

Original Research Article

Some social issues in relation to the environment and public awareness

Madhu Laxmi Sharma

Professor, Department of Botany, Government K. R. G. P. G. Auto. College, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, INDIA.

Email: madhulaxmisharma@gmail.com

Abstract

Some of the social issues in relation to the environment are environmental ethics namely population explosion, urbanization, sustainable development, natural resources and their conservation, rain water harvesting, biodiversity, impact of environment on human health, laws regarding environmental protection, individuals responsibility regarding community, nature and for future generation etc. In present paper public awareness regarding social issues was studied.

Key Words: Social issues, public awareness, responsibility, future, ethics.

*Address for Correspondence:

Dr. Madhu Laxmi Sharma, Professor, Department of Botany, Government K. R. G. P. G. Auto. College, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, INDIA.

Email: madhulaxmisharma@gmail.com

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INTRODUCTION

Ethics world is derived from Greek word 'ethos', which means customs, or we can say ethics is 'set of moral principles' (Sinha *et.al.*). It refers ability to distinguish right from wrong. The notion of right and wrong has varied from time to time. Therefore there are certain ethical principles which have been universally accepted and have remain unchanged through the entire course of human history. Widely accepted principles are honesty, integrity, fair and open mind, willing to admit mistakes, respect for human dignity encouragement for right things, thinking about well being of society and environment etc. Development is the aim of any country as it increases its economy, standard of living etc. but leading in to several environmental problems and ultimately degrades the environment which affects the human health also. There is a need to interlink the development and environment. Development has to be visualized in a holistic manner, where it brings benefits to all, not only for present generation but for our coming generations also.

Sustainable development is the development which is continuous for ever or long lasting. Sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources are considered to be essential sustainable, economic and social development. We will have to change from unsustainable to sustainable. Some of the measures for sustainable development are using appropriate technologies, reuse, reduce and recycle technologies, environmental education and awareness. Population growth comprises Natality, Mortality and Immigration and certain environmental factors. Growth of human population at alarming rate is known as population explosion. It causes severe resource exhaustion and environmental degradation. It can be slowed down by awareness. Now a day's urban growth is very fast, uncontrollable and unplanned. In comparison to rural areas urban areas are densely populated and consume lots of resources, therefore their problems are much more then rural areas. Urban areas are main centers higher education, industrialization, technical development, innovation, employment, trade, and economic growth. Any stock or reserve that can be drawn from nature is natural resources. They are renewable (can be regenerated) and nonrenewable (cannot be regenerated). Different natural resources play a vital role in development of Nation. Therefore over exploitation of these resources in modern society is resulting in fast depletion of these resources and several related problems (Kaushik *et.al.*). Efforts are going on at National as well as International level; we have to conserve our natural resources. Rain water harvesting is a technique of increasing ground water level by capturing and storing rain water, it reduces runoff loss, avoid flooding of roads,

and meet the increase demand of water. India is rich in plant wealth and is one of the mega biodiversity countries among the world. Major threats to biodiversity are loss of habitat, poaching. There are two approaches of biodiversity conservation In situ (within habitat) and Ex situ (outside habitat). Environmental pollution has direct as well as indirect effects on human health. It is influenced by so many factors like nutrition, chemicals, biological; all are related to the environment. These factors causes harmful changes in the body, they may be permanent or curable. Oxides of sulfur and nitrogen from industries and fossil fuel combustion are major source of acid rain. Acid rain causes number of harmful effects like deterioration of buildings, damages stones and metals, reproductive failure of aquatic animals ect. India is the first country in the world to have provisions and conservations of environment in its constitution. We are following wild life protection act 1972, forest conservation act 1980, amendment in forest act in 1992, water prevention and control of pollution act 1974, air prevention and control of pollution act 1981, environmental protection act 1986 etc. (Kaushik *et.al.*). Main objective of these laws are to protect and improvement in our environment, prevention of hazardous activities and to maintain harmonious relationship between living and environment.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

To know about practical aspect of some of the social issues of the environment in balanced manner. Over all aim is to promote environmental awareness, environmental education and public participation to sustain our environment.

MATERILA AND METHODS

Survey of literature and interaction about some of the social issues related to the environment, with 100 people was done, including people of different age group, educational status, and profession.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Urbanization, population explosion, pollution, agricultural practices, sustainable development, natural resources and their conservation, rain water harvesting, biodiversity, impact of environment on human health, laws regarding environmental protection etc. are affecting environment adversely, unfortunately all are increasing day by day. Most of the people are reluctant in this context. It's a matter of fact that developmental activities are always associated with degradation of environment, which is harm full for vitality. Now it's time when we have to enter in developmental planning process.

Table 1: Some Social Issues In Relation To The Environment And Public Awareness.

| Sr. No. | Public Awareness |
|---------|---|
| 1 | Moral responsibility about environment. |
| 2 | Conservation of ecosystem. |
| 3 | Conservation of natural resources. |
| 4 | Uses of eco friendly agricultural practices. |
| 5 | Conservation of forest / prevention of deforestation. |
| 6 | Conservation of biodiversity and its regeneration. |
| 7 | To avoid pollution. |
| 8 | To check population explosion. |
| 9 | To check urbanization related problems. |
| 10 | To check human health related environmental problems. |
| 11 | To manage disaster and resettlement. |
| 12 | To manage sustainable development. |
| 13 | To publicize about environmental laws. |
| 14 | To educate people about environmental ethics. |
| 15 | To make aware people about environmental degradation. |
| 16 | To make aware people about global warming and green house effect. |
| 17 | To make aware people about global ozone problem. |
| 18 | To make aware people about energy management. |
| 19 | To make aware people about environmental toxicology. |
| 20 | To make aware people about waste management. |

CONCLUSION

There is a need for every educational institution to have well designed educational program in relation to the environmental awareness. Parents must interact with their children and children should also interact in this context. Artists, media etc. should inspire public for environmental awareness. Scientists should improve technologies, lowers should evaluate legal aspect, economist and industrialist should think for environment first. Policy makers must evaluate the changes needed in environment and policies, they should be implemented strictly. There is a need to interlink the development and environment.

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