

# **Eco-Literacy: for the well-being of the earth**

## **Abstract**

Eco-literacy is a strong term for building a sustainable society that values the natural environment and provides a basis for its conservation through a holistic approach. It deals with the understanding of ecological principles of organization and their possible application in learning the construction of a sustainable human society. Nature does not require us; rather we need nature. Now is the moment to learn a lesson and become self-sufficient. We cannot enjoy what we do not understand. The only solution to the current environmental catastrophe is ecological education, which will help us improve it and equip us with alternatives and the courage to act for a more sustainable future.

**Keywords:** Green skills, sustainable society, ecological education, environmental catastrophe

## **Introduction**

Sustainability means meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Our natural world is impressive to everyone. Not only does it teach us how to live at peace with ourselves and other living organisms, but it also points us in the right direction for long-term sustainability [1,2]. Eco-literacy is the ability to understand the natural mechanisms that make life on earth possible. In the 1990s, American educator David Orr and physicist Fritjof Capra coined the word, and the world began learning about Earth's well-being.

Eco-literacy is a strong term for building a sustainable society that values the natural environment and provides a basis for its conservation through a holistic approach. It deals with the understanding of ecological principles of organization and their possible application in learning the construction of a sustainable human society [3,4,5]. This information is vital in today's world as everyone faces multiple escalating environmental issues such as ecosystem degradation, natural resource depletion, and climate change, among others. Restoring ecosystems is required to save humanity on this planet, which can only be achieved

through eco-literacy. As a result, future human survival will depend on our ability to understand basic ecological concepts and act accordingly.

Many references to ecological issues can be found in works of the Vedic period such as the Vedas, Samhitas, and Aranyaka Upanishads. Early humans adapted to their natural environment, led a relatively simple life, and covered their needs from nature in the most environmentally friendly way possible. Nature's worship of the sun, moon, fire, earth, air and water arose out of genuine reverence for the forces of nature that preserved and protected human life on earth, not just in response to the unknown. In the ancient Vedas, there are several allusions to environmental protection, ecological balance, weather cycles, phenomena of precipitation, hydrological cycle, and related subjects, indicating the high consciousness of the seers and peoples at that time. Ancient knowledge reveals a full understanding of the negative consequences of environmental degradation, whether caused by natural sources or human activities. Various dynasties paid the utmost attention to environmental protection and the sustainable use of its components, as evidenced by the Vedas and Kautilya's Arthashastra.

**A pond equals ten wells and a reservoir equals ten ponds. A son equals ten reservoirs, and a tree equals ten sons!**

**- Matsya Puran 154: 512**

Humanity is trying to take over the earth alone, which clearly goes against several laws of nature. The majority of our current actions do not conform to ecological principles, as illustrated by the increasing environmental problems we face. As a result, planet earth needs an ecologically literate culture that understands how ecosystems work and can plan future growth strategies in a sustainable manner. The multiple and diverse benefits that the natural environment and healthy ecosystems provide to humans are referred to as ecosystem services or values. Agro-ecosystems, forests, grasslands, and aquatic habitats are examples of such ecosystems. These ecosystems provide benefits such as plant pollination, clean air, water, and climate management, as well as human mental and physical well-being.

We often take nature for granted and overuse it because it is free. We clear forests, build fish seas, poison rivers, and destroy wetlands without considering the consequences.

People live in areas prone to extreme events, leading to disasters. There are enormous social and economic costs to us if we fail to take into account the benefits we derive from nature. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA), a major United Nations-funded project to assess the impact of human activities on ecosystems and human well-being, identifies four key types of ecosystem services: provisioning, regulatory, cultural, and conservation services.

### **The way forward:**

Humans have always had an impact on the natural world, which we rely on. But with more than 7 billion people on Earth, up from about 1.6 billion in 1900, we have an impact like never before. Think of the increasing scarcity of clean drinking water, the degradation of healthy soil on which our food grows, water and air pollution, and climate change. With a world population projected to reach 9 billion by mid-century, we cannot afford to ignore the need for eco-education, given that based on our existing ecological footprint, we will need 1.75 earth planets to meet our needs and fulfilling desires with our current lifestyle.

Green skills are those required to adapt processes, services, and goods to climate change and related environmental laws and requirements. They encompass the skills, talents, beliefs, and attitudes required to live in, develop and promote a resource-efficient and sustainable society. Renewable energy, climate readiness, wastewater treatment, green building, waste management, and other fields all require these talents. The Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) Of the ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MOEF&CC) of India is an environmental and forest sector skills development initiative to enable the Indian youth to find employment and/or self-employment and it is one of the most important tools for promoting eco-skills at an advanced level.

### **Environment Awareness through Mass-Media and social media:**

All social platforms can play an important role in raising environmental awareness and educating the masses in this social media age. Eco-dialogues are encouraged to bring together interested individuals from different backgrounds to deepen their understanding of the topic and raise awareness of environmental processes through scientific communication.

## **Valuation of ecosystem services:**

Valuation of ecosystem services assigns a monetary value to ecosystem assets and services. It raises public awareness of the value of forests and other ecosystems to human health. In order to appreciate the full impact of our decisions, we must consider the value of nature in economic and social terms. Instead of making decisions based primarily on immediate financial gain, we could consider the long-term benefits to people, the economy, and of course nature. We called on governments and corporations to take better care of the natural environment so it can feed us all with this reasoning in the future.

## **Conclusion:**

The Department of Environmental Sciences in Dr. Y. S. Parmar UHF Nauni Solam has already begun training farmers in eco-literacy, with the goal that such trained individuals act as eco-risk managers in their respective areas and serve as guides for the masses at the local level to sustain ecosystem services under changing climatic environmental conditions. Farmers make up about 93 percent of Himachal Pradesh's population, both indirectly and directly. We rely on nature as a miracle. The world would regenerate back to the lush state of equilibrium that existed ten thousand years ago when all of humanity disappeared. The environment would be thrown into disarray if another species disappeared. Nature does not require us; rather we need nature. Now is the moment to learn a lesson and become self-sufficient. We cannot enjoy what we do not understand. The only solution to the current environmental catastrophe is ecological education, which will help us improve it and equip us with alternatives and the courage to act for a more sustainable future.

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