

# **ROLE OF SCHOOL IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

# Introduction

- Education's ultimate contribution to sustainable development will come through both **individual and societal behaviour change** – strengthening environmental resilience, and inculcating climate change awareness.
- The concept of sustainable development emerged as a response to a growing concern about human society's impact on the natural environment.
- The concept of sustainable development was defined in 1987 by the Brundtland Commission (formally the World Commission on Environment and Development) as '**development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs**'

# Environmental conservation

- Environmental protection is aimed at maintaining (and recovering when necessary) a healthy natural environment.
- The protection of environment is needed for sustainable development.
- The Industrial pollution, degradation of forests, depletion of ozone layer, the green house gases results in global warming and climate change which will have an adverse impact on environment and human health.
- There is a need for conservation of Biodiversity, protection of wetlands and prevention of environmental pollution, promotion of ecological balance enables sustainable development.

- There are several provisions provided in Indian Constitution for Protection of environment.
- There are certain legislations enacted viz. Environment Protection Act, Wildlife Preservation Act, Biodiversity Conservation Act, water and Air pollution prevention Acts etc
- The Judiciary playing a vital role in protection of Environment.
- Through Judicial Activism the Supreme Court can issue directions under writ Jurisdiction under Article 32 of Indian Constitution.

# Sustainable development

- It is development designed to attain and maintain the things that we desire whether these be in the economic, social, political or environmental spheres.
- Sustainable development is the organizing principle for meeting **human development goals** while **simultaneously sustaining the ability of natural systems** to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services based upon which the economy and society depend.
- Sustainable development embraces **environmental, social and economic objectives**, to deliver **long-term equitable growth** which **benefits current and future generations**.

# Education for Sustainable Development

- Good quality education is an essential tool for achieving a more sustainable world.
- This was emphasised at the UN World Summit in Johannesburg in 2002
- Education for Sustainable Development is defined as education that encourages changes in **knowledge, skills, values** and **attitudes** to enable a more sustainable and equitable society.
- It aims to empower and equip current and future generations to meet the needs using a **balanced and integrated approach to the economic, social and environmental** dimensions of sustainable development.

- The concept of Education for Sustainable Development was born from the need for education to address the **growing and changing environmental challenges** facing the planet.
- In order to do this, **education must change** to provide the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that empower learners to contribute to sustainable development.
- At the same time, **education must be strengthened** in all agendas, programmes, and activities that promote sustainable development.
- Sustainable development must be integrated into education and education must be integrated into sustainable development.

- Education for Sustainable Development promotes the integration of these critical sustainability issues in **local and global contexts** into the curriculum to prepare learners to **understand and respond to the changing world**.
- Education for Sustainable Development aims to produce learning outcomes that include core competencies such as **critical and systematic thinking, collaborative decision-making, and taking responsibility for the present and future generations**.
- Since traditional single-directional delivery of knowledge is not sufficient to inspire learners to take action as responsible citizens, Education for Sustainable Development entails **rethinking the learning environment- physical and virtual**.



- The learning environment itself must adapt and apply a **whole-institution approach** to embed the philosophy of sustainable development.
- **Building the capacity of educators and policy support** at international, regional, national and local levels helps drive changes in learning institutions.
- **Empowered youth and local communities interacting** with education institutions become key actors in advancing sustainable development.

# Role of school in Environmental conservation for Sustainable development

- To arouse the children's interest in the environment and to raise challenging problems
- To discuss the approach to problems or topics
- To arrange visits
- To provide materials needed for practical work
- To arrange for visiting speakers
- To initiate and develop discussion and debate; and
- To provide facilities for displays and exhibitions of the work carried out.



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