



Research Paper

“Social and Private Benefits of Environmental Education: A Discourse on Sustainable Development”

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Abstract

Benefits of education has always been welcomed by any community or society. Social and Private benefits of environmental education helps individuals to learn more about the environment and practice a living in which advocacy could be done for better environment. This paper is based on case studies which presents how a sustainable living is possible with least harm to our surrounding. Further it presents an idea of educating people about opportunities to look for interventions where it is possible.

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I. Introduction

Sustainability is modern era mantra especially when we are living in phase of covid rehabilitation. National, local and regional governments are working together to bring smarter and more sustainable decision making. Many social policies and practice are doing advocacy for a better environment. The process of Environmental education helps individuals, communities and societies to learn more about the environment, developing their skills and understanding about how to address and focus global environment challenges. Social and private environment education has the power to transform lives, motivates to be involved in actions, inspires and informs to change attitudes towards sustainable living compulsion.

According to NAAEE report environment sustains all life on earth with nourishment and inspiration. For an economy time spent in nature provides physical and psychological benefits. Again it is not possible not to be deeply concerned about environmental challenges from climate change, loss of species and habitats, decreasing access to nature, and threats to our health, security and future survival.

This paper is based on case studies from secondary literature from e-journals, e-letters and e-magazines based on environmental issues and sustainable development. It is descriptive in nature which explains various inspiring impact stories which significantly benefits society as well as individuals about environment conservation and development. In fact positive externalities through environmental education benefits global threats to our health and future survival.

To maintain a sustainable living is really a challenge in today's new normal life. Currently there is lot of stress on our environment, all of which has been our doing and we are living in a messed-up world.

We all are surrounded by essential plastics to fulfil our daily needs. We cannot deny the fact that without them no packaging is possible. There is little bit of plastics or polymer products in every body life which cannot be denied. According to Science Direct (n.d) Polymer products now turns to be indispensable material such as synthetic fibers, rubbers, coatings. Most of the basic human needs such as clothing, food, lodging and transportation are closely related with polymer products. But sustainable living can be possible if we can practice few of the basics which can save water, energy and other non-renewable resources. Education has been a powerful tool which provides social benefits for individuals and society at large. It provides a way we can take care of ourselves and can continue to create a better and improved society for all to live in. Only we need to adopt more sustainable practices.

Sustainable Development Concept by United Nations

The concept of Sustainable Development was adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that by 2030 all people in the globe can enjoy peace and prosperity. They were known as Sustainable Development Goals or Global goals. According to United Nations Report they recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that

improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

Today, the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) provides substantive support and capacity-building for the SDGs and their related thematic issues, including water, energy, climate, oceans, urbanization, transport, science and technology, the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), partnerships and Small Island Developing States. DSDG plays a key role in the evaluation of UN systemwide implementation of the 2030 Agenda and on advocacy and outreach activities relating to the SDGs. In order to make the 2030 Agenda a reality, broad ownership of the SDGs must translate into a strong commitment by all stakeholders to implement the global goals. DSDG aims to help facilitate this engagement. (United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, n.d)

Social and Private Benefit of Environmental Education

Social benefit is said as all kind of private benefits plus any external benefits of production or consumption. It is said that if value of good has significant external benefits, then the social benefit would be greater than the private benefit. In case of environmental education it has significant external benefit therefore the social benefit is greater than the private benefit. The benefits of environmental education can create an educated group of people who can critically think and evaluate. Their skills can help for social and sustainable development. While policy makers widely recognise the fact that education serves as an engine for economic growth through the accumulation of human capital, education is also strongly associated with boosting levels of social capital. Indeed, an important justification for the large expenditures on education within many democratic nations is its social, and not just economic, impact – the benefits an educated electorate brings to civil society.

Case Studies which features sustainable living is possible only through environmental awareness and education

The case studies mentioned in this paper tried to present that sustainable living and thinking is possible if certain simple and knowable awareness could be practiced to maintain a sustained life.

An Affordable hack can save water

It is possible to save water by simple affordable hack of using aerators installed in schools, marriage halls and conference halls which saves more than 18 lakh litres of water. This case study is from Bengaluru where a woman found that water wastage in our country is mainly taps that people use for washing. If we are using conventional tap that is running fully then an average of 20 second hand washes consume close to four litres of water. Multiply that by the number of people we can understand the water wastage well.

Using a conventional tap that is running fully, an average of 20 second-hand washes consumes close to four litres of water. Multiply that by the number of people, and we have a pretty mind-boggling number. Lalithamba Vishwanathiah, a resident of Bengaluru's HSR Layout. Driven to find solutions for this, she came up with the idea of using aerators and water restrictors – simple devices that can be simply affixed to a tap, which instantly cuts water usage by three times while retaining the washing efficiency (Raja.V. 2022).

Biogas Plant in Balcony, Jharkhand man installs in Balcony and slashes LPG Bill

Waste management is one of the issues that has affected the entire nation. This case study inspires us which is about Jamshedpur based Executive Gaurav who successfully installed portable biogas plant which has helped the family cut down on their LPG consumption by half saving thousands of rupees in the process. With help of a friend he assembled and created a portable biogas plant of 1 kg capacity in which through an inlet, the kitchen and organic waste travels into the cylinder having two outlets, one for the biogas and another for creating the slurry compost. The biogas outlet comes with a 10-metre pipe, which is directly connected to the kitchen and attached to the stove. And the fertiliser from the other outlet gets collected in a tray below. It can take a daily kitchen waste load of 500 gm to decompose and create biogas. While the biogas takes around 24 hours to form and come out of the outlet, the slurry generation takes ten days. Rich slurry compost makes his garden bloom and really this expertise motivating case inspires many of us to think for a sustainable living. (Barua. A, 2019).

Family fights Plastic and Grows Organic Food in Chennai

A teacher by profession Kalpana Manivannan switched to eco friendly living after she read about ecological conditions. This case study inspires us to mend our lifestyle if we really wanted to do something for sustainable living. We need to go zero-waste is a step-by-step effort and though it is impossible to go zero waste in a world where consumerism is at its peak we all can set realistic goals. She is using steel tiffins; replacing snacks with fruits, vegetables and nuts; cutting down on plastic packaging; sourcing veggies, grains and pulses in bulk directly from agricultural fields, her family is taking several steps towards a greener life.

She also makes personal hygiene products such as soap, body butter, shampoo and tooth powder at home, consciously replacing daily-use commodities with eco-friendly ones. This kind of sustainable living encourages us to think and value the compulsion of saving environment. (Karelia. G, 2019)

II. Conclusion

The above case studies proves that willingness to act on your intentions can help you to make an sustainable life style and eco friendly environment possible. Social benefit of environmental education always restores environmental conservation and development. Our intentions should always be to aware people about possibility to keep our surrounding green and surviving. The above mentioned empirical studies proves that nothing is impossible if we as green warrior share the sustainable life style with others so that awareness can bring more people together to achieve the objective of environmental protection.

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