

CHAPTER - 1

INTRODUCTION

1. INTRODUCTION

Education in its general sense is a form of learning in which the knowledge, skills, and habits of a group of people are transferred from one generation to the next through teaching, training, or research. Education is a rope that can carry us to greatness. It is one of the most important things in life. Without it one cannot develop oneself nor contribute to the world. Knowledge is power. So when people know what they can do, they can go that further. It is necessary to educate the younger generation about the environment so that they understand its importance in their lives and learn to protect it. Thus, they could be saved from environmental problems and lead a healthy life by keeping the Earth green.

Environment is nothing but the circumstances, objects or conditions by which one is surrounded. It includes complexes of climatic and other constituent factors like soil and biological bodies which act as an organism or an ecological community. The most comprehensive definition of environment has been given in the report of the Inter Governmental Conference on Environment which was held at Tbilisi USSR in October 1977. In this report, the environment is considered to consist of a whole set of natural and social systems in which man and other organisms live and from which they draw their subsistence. The environment of the earth has been changing steadily due to natural and man- induced causes. Population growth has been the single most important factor responsible for creating environmental stress.

Therefore, environmental awareness and environmental education have become the need of the present time. The student community needs to be sensitized about the problems caused in the environment and the ways and means to prevent them. Environment is holistic in nature consisting of different physical, biological, social, cultural, economic, political-interrelated and independent on one another.

During the last few centuries man has been exploiting the gifts of nature to satisfy his ever- increasing needs and wants leading to various natural calamities such as floods, fires, earthquakes etc with devastating results. All the factors of environment such as air, water, soil, plants, birds and animals have an effect on human life and activities. A healthy environment is necessary for economic growth and survival of human beings. Hence each individual should be made aware about the environment and its issues.

Keeping the importance of Environmental Education in view, the following research problem was arrived at.

1.1 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Development of a Task-Based Programme in Environmental Education for Pre-service Teachers

1.2 OPERATIONALISATION OF THE TERMS

- **Development:** The term refers to the process of economic and social transformation that is based on complex cultural and environmental factors and their interactions. ‘Development’ for this study implies preparation and try out of a programme in environment education.
- **Task based programme:** Task-based programming is an **effective methodology** to help learners use their literacy abilities. Research confirms that knowledge is better retained when it is applied and integrated into daily practice. ‘Task based programme’ for this study implies activity based programme of 10-12 sessions for pre-service teachers.
- **Pre – Service Teachers:** Pre-Service Teachers are students studying in the various teacher education programmes namely B.Ed, PTC. In the present study the pre-service teachers are B.Ed students undergoing one year B.Ed Advanced courses.

1.3 VARIABLES

Dependent Variable: The achievement of pre-service teachers is considered as dependent variable.

Independent Variable: The Tasks and activities prepared by the researcher for environment education programme is independent variable.

1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The researcher has carried out the research focusing on the following objectives.

1. To study issues related to environment;
2. To prepare tasks for environmental education;
3. To try out the task-based programme;
4. To prepare achievement tests to measure the level of awareness among the pre-service teachers vis-à-vis environment;
5. To analyze the data collected through the tests;
6. To interpret and understand the data, and thereby, effectiveness of the programme;
7. To arrive at implications of the study.

1.5 HYPOTHESIS

This research study was conducted with a null hypothesis in view.

There will be no significant difference between the mean achievement scores of pre-test and post-test.

1.6 DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The present study was delimited to pre-service teachers of the Waymade College of Education who have opted for Environmental Education as one of their methods.

1.7 RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

The current research aimed at creating awareness regarding the environment in the minds of young learners. Knowledge about the environment and environmental education is important for pre-service teachers who are going to be instrumental in shaping the future of the students, the future citizens of the world. Through this task-based programme, the researcher aimed to make an attempt to consciously train the pre service teachers to face environmental issues. The researcher has identified the importance of environmental education. In the present scenario, everyone needs to understand the importance of environmental education as the environmental problems or issues are increasing gradually. So the researcher had selected the current topic.

1.8 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The present study tried to explore the following issues in detail.

1. Why is environmental education important today?
2. What evidence is available to say that environmental education improves students' awareness and makes them conscious of their role in protecting the environment?
3. How can environmental education be used more effectively to shift the sense that nature is something apart from us and from our regular lives?
4. What kind of tasks can really educate the pre-service teachers regarding the environment?

1.9 SCHEME OF CHAPTERIZATION

This report of the research study is presented in the following manner.

Chapter-1: Introduction begins with an introductory note of the problem of study. It also states the objectives of the study, delimitation of the study, Operationalisation of the terms, hypothesis and rationale of the study.

Chapter-2: Review of Related Literature focuses on two parts: theoretical framework and research reviews. It includes a theoretical background of the study and different studies reviewed to understand and strengthen the present work.

Chapter-3: Research Methodology focuses on the methodology adopted in the present study. It describes in detail the research design selected for the present study, tools used and procedure adopted for data collection and data analysis.

Chapter-4: Analysis and Interpretation analyses the data and interpret based on the calculated scores of pre test and post test.

Chapter-5: Findings, Implications and Conclusion are the last chapter which deals with the findings and implications of the study. It also presents some suggestions for future studies that can be undertaken in the field.

1.10 CONCLUSION

Environment is very essential in every aspect of life. All the living beings are dependent upon the environment. All the components required for survival of living organisms are gained from the environment. Environmental education, together with sound legislation, sustainable management, and responsible actions by individuals and communities, is an important component of an effective policy framework for protecting and managing the environment. Tomorrow's leaders need to be equipped for tomorrow's challenges, and they must be adequately prepared for the future that they will inherit. This aim requires a commitment to providing young generation with environmental education that helps them become the educated thought leaders of tomorrow. The researcher, therefore, is of the opinion that environmental education is needed because protecting environment is everyone's duty. And who can be better servers of the society than teachers? Teachers nurture the young minds. So, if the pre-service teachers are trained in conservation and protection of environment, then the cascading effect can be seen at the school level and at the teacher's training institute level.

The next chapter in this dissertation is about the conceptual framework and review of related literature.