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GRT ENVIRONMENTAL LAW EDUCATION: UNIVERSAL APPROACH FOR ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

Khushalchand Baheti

BSc(Ag), BGL, DCyL, DMJ & FM, DIPL, DLL, MSc(AgPP), MAMCJ, LLM, MBA,
Assistant Commissioner of Police, Aurangabad.

Abstract:-Environment is a combination of the various physical and biological elements that affect the life of an organism. In simple language environment means surrounding especially the material and spiritual influence which effect the growth, development and existence of a living being. Now a day's industrialization becomes the key to national progress. Many problems of environmental pollution create because of Industrialization. Accelerated industrial growth aggravates the problems of environmental deterioration. The environmental pollution has now come to an alarming level primarily because of new industrial revolution. The environmental law education becomes an essential part of the strategy for ecological growth, environmental development and protection as well as prevention of environmental degradation. This approach to law education becomes a medium and process of creating alertness about man's relationship with not only his nature but also social and manmade environment. The aim of present paper is to give brief information about the environmental law education for environment protection.

Keywords:Environmental Law Education , Environment Protection , various physical and biological elements .

INTRODUCTION:

Good environment is also necessary to make sure basic human rights, even the right to life, for no human right can be secured in a degraded environment. An example will highlight the importance of a green and healthy environment. Misuse of our natural resources, a key environmental issue is a crime. In the context of sustainable human development such relevant linkages have between environment laws and environment protection. There are some ways in which we can contribute to the present laws surrounding the protection of environment in India.

When we look in to past and present scenario, society from a historical perspective, the significance of protection and conservation of environment is fundamental to the cultural and religious ethos of humanity can be discovered. Nature was worshipped by ancient Hindus, Muslims, Parsis and other religions around the world in the belief that it originated through the spirit of the God.

According to Hinduism "(t)he Earth is our mother and we are all her children". Sky is life father, earth is like mother, and all the creatures that live in between constitute a family. Any disturbance to any one of them will disturb the entire system. Islamic law regards man as having inherited "all the resources of life and nature" and having certain religious duties to God in using them.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW EDUCATION

The word 'Environment' is defined as the complex of edaphic, climate and biotic factors that act upon human being or a society. Environmental education means the process of educational dealing with man's association with his natural and cultural atmosphere and as such it comprises the relationship of population, resource allocation and depletion, conservation, energy and technology and urban and rural development and planning to the total biosphere. The environmental education becomes an essential part for the policies like eco development, environmental development and protection as well as prevention of environmental degradation. It is a process of arousing awareness about man's relationship with his natural as well as social and man-made environment. The prime intention of environmental education is to understand the complex nature of the natural and built in environments resulting from the communication of their biological, physical, social,

economic and cultural aspects and to obtain knowledge, principles, attitudes and practical skills to participate in a responsible and effective way in anticipating and solving socio-economic problems and in the management of the quality of the environment by individuals and communities. It also helps in generating a sense of accountability and harmony among countries and regions on the basis for new international ecological order which will guarantee the conservation and improvement of the environment.

Environmental education is also education through environment, about environment and for environment. It requires a universal approach bearing in mind all components together entirety. Environment is the method and the subject matter of education. Firstly the method is concerned, by means of environment using as a teaching-learning aid and as an approach to education. Secondly subject matter is concerned it means teaching about the components and constituents of environment. There is an explicit need to support various types and levels of environmental education and training programmes that are essential for ensuring an effective and enlightened handling of environmental problems. The public in general and students in particular should be made aware of legal provisions under the Wild-life Preservation Act, Indian Forest Act, Pollution Control Act and other environment conservation measures.

Environmental education is the principal means of enhancing awareness, both among the public at large, and among focused groups. Such education may rely on educational institutions at different levels; the print electronic or live media; and various other formal and informal settings. The Supreme Court has also mandated that environmental education must be imparted at all levels, including higher education in the formal system. However, there is a need for further strengthening the existing programmes and making them more inclusive and participatory.

The environmental laws and government machinery for its implementation plays extremely important role in protecting healthy environment as a basic human right. Other factors responsible for a environment protection regime are: prevailing environmental laws, particularly in the Indian context reflecting vivid culture bound traditions, the agencies responsible for their implementation inclusive of judicial trends, to assess and analyse the performance and the challenges before of the Pollution Control Boards and National Environment Policy of India in comparison with international environmental standards, to make an assessment of public opinion as regards the enforcement of environment and Human Rights, and efforts to educate people to inculcate the awareness about the concerns of environment through government institutions specially created for environment preservation; positive role and the contribution of academic institutions like schools, colleges and universities; issues of proper solid waste disposals, recycling of reusable materials like paper, plastics are of paramount importance and need to be considered to protect the healthy and safe environment leading to the sustainable development.

The Role of Environmental Education

There are many challenges for environmental educators in India. Apart from the obvious ones of helping strengthen environmental management and conservation, one of the important ones is to bring about awareness of the need that the country develops in less wasteful ways than is the current paradigm. Environmental Education is one of the tools that can help India achieve this goal. There are considerable initiatives in EE in India today. There are also several challenges. Some of these are:

- The challenge, in a large and diverse country, to find the right blend between centralized and de-centralized efforts and approaches
- The challenge of reaching out to large numbers cost-effectively
- The challenge of making environmental considerations relevant and meaningful to various groups
- The challenge of putting EE on the agenda of educational decision makers
- The challenge of putting sustainable development concerns high on the agenda of policy makers, and
- Finding and developing human and financial resources for Environmental Education (Kartikeya V. Sarabhai, Meena Raghunathan, Shivani Jain, p.2)

Approaches to Environment Protection and Law

- ❖ Article 48 (A) of the Indian Constitution incorporated “environmental protection and improvement as part of state policy” through the forty-second amendment.
- ❖ The Environment Protection Act, 1986, imposed a similar responsibility on every citizen “to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, trees, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for all living creatures”.
- ❖ Article 51A(g) under Article 21 and the right to life of the constitution have been used in diversified manner in India, including the right to survive as a species, quality of life, the right to live with dignity and the right to livelihood.
- ❖ They all relate to environment protection and basic human rights. The Supreme Court has also dealt with issues relating to the environment and ecological balance in rural litigation and entitlement – the Kendra v.

Environmental Laws:

The environment rules and regulation are enforced by the concerned administrative authorities. They act upon the direction of the court and the pollution control boards (PCBs). Different approaches, ex-post & ex-ante, are playing an active role in improvement of environment quality in the county.

To prevent environment degradation through formulation of standards, insurance of consents for the establishment and operation and closure orders to rogue industries by PCBs are other important steps being taken.

To protect and improve the natural environment including river, forest and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures, is imposed as a duty on every citizen by clause (g) of Article 51A. This and Article 48A have cumulative effect that the 'state' as well as the 'citizen' are under constitutional obligation to conserve, perceive, protect and improve the environment. In both the Articles, the words 'protect and improve' appear to contemplate affirmative agreement action to improve the quality of environment and not just to preserve the environment in its degraded form.

There are plenty of legislations on the subject but more relevant enactments for our purpose are:

- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974;
- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977;
- The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;
- The Environment (Protection) Act 1986;
- The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991;
- The National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995;
- The Environment Protection Rules, 1986;
- The National Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997;
- The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972,
- The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

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