

TOPIC - CONCEPT, OBJECTIVES,  
NEED & IMPORTANCE,  
PRINCIPLES OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL Edu.

SUBJECT - ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION

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# ENVIRONMENTAL Edu.

**Introduction:** Environmental Education refers to organized efforts to teach how natural environments function, and particularly, how human beings can manage behaviour and ecosystem to live sustainably. It is a multi-disciplinary field, integrating disciplines such as biology, chemistry, physics, ecology, earth science, atmospheric science, mathematics and geography. Environmental Education is also taught outside the traditional classroom. Aquariums, Zoos, parks, and nature centres.

**Meaning:** Environmental Education is a process that allows individuals to explore environmental issues, engage in problem solving, and take action to improve the environment. Individuals develop a deeper understanding of environmental issues and have the skills to make informed and responsible decisions.

## Definitions:

- 1) Acc. to UNESCO: "Environmental Education is to create new patterns of



behaviour of individuals, groups and society as a whole, towards the environment."

2) Acc. to Wisconsin Environmental Education Board:

"A life long learning process that leads to an informed and involved citizenry having the creative problem-solving skills, scientific and social literacy, ethical awareness & sensitivity for the relationship between humans & the environment, and commitment to engage in responsible individual & cooperative actions."

3) Acc. to William B. Stapp: "Environmental Education is aimed at producing a citizenry that is knowledgeable concerning the biophysical environment and its associated problems, aware of how to help solve these problems, and motivated to work toward their solution."

Man, as a part and parcel of the environment has to recognize the role and importance of environment in order to protect it and to get protection from it, for this he needs Environmental Education.

## OBJECTIVES OF Environmental Edu.

- 1) Awareness: To help the social groups & individuals to acquire knowledge of Pollution & Environmental degradation.
- 2) Knowledge: To help social groups & individuals to acquire knowledge of the Environment beyond the immediate environment including distant Environment.
- 3) Attitudes: To help social groups & individuals to acquire a set of values for Environmental Protection.
- 4) Skills & Capacity Building: To help social groups & individuals to develop skills required for making discriminations in form, shape, sound, touch, habits & habitats.
- 5) Participation: To provide social groups & individuals with an opportunity to be actively involved at all levels in Environmental decision making.
- 6) Evaluation: To help individuals & social groups evaluate environmental measures & Education programmes in terms of ecological,



political, economic, social, aesthetic & educational factors.

## Needs & Importance

1) Imagination and Enthusiasm are heightened :

EE is hands-on, interactive learning that sparks the imagination & unlocks the creativity. When EE is integrated into the curriculum, students are more enthusiastic & engaged in learning.

2) Learning transcends the classroom :

Not only does EE offer opportunities for experiential learning outside the classroom, it enables students to make connections & apply their learning in the Real World.

3) Critical & Creative thinking skills are Enhanced :

EE encourages students to research, investigate how and why things happen & make their own decisions about complex environment issues.

4) Tolerance & Understanding are supported :

EE encourages students to investigate varying

sides of issues to understand the Full Picture.

- 5) State & National Learning standards are met for multiple subjects :

By incorporating EE practices into the curriculum, teachers can integrate science, math, language arts, history and more into one rich lesson.

- 6) Biophobia & Nature deficit disorder decline :

By Exposing students to nature & allowing them to learn & play outside, EE offers sensitivity, appreciation and respect for the Environment.

- 7) Healthy lifestyles are Encouraged :

EE gets students outside & Active, & helps address some of the health issues we are seeing in children today, such as obesity, attention deficit disorders.

- 8) Communities are Strengthened :

EE promotes a sense of place & connection through community involvement - when students decide to learn more or take action to improve their environment.



9) Responsible action is taken to better the Environment:

EE helps students understand how their decisions and actions affect the environment, builds knowledge & skills necessary to address complex environmental issues.

10) Students & Teachers are Empowered:

EE promotes active learning, citizenship, and student leadership. It empowers youth to share their voice & make a difference at their school & in their communities.

## Principles OF Environmental Education

1) Principle of Totality:

Considers the environment in its totality - natural & built, technological, and social (economic, political, cultural, historical, moral & aesthetic).

2) Principle OF Continuity:

Be a continuous, life long process, beginning

at pre-school level, and continuing through all, formal and non-formal stages.

### 3) Principle of Interdisciplinarity:

Be inter-disciplinary in its approach, drawing on the specific content of each discipline in making possible a holistic and balanced perspective.

### 4) Principle of Complexity:

Emphasise the complexity of environmental problems and thus, the need to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills.

### 5) Principle of Practicality:

Utilize diverse learning environments and a broad array of educational approaches to teaching, learning, about and from environment with due stress on practical activities.

### 6) Principle of Historical Perspective:

Focus on current and potential environmental situations while taking into account historical perspectives.



## 7) Principle of Local & Global Issue:

Examine major environmental issue from Local, national, and international points of view so that the students receive insights into environmental conditions in other geographical areas.

## 8) Principle of Environmental Sensitivity:

Relate Environmental Sensitivity, knowledge, problem-solving skills and values clarification to every age, but with special emphasis on Environmental Sensitivity to the learner's own community in early years.

## ★ Guiding Principles

- 1) Resource Principles
- 2) Soil Principles
- 3) Wildlife Protection Principles
- 4) Environmental Management Principles
- 5) Other Principles

# CONCLUSION

Every curriculum should emphasise the importance of Environmental Education. It will help to improve the knowledge and thinking about the environment.

It helps to ensure the health and welfare of Nation and can help to prevent or mitigate Environmental, Human, Health, Problems caused by Environmental Pollution and also know about how can we use the Natural Resources.



## REFERENCES

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