



Learning to Live on Planet Earth

National Conference on Education for Sustainable Development

March 20 - 21, 2007 at Avari Towers, Karachi

Education for Sustainable Development and Formal Education

“Education is a primary agent of transformation towards sustainable development, increasing people’s capacity to transform their vision for society into reality. Education not only provides scientific and technical skills, it also provides the motivation, justification and social support for pursuing and applying them.”

— UNESCO

Introduction

The part played by formal education in influencing the knowledge, skill and behavior of individuals to transform society has long been recognized. Owing to this, formal education has always been a key stakeholder in major developmental initiatives. This has led to various interventions in this sector including periodic revisions of curricula, capacity building of teachers and trainers and enrichment of co-curricular activities around concepts of environment, gender, population and human rights. But more often than not, these interventions have tended to be isolated and short-lived, promoted sporadically by successive interest groups.

The focus of this workshop will be on prospects in this sector for approaching sustainable development in a holistic manner by working with various stakeholders including apex government institutions, development organisations as well as the private sector. This includes addressing the issue of sustainable development from primary to tertiary level educational institutions using a variety of channels or models under ESD. The workshop would also analyze traditional teaching and learning approaches used in environmental education (EE) with a focus on gender, human rights and population education. This entails exploring the potential of change in approach from the traditional EE model and moving to systems thinking that focuses on collective rather than individual change. Another aspect of the workshop would be to examine issues and future opportunities for ESD with respect to networking and integration of efforts by various stakeholders, use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for distance learning and development of new models for teaching and learning in ESD.

Facilitators

- Shivani Jain is senior programme coordinator at the Centre for Environment Education (CEE), India. She coordinates the Secretariat of South and Southeast Asia Network for EE (SASEANEE) and partly coordinated activities of IUCN’s Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) in Asia between 1996 and 2004. Jain has conducted over 10 international training programmes in ESD for in-service professionals and has been coordinating CEE’s initiatives for open and distance learning courses for sustainable development. She co-authored the chapter on South-Asia for UNESCO’s 2005 publication titled *Reviewing ESD Status in Asia*.
- Mamta Pandya works as a programme officer for CEE’s children’s programme group. She is involved as core faculty in a number of training and capacity building programmes at the institution. A prolific writer, Pandya has over 50 publications to her credit and has also developed a variety of materials for EE/ESD.

Participants

Policymakers from the ministries of education and environment, university faculty from education and related disciplines, teachers, teacher educators, curriculum developers and textbook writers, community organizers, civil society workers and public administration staff engaged in formal education and training.

