



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Environmental Education as a Factor of Sustainable Development in the 21st Century

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Екологічна освіта як фактор сталого розвитку в XXI столітті

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Экологическое образование как фактор устойчивого развития в XXI веке

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Dear Editor,

Today we are living in the 21st century, we human are enjoying luxurious life by utilizing available natural resources. We have changed our lifestyle by consuming more and more natural resources, due to this over exploitation of the natural resources is taking place. We know that we will not have any alternative for our Earth even we are searching for new planet, we are finding the alternative for our Earth. The characteristics of various natural phenomena are being changing due to excess interference of human in natural environment. This century called it as technical era, we have developed various technologies which are playing a vital role in our development, even we have concentrated on industrial development, economic development, agricultural revolution, international trading etc. Through this activities, we have improved our economy, our lifestyle, and even we have minimized our pain. As a human being these developmental activities are seeming to blessing for us, without raising any doubt we all should accept that our all these development activities are very much essential for the better human development. But, if we look towards another side of our developmental activities

which are creating tremendous pressure on ecology, ecosystem and entire environment. Now days we are facing various environmental challenges like climate change, global warming, ozone depletion, waste management, destruction of biodiversity, environmental pollution, land desertification etc. these challenges are not restricted towards any particular country or any particular region, we have understood that developed countries, developing countries and least developed countries all are going through these challenges, therefore we need to take serious action against this environmental issues for the better future of our next generations.

Now, we are working to protect our environment, even we are taking lots of efforts to protect our environment right from local level to the international level. But, more efforts are needed to tackle this environmental issues. The maximum work need to be carried out at grass root level in collaboration with common public where everybody need to be understood the importance of environment and their role and responsibilities with respect to protection of environment and conservation of natural resources. All these environmental activities are not only limited to the specific categories, regions

or community. Each and every person on the Earth should recognize his value as well as importance of environment in his day to day life. The word sustainable development is need to make familiar with each and every one, also community should adopt sustainability in their lifestyle and it could be measurable by community itself.

With respect to scientific research and environmental policies, policy makers should understand that, policies need to have a firm scientific basis as well as policies widely accepted by government and society. Public opinion and their suggestions can be considered during policy formation and policy implementation. These policies should have validity as well as correctness so it can be work properly and we can achieve our goal. Policymakers should understand and recognize the seriousness of environmental problems on the economy and society. Otherwise, it will be possibilities to fail the policies when the impacts of the environmental problems are not regarded as sufficiently serious compared to others affecting society and the economy. Useful environmental policies are one of the solutions to tackle these environmental problems which need to be accepted by policymakers as well as industries.

The proper and accurate information regarding environment and its problems should be provided to the public without hiding real data and information. All types of useful data related to the environment should accessible to each and every one, so people can aware about the current status of the environment, even data can be used in research and development, social activities, environmental activities etc. Government should instruct and motivate to the mainstream media and all social media for broadcasting authenticated and real news with respect to the environment. Government can provide incentives to the media for raising such environmental issues and for making awareness among the people.

Even, we have understood the importance of environment and also its protection and conservation, but still we are making somehow mistake in priority between economy and ecology. We are giving more

weightage and importance to the economy than ecology. It has been proven time to time with respect to priority for economic activities compare to ecological or environmental activities through international as well as national activities. It is necessary to give equal weightage to the economy as well as ecology or environment. Impact of human activities on entire environment need to consider while taking any action or decision. We should always need to keep in our mind that our life is most important than money.

Environment education should be at top priority along with other education, and awareness need to be created about environment education in higher education system. More and more students should be attracted to this field and proper infrastructure and facilities should be provided for education as well as research and development. But in many developing and least developed countries, environment education has not taken seriously and therefore this field is completely ignored by the respective government. Even some countries have made environment education compulsory in higher education but it has not been implemented properly due to mismanagement, lacking with qualified staff, insufficient funds, improper government policies etc. These are various barriers in environment education. It will result in students as well as community will not get proper knowledge, information about environment and it's important, also, due to this student will not take environment is a serious matter. If we really want to give better future for our next generations, then we need to take some serious action to protect our environment, to conserve our nature and ultimately to protect our planet which may destroy in nearby future.

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