

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION: ROLE OF SOCIETIES AND NGO'S

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ABSTRACT

A non-governmental organization (NGO) is an organization that is neither a part of a government nor a conventional for profit business. NGO's may be funded by government, foundations, businesses or private persons. Some avoid formal funding altogether and are run primarily by volunteers. NGO's are highly diverse groups of organizations. The most common focus is on " orientation " and " level of operation ". These are those organizations which pursue some sort of public interest or public good, rather than individual or commercial interests. Even then, the NGO community remains a diverse constellation. Some groups may pursue a single policy objective - for example: access to AIDS, drugs in developing countries or press freedom, others will pursue more sweeping policy goals such as poverty eradication or human rights protection. One characteristic these diverse organizations share is that their non-profit status means they are not hindered by short term financial objectives. Accordingly, they are able to devote themselves to issues which occur across longer time horizons, such as climate change, or a global ban on landmines. Public surveys reveal that NGO'S often enjoy a high degree of public trust, which can make them a useful but not always sufficient, proxy for the concerns of society and stakeholders. Meaning of social work is "Never think, I will give when I am rich; just give what you can, while you can ". Our NGO services focus on assessing individual strengths and needs, setting personal goals and providing an environment that encourages overall growth and development.

Citation of this Article

Chauhan, K. and Rai, S. (2016). . Environmental Education: Role Of Societies And NGO'S. *International Journal of Higher Education and Research*, 6(1), 91-96. www.ijher.com

INTRODUCTION

Education is must for everybody. It is an easiest source through which people can gain knowledge on n number of topics. For smarter society we need smarter people inside it as well as some people outside it to encourage others to be a part of it. Best source of spreading or awaking

people are NGO's or such societies who are able to work on betterment of society in our country. When both NGO's and education people will work together it will automatically lead to a better society with great results in less time. As we all know NGO's are great source of attaining knowledge and as people get to learn faster practically than theoretically, NGO's are a good option. Best part about both education and NGO's are that they don't have any age limits to spread knowledge in our developing country. There are thousands of NGO's who work on a number of topics regarding betterment of our society including topics such as, climate change, environmental imbalance, global warming, animal related topics, natural resources, education for poor, women empowerment and many such other topics in which they put their ideas and focus on with proper planning, and concepts. An NGO consists of many people and they divide their work to work in an organized manner. They visit different-different places to help people in any way they can. Environmental education is a process that allows individuals to explore its issues, will engage in problem solving, and will surely take actions to improve the environment. Ngo's may be funded by governments, foundations, businesses, or private persons. Some avoid formal funding altogether and are run primarily by volunteers. Ngo's are highly diverse groups of organizations. The most common focus is on "orientation" and "level of operation". Across the world, the number of national Ngo in countries is higher with around 1-2 million. There are certain rules and regulations under which members work. Ngo is not a part or directly controlled by government but it works accordingly to the policies of the government which are usually more specific on development and welfare of society, areas and communities. Ngo usually are built in our societies to spread awareness, to implement natural resources management, various aspects of development and for improving the living of human beings. Increasingly, the existence of Ngo's is providing to be a necessity rather than a luxury in societies throughout the modern world. Now-a-days Ngo's are a great way through which people are spreading environmental education, it has become crucial to aware people on environment because if not now than when and how? As we all can see that slowly- slowly our earth our environment is getting affected by some or the other reasons and everyone doesn't know the exact reason behind why our planet is getting destroyed, people need to know that what so ever is happening somewhere or the other we the humans are a great reason behind it. We use things and indulge our environment accordingly to our needs and requirements which is just not right, when we can't hurt any pet or other animal than comparing to animals this is our home where we live in. Environment is the source from where we get our livings.

“MAIN ROLE OF NGO'S AND SOCIETIES IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION”

Role of Ngo's and societies in imparting environmental education in India is growing awareness about environmental issues amongst individuals and communities. This increase in knowledge and awareness has been a great result of campaigns and education programmes run

by major public interest groups those are concerned with the environment. Environmental education is being undertaken by some of the leading NGOs .They have a vast range of publications – books, posters, educational packages, bibliographies, magazines etc.

Until recently, Ngo's here were not primarily concerned with environmental issues. But they were concerned about water, land/soil erosion and forest destruction and related issues. Environmental action is generally tied to people's survival needs and activities. Ngo's have a vital role to play in creating environmental awareness at all levels. Ngo's are voluntary groups, often set up by committed individuals, who want to make a positive change in society. Normally an ngo focuses on a particular field that is often concerned to a founder-women's development, eradication of child labour, home or street children and orphans, education of the poor and the underprivileged, welfare of the handicapped, etc. India has a large network of Ngo's, which are involved in spreading the message of sustainable development to the people.

In recent years, the range of activities undertaken by environmental NGOs and other major groups has broadened. They now undertake a much wider range of activities than simply raising environmental awareness and acting as pressure groups. Their activities now include environmental monitoring; promoting environmental education, training and capacity-building; implementing demonstration projects; conducting advocacy work in partnership with the government; and the promotion of regional and international cooperation on environment, Many also get involved in the practical management of conservation areas, and promote community or individual action and campaign for greater accountability on the part of the government and corporate sectors. The majority of NGOs in the region now work concurrently on environment and development

One of the great challenges for NGOs campaigning on environmental issues is to involve as many people as possible and, particularly where religion plays a major role in everyday life, getting the environmental message across is must now-a-days. Many NGO campaigns are based on research that highlights or monitors specific environmental issues. At the local or community level, NGOs are in a good position to keep track of critical issues in a continuation.

“FUNCTIONS OF NGO'S IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION”

- To develop civic and environmental consequences among the public.
- To educate the students about the pollution problem and the harmful effects of pollution.
- To organize civic amenities and sanitary facilities on a self-help basis.
- To describe and discuss the common characteristics of environmental issues.
- To highlight crucial factors responsible for the environment degradation and to undertake, as the most challenging, effective and efficient environmental education and awareness service provisions in the community.

- To bring about local initiative and community participation in overall improvement in quality of life.
- To take initiative for the betterment and to achieve cleaner and healthier environment.
- To organize rallies for protection and preservation of nature.
- To launch campaign so that they can minimize the use of plastic cover for different purposes.
- To plant and grow the trees in the house garden.
- To motivate research on different measures to be taken to solve environmental problems.
- All Ngo's should include environmental education in their package of activities.
- Shortage of trained personnel in the field of environment protection.
- Lack of research and development facilities.
- Financial constraints.
- Lack of cooperation from the governmental agencies.
- Difficulties in the mobility on account of lack of transport facilities.
- Environmental NGOs are facing a credibility crisis with a number of cases of embezzlement and scandals involving some of them coming to the fore.
- Buy only environment friendly products.
- Make social changes more visible.
- Conduct widespread environmental education and training programmes.
- To encourage people to adopt healthy life style and practices.

“DEEKSHA”

Deeksha is a research; it is a consultancy and advocacy NGO. Its headquarters at New Delhi and regional office is located in Chandigarh, India. Their aim is to provide public education, environmental education, environmental care, solid waste management and provide training to the people in the field of environment. It's obvious that if we will keep our surrounding neat and clean we would be able to survive happily because the atmosphere and things around us affect our living. In recent years scientists took a research over environment and have found that we the humans are a great cause behind the environmental destruction around us to both earth and ourselves. Whenever we hear to peoples talk it's mostly found on “the environment”. When we look around its dust all around in short we call it pollution. Everyday people experience it and are the reasons also behind it. The plants and trees have lost their freshness and beauty; sometimes animals also react to the condition around us. Now-a-days children are getting diseases so we need to work on this problem as soon as possible. Every child listens to their parents but that time is not so far when they would be the one put up a question that why did you do this to us?, where were you when the nature and environment was getting affected? With each and every question we will be rendered speechless because we won't be having any answers for those questions. It's high time to realize and handle our planet with

compassion and care, for this change firstly our society needs to be sensitive on the issues of environmental conservation and preservation.

After realizing the gravity of the situation people took an initiative to work from the ground levels, “DEEKSHA” came into existence with the motive of special focus on younger generation with the message of environmental protection and conservation amongst the people of our country. Behind every NGO’s there are several ideologies on which the grassroots’ grows at “DEEKSHA” the values are totally dependent on work ethics and responsibilities are finely balanced between them. “DEEKSHA” believes in spreading this ideology at mass level so they introduced –A MINI ENVIRONMENTAL REVOLUTION by increasing the environmental awareness amongst the masses about playing there role in having a cleaner and greener environment. We believe that we have to be the change; we want to see in the world. It’s all about spreading awareness and message amongst the young and the old generation to save the environment. We have been constantly guided by an ancient Chinese proverb which says-

“If you want one year of prosperity, plant corn

If you want ten years of prosperity, plant trees

If you want one hundred year of prosperity, educate people.

CONCLUSION

NGOs embrace a wide array of agencies within and across different countries of the world. At their broadest NGOs are simply agencies or groups, which are different from government bodies. However, NGOs are distinctive in containing a voluntary component and also because they do not operate for profit. Over the past quarter of a century and especially during the past few decades there has been a rapid growth in the numbers of NGOs involved in the development, in the number of people working for NGOs and in the amount of money that flows into these voluntary agencies working in the activities such as –Disaster management and relief, development, public health, rehabilitation, environment protection etc. However, this paper focuses on the role played by NGOs and societies particularly in the protection of environment. NGO’s have been taking a number of steps to promote discussion and debate about environmental issues, outside the broad spheres of popular media and the educational system.

It can be assessed by the above discussion that the very existence of NGOs and the role played by them in the protection of the environment is not only important but also necessary because no government alone with any amount of laws and acts can achieve the objectives of environment protection without individual and public participation which can be achieved only

through a network of motivated and dedicated voluntary organizations, like the NGOs and such active societies to perform on basic and simple but important issues around.

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