



UGC-CARE Approved Refereed-Peer Reviewed Journal
ISSN-0970-7603



भारतीय शिक्षा शोध पत्रिका

BHARATIYA SHIKSHA SHODH PATRIKA

वर्ष 42, अंक 2, जुलाई-दिसम्बर 2023
Vol. 42, No. 2, July-December 2023



भारतीय शिक्षा शोध संस्थान

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Role of Youth in Creating Sustainable Surroundings through Individual Social Responsibility

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Abstract

A variety of unsustainable lifestyle practises are currently popular as a form of production and consumption. The population is on the rise, and we have limited resources. If this continues, there is a huge possibility that nothing will be left to us in the name of resources in near future. Therefore, now this is the demand of nature to prevent it by adopting sustainable living and in view of this GoI launched an initiative, Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) in United Nation Climate Change conference (2021). This initiative urges people to practice feasible behaviour to prevent the degradation of mother nature. Sustainability cannot achieve without involving youth in the process as they comprise a large portion of the population. This study was conducted to understand the knowledge and lifestyle practices of Youth. The study involved 237 youths aged between 15-30 years studying in various institutions in Lucknow. They were asked numerous questions related to their daily practices which are directly or indirectly affecting the environment. The findings revealed that majority of youth had knowledge about sustainable development but at practice part very few of them were actually applying it in their daily lives.

Introduction

Earth is a place we all consider home, yet it is being strangled by unprecedented pressure to produce resources of nature to meet the demands of a rapidly growing population. Exceeded demand of capitalism is causing great harm to the regeneration power of earth, and the situation appears to be worsened in near future. Keeping this in mind, Mission LiFE was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at United Nation Climate Change Conference in 2021. Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) is an initiative of Government of India to promote self-sustainable behaviour and practices among people to protect the environment. In current scenario, severe climatic situation is affecting our lives directly. Changing climate is a threat not only to us but also for the future generations. This can be prevented by adopting sustainable practices in our daily lives. Sustainable practices include behaviours that meant to use resources in a feasible manner by which they can be reserved for our future generations. Since every single action of individuals is affecting the environment, therefore it is everyone's responsibility

towards their society to act accordingly. Sustainability cannot achieve without involving youth in the process. United nation too acknowledged the potential of youth and mentioned their efforts in Agenda 2030 for sustainable development with youth in which they portrayed the role of youth in implementing Agenda 2030 of Sustainable development. Youth of any nation can bring a great change in society by their tiny efforts and practices, as they comprise the maximum population of the world. United Nation defined young people aged between 15-24 years as "Youth". At present Youth of the India has the greatest share in the population. Around 65% of the Indian population are aged between 15-35 years. In a direction of making greener society for their upcoming generations, today's youth are playing a role of change agent in society. They are infatuated to do any sort of activities which are giving them recognition and appreciation. As Gambone *et al.* (2004) stated that young people's growth can only be possible by involving them in the process of change. Noor *et al.* (2015) says that there is a need to educate and aware young people about sustainability. According to him it is the responsibility of universities by education young individuals to maintain sustainable behaviours and

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practices in their campuses. In order to understand the general habits of today's youth this study has been conducted. The major aim of the study is to identify the behavioural practices of youth in their day-to-day life which are directly or indirectly affecting the environment and sustainable practices.

Objectives

1. To identify the knowledge and awareness of youth regarding Mission LiF
2. To understand the sustainable surroundings Responsibility.

Methods

Researcher used a survey method to collect data from 237 youths aged between 15-30 years studying in various institutions in Lucknow. They were asked numerous questions related to their daily practices which are directly or indirectly affecting the environment. The findings revealed that majority of youth had knowledge about sustainable development but at practice part very few of them were actually applying it in their daily lives.

Figure 1 is about youth's habits and practices regarding sustainability. Respondents were asked questions based on five-point rating scale. All the questions were related to their daily life practices which are affecting sustainability in a direct or indirect manner. The time limit in shower has received lowest weight and turning off lights when not in used received highest weight in the categorization shown in Fig. 1. However, it is undoubted that other practices towards sustainability like, food based on sustainability, use of leaky faucets, printing second-hand shopping are prevalent in all youth, still about their mother nature and for its future. This clearly indicates that there is an enormous change required in day-to-day life of youths'

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