

Role of Teacher in Environment Protection

“Human brain is now at risk from its own behavior and nothing else in the ecosystem is harming itself in the same way” .Millions of people now suffer intellectual deadline because of human caused environment change.

Christopher Williams

Today man is living in the world of social, economic, political and value crisis. Added to this in recent decades the environmental crisis has become another important factor, which has made everyone in the world to think its gravity. This is due to increasing population urbanization, shrinking of agricultural land, diversification, technological development and vanishing of forests. All these lead to heavy localized air and water pollution coupled the hole in the ozone layer. To combat environmental degradation many initiatives have been taken up at international, national, state and institutional level by government and voluntary organization. Among these, compulsory environmental education at all levels in the education system as directed by the Supreme Court is the most appropriate strategy to create understanding the actions towards environment protection.

The effectiveness of environmental education depends on the availability of environmentally trained teachers. As stated by “Yogamoorthy” the teachers should be competent in applying the knowledge of ecological foundations to environmental issues and identify key principles involved. Teachers should develop the similar attitude and competencies in learners to take individual or group discussions and actions. Thus the teachers should have fundamental competencies in environmental concerns and positive attitude towards environmental. Realizing the importance of trained teachers for environmental education, the concept of producing environmentally trained teachers has been a constant theme of several international conferences like Belgrade Workshop (1973) Ministerial level Tbilisi Conference (1971) and Moscow Congress (1987). Conferences revealed that more than 80% of nations in the world have accepted the concept of need for environmentally trained teachers in teaching environmental education.

Role of teachers in environmental education:-

The role of a good teacher does not end with teaching alone as far as environmental education is concerned. Following are certain roles which he has to fulfill.

- Teachers should be a friend, guide, philosopher and teacher should create feeling of togetherness and positive attitude toward environment.
- Teachers should promote dustbin culture to be followed at various places like bus stand, railway station and other public places.
- Teachers should plan the environmental activities co-related with the customs and traditions of the society.

- Teachers should channelize the energy of the students to create an atmosphere free of pollution.
- Monsoon is the season in which most of viral diseases spread. At this time teacher has to educate students to maintain healthy surroundings and healthy habits which prevent such diseases.
- Teacher should direct each student to plant a tree on his/her birthday every year either in school (or) elsewhere and nurture its growth.
- Teacher should give instruction to students to avoid use of polythene bag and make use of recycling plastic.
- He should conduct field visits to industries and polluted areas to enable the students to fuel the need and importance of environmental protection.
- Celebration of important days relating to environment viz World Forest day, World Population day, World Conservation Day should be made a practice.
- He can arrange guest lectures to motivate students to develop hygienic conditions around them, and can conduct health weeks for focusing their attention towards health principles.
- Teacher should make it very clear to every child that he is a part of environment and if he protects the environment, the environment will protect him otherwise everyone has to face the repercussions. The teacher should sow the seeds of sustainable development in young minds.

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