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UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION IN MODERN SOCIETY

1. INTRODUCTION

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

Environmental education can be taught formally in schools, classrooms and universities, or it can take place in informal learning contexts through NGOs, business, and the media, natural centers, botanic gardens, bird-watching, canoeing, scuba diving and ecotourism. Besides, Environmental education takes place in various non-formal education programs such as experiential outdoors education, workshops, outreach programs and community education.

Environmental educators should deliver environmental education in a unique way as it is not only based on science, but also concerned with historical, political, and cultural aspects with the human dimension of socio-economic factors. It is also based on developing knowledge on socio-ecological systems.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) states that Environmental education is vital in imparting an inherent respect for nature among society and in enhancing public environmental awareness. UNESCO emphasises the role of Environmental Education in safeguarding future global developments of societal quality of life (QOL), through the protection of the environment, eradication of poverty, minimization of inequalities and insurance of sustainable development.

Environmental Education enhances critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective decision-making skills, and teaches individuals to weigh various sides of an environmental issue to make informed and responsible decisions. Environmental education does not advocate a particular viewpoint or course of action.

Environmental-based education emphasizes specific critical thinking skills central to "good science": questioning, investigating, forming hypotheses, interpreting data, analyzing, developing conclusions, and solving problems. High school students in an intensive, urban ecology focused summers program conducted scientific investigations of their urban ecosystems using geographic information systems (GIS) and computers modelling. Through these tools, students are learning about the ecological services provided by the urban forest canopy and about the impact of urban noise on bird song.

By tackling real-world projects as opposed to merely doing work book exercises, students improve their science self-efficacy. Through conducting pre and post surveys of students on their beliefs and experiences during this study,

researchers found that by engaging students on their beliefs and experiences in local and focused targeted environmental science investigations, students developed the confidence to investigate and solve local problems that increased their ability to study science.

In the 21st Century, the use of technology is increasingly essential for everyday life. By using technology to teach environmental education concepts, educators impart to set students a valuable life skill. One study observed the effects of using digital technology during outdoor education experience. Project EARP (Engaging At-risk Populations outdoors, Digitally) used an integrated technology program to engage underserved students in environmental education while also examining the effectiveness of incorporating technology into their educational experience. Results showed that students reported an increase in using technology outdoors, gained knowledge of available technologies, and expanded their knowledge of different technologies. This increase in technology-specific knowledge leads to an increase in confidence while using technology.

THE COMPONENTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ARE 8

- i> Awareness and Sensitivity to the environment and environmental challenges.
- ii> Knowledge and Understanding of the environment and environmental challenges.
- iii> Attitudes of Concern for the environment and motivation to improve or maintain environmental quality.
- iv> Skills to Identify and help resolve environmental challenges.
- v> Participation in activities that lead to the resolution of environmental challenges.



2. CHARACTERISTICS OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION 8

The Characteristics of environmental education include 8

- It is life-long process.
- It is interdisciplinary and holistic in nature and its application.
- It is an approach to education as a whole, rather than a subject.
- It concerns the inter-relationship and interconnectedness between human and nature systems.
- It encourages participation in the learning experiences.
- It emphasises active responsibility.
- It is concerned with local to global dimensions, and past / present / future dimensions.
- It encourages the classification of values and the development of values sensitive to the environment.
- It is concerned with building on environmental ethic.



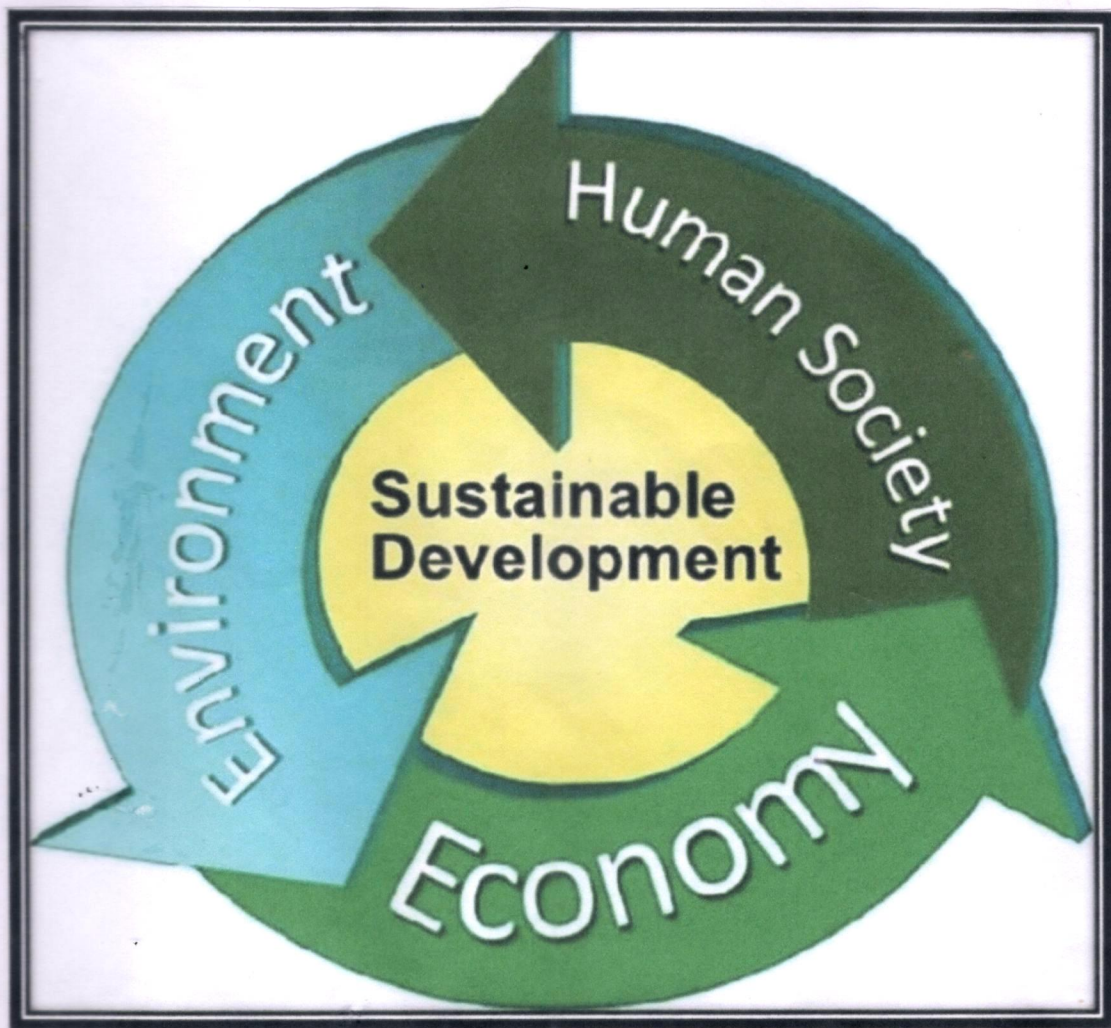
B. NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION 8

The need and Importance of environmental education are as follows ~

- It improves academic Achievement of Environmental education helps to improve test scores by providing students with engaging topics about nature and biodiversity. Students can then apply this information to all subject areas and grades.
- It breaks the indoors habit of It offers a solution to the indoors lives of today's students and youth - their generation is the first to grow up indoors. Students experiencing school life with lots of play areas and grounds with diverse natural settings are more likely to be physically active, aware of good nutrition, imaginative and creative, and much more civil to one another.
- It improves student's health of It involves getting students outdoors and active and helps address various health problems in students today, such as depression, obesity, and attention deficit disorders.
- It supports STEM of Environmental education offers an engaging platform to gain and apply skills and knowledge in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).
- It fosters healthy schools of Environmental education encourages students to create healthier and greener learning environments outside and inside their school building.

- It meets 21st Century needs & It focuses on knowledge and skills important for succeeding in the future, such as investigating, questioning, analyzing, defining questions, reasoning, interpreting, solving issues, and developing solutions.
- It Cultivates leadership Qualities & Environmental Qualities emphasize cooperative learning with others, critical thinking and discussions, and focuses on action strategies with real-world application.
- It Creates enthusiastic Students & Environmental education offers several opportunities for hands-on, rich, real-world, and authentic learning across the curriculum. The relevance to Children's lives inspires and engages them more than traditional pedagogy.
- It fosters innovative leaders and teachers & It enables teachers to make students outside more often and design more dynamic, interactive learning experiences that get students attention.
- It saves school money & Students exploring and making efforts to improve the environmental Performance of their school building and ground often cut costs in water, electricity, waste management, and more.
- It supports sound decision-making & It ensures that citizens are informed about science and equipped to make decisions that are vital to ensuring that the world has natural resources on which the economy and life depend.

- It Contributes to Sustainability & Environmental education builds the skills and knowledge necessary to address ecological problems and to take action to keep nature healthy, the economy productive, and communities vibrant.
- It Conserves natural resources & The more people learn about the environment, the more pro-environment and conservation behaviors is seen. The more individuals know, the more likely they are to reduce, reuse, recycle, and conserve water and other resources.



4. THE IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN MODERN SOCIETY



The field of environmental education provides educators and practitioners with a unique opportunity to strengthen student's experiences outdoors. Incorporating observational field studies, and cutting-term ecology studies, and cutting edge technology into environmental education

Curricula can enhance existing opportunity to foster a student's outdoor leadership, conversation, and exploration of the natural world.

Environmental education focuses on connecting individuals to the land while enhancing their STEM (science, Technology, Engineering and Math) skills through inquiry-driven, place-based learning.

Environmental educators have seen firsthand how individuals realize their responsibility (both culturally and environmentally) for the world we live in as they develop a personal bond with nature.

Enriching environmental education connects STEM to the human experience in nature, how we live in the world, and how we can share those experiences with each other to promote justice, sustainability, and the Wisconsin Idea outdoors. In 2019, we conducted a survey that gathered responses from approximately 180 environmental

education Organizations around the state of Wisconsin. The report demonstrates the collective impact and Powers the environmental education industry has to Create change. The researchers hope the report is used to support your organization in data informed decision making and to better Understand the field of environmental education.

5. CONCLUSION

Environmental education helps to increase awareness about alternative to actions that improve problem solving and environmental Protection. It helps people appreciate the advantages of conserving the environment and so acquire new abilities to solve Problems that affect their environment. If we need to be aware of how important environmental awareness is, take Courses in environmental studies or engage in other activities that aim to solve environmental issues. These efforts are essential for ensuring a sustainable and sustainable future.

Signature

Date