problem of population growth and poverty. To these we can trace host all our major environmental problems like the denudation of forests, overgrazing, sewage pollution, malnutrition, communicable diseases etc. Simultaneously in some parts of the country, the environmental problems due to industrial pollution and urban congestion can be clearly discerned.

Population has exploded, physical resources are being depleted and technological growth has been phenomenal resulting in an unprecedented water and noise pollution, land destruction and accumulation of pesticides residue. We have started to realise and are rather haunted by the feeling that the world is moving ahead towards disaster or perhaps we might have reached its brinks had may soon destroy ourselves. It is therefore, very urgent that we diagnose this malady and adopt preventive and curative measures.

Since Environmental Education is a process dealing with man's relationship with natural manmade surroundings, population, pollution, resource allocation and depletion, conservation, transportation, technology and urban and rural planning, to the total environment and of recognizing values and clarifying concepts to develop skills and attitudes necessary to understand and appreciate the inter-relatedness among man, his culture and his biophysical surroundings, it is very essential to include Environmental Education in school curriculum right from primary to university level.

The importance of Environmental Education is also reflected in the National Policy on Education (NPE 1986) which states:

There is a paramount need to create a consciousness of the environment. It must permeate all ages and all sections of society, beginning with the child. Environment consciousness should inform teaching in schools and colleges. This aspect should be integrated in the entire educational process.

Most people recognize the urgent need for Environmental Education, but only some have clear ideas about what needs to be done, and very few have either the actual experience of the knowledge about the course that needs to be taught. The child objective of Environmental Education is that individuals and social groups should acquire awareness and knowledge, develop attitudes, skills and abilities and participate in solving real-life environmental problems. The ultimate goal of successful educational environment programmes is to foster a

valuing approach and responsible action through modified attitudes and lifestyle.

Environmental Education should be taught to students to recognize that they are part of an interdependent human and natural web. Students can emerge as a new generation educated to question prevalent attitudes and values, to seek a balance between the lifestyles our society takes for granted and an ecologically sound environment, to protect and respect diversity wherever it occurs in natural and human communities; to live in conformity with an ethic, which sees people as part of the natural world - not its masters - and to care so much about the world they have inherited that they are willing to work together to pass it on to future generations a little better than they found it. The perspective should be integrated, inter-disciplinary and holistic in character. Obviously, the approach has to be from bottom-upward i. e., from primary stage itself.<sup>7</sup>

### Need for Environmental Education at Primary Stage

Environmental Education is indeed very important for children at primary stage, because firstly, the mental alertness and observation towards the environment seems to and nature. The bond of appreciation would get strengthened as the child grows. Secondly, primary education constitutes the broad base of the educational pyramid in many developing countries. It has been conjectured that for a sizeable proportion of the children, primary education may be the only formal education that they are opportune to have. Many of the children may drop out of school and go back into the larger society. If education, by and large, is to prepare people for purposeful living, there is a need to introduce the study of environment or ecology in the primary education cycle. This calls for careful planning and implementation of a more functional primary environmental curriculum that concentrates on the needs of the majority who terminate their education at primary level, while bearing in mind the needs of those who economic to the secondary cycle. Therefore, it becomes imperative that there is a need for Environmental Education at primary stage, to give practical skills that would make and relate better to the social and economic realities of the country rather than the largely academic education. Strong emphasis should also be placed on the importance of teaching ethics. However at the primary stage the emphasis should be mostly (75%) on building up awareness, followed by real-life situations (20%) and conservation (55%). This would prepare the children to understand the subtleties of sustainable development. Here, the attempt is only to sensitize the child about environment right from the early stage.

The National Policy on Education (1986) has also emphasized the importance of environmental education to begin with the child i. e., from primary school stage itself.

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