



## CLIMATE CHANGE INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN SCHOOL CURRICULUM

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### ABSTRACT

*Climate change is one of the most persistent problems facing us today. Our future is at stake, it is extremely important to study climate change in the school system, Students need to see the relevance of a particular academic knowledge before it sinks in. Our Education system is undergoing fast and tremendous change. The need of climate change is to address the issues. Learners should be motivated to learn about the climate change. The policy makers need to work on New Education Policy on education, human capital and global trends. School should provide better opportunities for learners for better education. In this paper attempt is made to outline the inclusive climate change education in school curriculum, The point is raise attention of educational researchers, policy makers, teachers and community members to promote the climate change education as life long process .*

**KEYWORDS:** *Climate Change, Environmental Education, Relevancies, School System and Curriculum.*

### INTRODUCTION

Any change in environment causes shift in entire eco system. Climate-the fundamental unit of environment, causes alternation in ecosystem if its variation becomes erratic. The shift resulting from the climate change affects elements of an entire environment which make climate change global issues but at various level of impact. Changes in the climate change system are unequivocal and are continuously posing risks to human live hoods and ecological system. Developing countries are likely to suffer greater risk from adverse effect of climate change due to poor resources, low institutional capabilities.

Climate change will affect large part of our nation over very long period (several decades) hence it is imperative that the younger and future generation are made aware of problem and solutions of climate change impacts by gaining knowledge incorporated in school curriculum. Educating people from early stages of the learning about climate change and its impacts is rational in promoting responsible behavior.

The climate change and its issues must be infused as a matter of urgency. There is increasing need for the evidences based scientific data on Indian experiences to be infused into the curriculum to serve specific problem.

The curriculum is an essential tool in the behavioral transformations and making students aware about the climate change. Education prepares an individual to become a functional member of the society. The climate change in the school curriculum enables students to have thorough understanding and participate effectively and efficiently in combating.

The school curriculum inclusive of climate change must direct students on changing the mind set of students towards climate change, so as to enhance their adoptive capabilities. Curriculum is entire

programme of the school work. It is derived from the Latin verb 'currere', to run "currere" come a diminutive noun and meant to achieve educational goals and objectives.

It is the process of selecting content. Curriculum is set of planned and organized material designed for an intended learning outcome considered as adequate for any functional experience of the students in time and space. The commonly accepted determine of the curriculum are:

- ❖ Society its pressure, needs, laws, events, problem and goals.
- ❖ Knowledge, its nature, organization and new findings.
- ❖ Learning theories and principles.
- ❖ Learners— aspiration, capabilities, past experience, interest, needs, deficiencies and developmental requirement.

The climate change is an environmental issue. Environmental education is the process of providing learning experiences to obtain knowledge, understanding, skills and awareness with the attitudinal change about man's relationship with natural and manmade surrounding, the appropriate tool for the exposing an individual into the awareness of what the environmental has to interact with and still protect the environmental in order to avert the existing environmental problem which left world over with sleepless night.

Environmental education is alone not sufficient for saving world. There is need of mere sustainable co-operation between men and nature. The success in addressing climate change depends upon countries meeting, international commitment and obligation in accordance to their common but the differentiate responsibilities and capabilities. There is need to stress upon research, development, application, diffusion, green accounting and use of clean energy, renewable resources of energy is very essential. There should be continuous in-service teachers training to understand environmental issues.

In school students must motivated to learn about climate change and to make link between various subjects. School curriculum must provide information, working knowledge and knowledge about specific approach to address the issues. Education helps students to nurture sensitivity towards environmental education catalyzed to promote understanding of natural, physical and social system make up our environment. Education motivates students to improve environment.

There should be strong desire for the climate change issues to be taught. Education is bedrock for the miniature development of any country. Education is a wheel on which development efforts revolves. A nation may be developed beyond the level of education of its citizen.

The climate change awareness involves creating, knowledge, understanding, values, attitudes, skills and abilities among the individuals and social groups towards the issues of climate change for attending a better quality environment. The climate change specialist repeatedly pointed out that solutions to climate change problem will require climate change awareness and its proper understanding. The role of the teachers will go long way in achieving this purpose.

Teachers may provide vital link in delivering knowledge of environmental issues, its associated problem and solution. Education has a significant role to play in helping and to give out the correct message about the climate change as to litigate and alleviate its effect.

As need for the effective climate change, education has become obvious, educator have worked to design a curriculum that can both increase climate literacy and empower students towards more sustainable behavior in the lives. Climate literacy require that - educators must identify their own climate change misconceptions, recognize need to empower students towards actions and understanding complexities of motivating students to overcome many barrier they may face in accepting the reality of climate change.

#### **NEED OF CLIMATE CHANGE CURRICULUM:**

The science of climate change is well established and documented. There is urgent need of incorporation of climate change in school curriculum at all stages of learning with essential knowledge and skills and enables students to deal with climate change challenges they would encounter after schooling. Incorporating and mainstreaming climate change in the education curriculum enables students to have a

thorough understanding on the issues and stimulate them to participate effectively in the formation of climate change policies. This may reduce resistance to climate change.

In our school curriculum climate related issues are taught only in environmental science (EVS) at primary classes and science and social-science in secondary level. There are possibilities of lack of basic conceptual understanding and skills relevant to climate change adaptation. Hence climate change education is inclusive and not discriminated. In existing education system awareness programme in schools are taken as efforts of extra-curricular activities and they are not assessed. This shows that climate change is treated as a trivial subject but it should be a core and mandatory subject.

The climate change is a lifelong process that should be initiated at tender age and continue through all stages of learning. The climate change education should be taught as a compulsory subject and explicitly included in the curriculum as a pre-requisite to ensure that all students develop sufficient skills and knowledge essential for the creation of a new pattern of behavior towards the changing climate change.

The school curriculum must be designed in such a way that, the curriculum must focus on shaping the mindset of students towards climate change issues, so as to increase their adoptive capabilities and competence. An effective climate change curriculum must focus on social-economic transformations, behavioral change, ensure climate change education for all, and be holistic, interdisciplinary, consistent and clear assessment procedure for the continual development.

In higher education the main thrust of curriculum reform is to build professionals with appropriate skills and knowledge. The use of traditional knowledge that the communities possess should be further refined and should contribute for the development.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ There is a need to set up a task force to carry out gap analysis, to incorporate climate change issues and produce relevant teaching material.
- ❖ Design curriculum that includes climate change in specific as well as to design assessment procedures.
- ❖ There should be continuous in-service teachers training in climate change, so that relevant human capital can be interpreted and adopted to the local content. Teachers should be involved in the climate change curriculum development.
- ❖ Contentious monitoring and mentoring of curriculum reforms to keep it with global trends.
- ❖ Students should embark on the school-based climate change project. Innovative and participatory teaching methodology should be used to teach climate change.
- ❖ Advocate proper adoptive and mitigation of climate change on the educational system.
- ❖ Multi-disciplinary model curriculum (inclusive) may be appropriate for the school curriculum.
- ❖ Develop educational awareness material on climate change and sustainable living.
- ❖ Sensitize policy makers on the importance of addressing climate change.
- ❖ Creating opportunities for young students to learn about the climate change.
- ❖ Establish a mechanism for information sharing and network focusing.

### CONCLUSION

Education has a lot to play in creating awareness on climate change. The school has the responsibility of passing on ever-changing knowledge from one generation to succeeding generations. It is the responsibility of the school to provide skills of understanding and utilization of knowledge rather than accommodation of knowledge.

The present paper outlines the need for the inclusive mainstreaming of climate change in the 21<sup>st</sup> century curriculum to strengthen the skills, knowledge, attitude, capabilities and ability to adopt climate change. Education is a life-long process starting from early age and continuing to all stages of learning to catalyze behavioral change and increased resilience of communities.

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