

Environment Education Initiatives in India

FORMAL ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION

Environment Education in School System

- Launched in 1999.
- Basic objective---strengthening environment education in the formal school system.
- Phase I-----A nation wide survey to assess the extent of infusion of Environmental concepts in the school curriculum and the effectiveness of its delivery.
- Phase II-----Pilot basis in 100 schools in eight selected States out of a total of 28 States.

Environment Education in School System

- Activities include---
 - Greening of textbooks of Science, Social Science and Languages of Standard VI to VIII
 - Development of teachers' guides/handbooks
 - Extensive training of master trainers and teachers
 - Introduction of greened textbooks in the schools
 - Refresher training for the teachers
 - Documentation, monitoring and evaluation of the activities

Environment Education in School System

- Pilot implementation in 100 schools will be followed by up scaling/ mainstreaming the greened textbooks/ concepts to all the schools in the state.
- The textbooks in all the eight States have already been greened and introduced in the schools.
- In view of the success of this initiative, the project has been extended to 8 more States.

**Global Learning and Observations to
Benefit the Environment (GLOBE):**

- International Science and Education program integrated in the EESS project to give a boost to ***“Hands-on Environmental Learning”*** of environmental concepts.
- The program provides an opportunity to ***learn by doing*** about various environmental concepts included in the textbooks.

**Global Learning and Observations to
Benefit the Environment (GLOBE):**

- 1800 teachers from about 1700 schools trained so far in the protocols for conducting the experiments in four broad environmental parameters-----Hydrology, Soil, Land Cover and Atmospheric temperature / rainfall.
- Instrument kits ----provided to about 800 schools.
- >400 schools have already started taking the measurements,
- >200 schools are regularly reporting the data collected.

Environment Education at Undergraduate level

- A course module worked out through UGC for teaching EE as a separate paper at entry level in all streams of undergraduate education.

Strengthening Environment Education in Indian Management Schools

- Launched in 2002 to integrate environmental concepts in Management education.
- Sponsored 5 sensitization workshops on environmental issues for faculty at various management institutes.
- A Curriculum Development Workshop was also organized for building a resource base for teaching material of the new curriculum.
- An inventory of the courses offered in India and abroad has been prepared along with an inventory of resource material.

NON-FORMAL ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

1. **National Environmental Awareness Campaign (NEAC)** — A nationwide program conducted every year through NGOs and other institutions to create environmental awareness amongst general public. About 6500 organizations participate in this campaign.
2. **National Green Corps (NGC)** — A program of eco-clubs in schools to sensitize school children and their communities through various environmental related activities. Presently about 70,000 eco-clubs spread all over the country are functional.
3. Two **Centers of Excellence** have been set up for providing resource material, training to NGOs and others, etc.
4. An *environmental appreciation course* developed for persons keen to learn about environmental issues, will be offered through distance education mode by IGNOU.

5. The ministry also sponsors various programs that are aimed at creating environmental awareness among children through environment quiz, environment quality monitoring, etc. Some of these programs are:

- **Green Olympiad,**
- Written environmental quiz programs in different regional languages
- **Earth Day Celebrations**
- **Air Pollution Monitoring and Awareness Programs for Schools,** with schools in Delhi.
To be replicated in Bangalore schools.