

## **View of Community People about the Implementation of Environmental Education Programme in Himachal Pradesh: An Evaluative Study**

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### **Abstract**

In ancient days, a natural balance was maintained between living beings including men and plants. As we know, various living beings play a vital role in maintaining ecological stability. They provide protection against natural calamity like droughts, floods and cyclones. But in the present days, several factors including rising population, increasing need for fuels, wood, timber, fodder, increasing industrialization and urbanization have contributed to large-scale environment degradation. There is huge cry everywhere to protect and preserve the environment from its deterioration. The factors responsible for environmental degradation are caused due to human related reasons and mostly because of growth in population rapidly.

**KEYWORDS:** Community People, Implementation, Environment, Education, Programme

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### **Introduction**

This is a crucial time to realize that environmental sensitivity and environmental friendly behavior should be cultivated among masses particularly among youth. For the awareness of the society, it is essential to work at grass root level so that the whole society can work to save the environment. If we want the environmental values in the children, in due course, we will get the seedlings in the form of adolescents, which will nurture as tree i.e. citizen-having responsibility towards environment. For this purpose, it is essential to educate and train the children regarding the significance of healthy environment. When students learn about the functions of eco-system and about environmental action strategies that contributes to their maintenance they develop more environmentally responsible behavior.

The accomplishment of eco-friendly environment, sustained and equitable development, protection and preservation of biodiversity remains the greatest challenge to humanity today.

The essential task of development is to provide an access to resources and opportunities for a better quality of life to all people, but recent years have witnessed rising concern about whether development would lead to serious environmental damages or whether environmental constraints would limit development. Therefore, appropriate policies, programmes and technologies must be adopted to encourage efficient use of resources that lead to less environmental harm to society. In order to achieve this objective, a reorientation of the education system is required which will lead to a heightened sense of responsibility in individuals and group towards eco-

friendly and sustainable development. This is possible only when environmental issues are identified, scientifically understood and appropriate solutions applied for their improvement; into the way, people perform their trade, profession, and occupation.

Environmental education Programme is a permanent process in which individuals gain awareness of their environment and acquire the knowledge, values, skills, experiences and determination, which will enable them to act individually and collectively to solve present and future environmental problems in order to meet their needs without compromising those of future generations.

### **Review of Related Literature**

From the review of related literature it was found that most of studies have been done in field of environment, **Jans (1978)** gave a hierarchical approach involving four levels of activities, ecological concepts, conceptual awareness, issue investigations and evaluation, environmental skill-training and application. Research study consistently concluded that behavioral changes will not occur, if students are exposed only to the first goals levels. In an another study conducted by **Volk (1983)** on environmental education curriculum states that in his findings there exist considerable discrepancy between the desired and existing system of environmental education. On the contrary **Lozzi** found that environmental educators attach importance to teaching that would develop positive attitude at the same time in Indian context, Saxena conducted an important research regarding the awareness and concluded that the concepts namely: **1)** about the environment **2)** for the environment and **3)** from the environment should be considered in specific demography. **Gahir (1987)** studies schedule castes population in context to environmental education and found that, the attitudes of female population in all their comparisons are significantly different in small, moderate and large size family. **Das and Gosh** in his study concluded the similar result that female parents whose educations have some educational background possess positive attitude towards environmental education. In **1992 Yogamorthi** stressed the need of environmentally trained teachers, this was followed by the findings of **Chin (1993)** concluded that rural junior, high school students have lowest level of knowledge attitude and awareness of environmental problem. In support of a particular view point **Wilson (1994)** concluded that environmental education is an important aspect in an early child education that has to begin with simple experience.

### **Objective of the Study**

To study the view of Community People about the Implementation of Environmental Education Programme in Himachal Pradesh: An Evaluative Study

### **Sample**

A sample of 100 community people was selected from four districts Shimla, Bilaspur, Kangra, and Hamirpur of Himchal Pradesh for the present investigation. Twenty-five community people were selected by random sampling from each district.

## Research Method

The descriptive survey method of research was used to carry out the present study. Self constructed interview schedule was used to collect data having 15 items each item is provided with four of three alternatives.

## Statistical Techniques Used

To achieve the objectives of the study the data collected were codified, tabulated and converted into percentage.

## Analysis and Interpretation of Data

### View of Community People about the Implementation of Environmental Education Programme

To understand environment in totality there should be co-operation of individuals and communities so that problems linked with nature can be understood. In society, valuing and the feeling of worry for environment should be encouraged. To achieve these objectives, the feeling of responsibility should be developed so that environmental problems can be solved at a fast pace.

### Activities Carried Out in their Locality

**Table -1**

**Responses of Community People for the Activities Carried Out in their Locality**

Sr. No.	Activities in Locality	Frequency/Percentage of Responses of Community People (100=100%)
1.	Tree plantation	42 (42.00%)
2.	Cleanliness of locality	40 (40.00%)
3.	Making of stonewall	10 (10.00%)
4.	None of above	8 (8.00%)

**Table 1** reveals that 42 percent of community people were of the view that tree plantation is carried out by the Panchayat and local people. 40 percent of the community people were of the view that cleanliness of locality is done time to time by local people, while 10 percent of community people gave their view that work like making stone wall is carried out by the local people based on employment, while 8 percent of community people were of the view that nothing is done by community people or panchayat in their locality.

### Role of Community People for Preservation of Environment in their Locality

**Table -2****Responses of Community People for Activity they Consider Most Appropriate for Preserving Environment in the Locality**

Sr. No.	Preservation of Environment in Locality	Frequency/ Percentage Responses of Community People (100=100%)
1.	Proper disposal of waste material	30 (30.00%)
2.	No over grazing by animals	27 (27.00%)
3.	To clean public places and parks	23 (23.00%)
4.	All the above	20 (20.00%)

**Table -2** reveals that 30 percent of community people were of the view that proper disposal of waste material is important for the sanitation of the environment, while 27 percent of the community people were of the view that there should not be over grazing of the animals whereas, 23 percent of community people were of the view that we should clean public places and parks, while 20 percent of the community people were of the view that proper disposal of waste material, no over grazing of animals and proper outlet of rainwater are all-important factors for the preservation of environment of the locality.

**Activities of Community People in which they Participate**

Community people participated in various activities related to environment is presented in table -3

**Table -3****Responses of Community People for Activities in which They Participated**

Sr. No.	Participation of Community people	Frequency/ Percentage of Responses of Community People (100=100%)
1.	Reforestation	40 (40.00%)
2.	Cleanliness drive	40 (40.00%)
3.	Awareness among masses	20 (20.00%)

**Table-3** reveals that 40 percent of the local people were of the view that they participated in reforestation in their community, while 40 percent of community people were of the view that they participated in cleanliness drive for maintaining sanitation condition of the locality. 20 percent of the community people were of the view that they participated in awareness programme in the community for creating awareness among masses.

**Table -4**

**Responses of Community People for the Scheme Apna Van and Apna Dhan is Started with which of the Following Objective in your Locality**

Sr. No.	Objectives	Frequency/Percentage of Responses of Community People (100=100%)
1.	For the involvement of grassroots institution such as gram-panchayat, mahila mandals, yuvak mandals	20 (20.00%)
2.	To involve welfare societies	10 (10.00%)
3.	Do not know	70 (70.00%)

**Table-4** reveals that 20 percent of community people were of the view that they participate in various schemes which were launched with the objective for the involvement of grassroots institutions such as grampanchayat, mahila mandals, yuvak mandals, while 10 percent of community people were of the view that they were started with the aim to involve welfare society, while majority of people were not clear about the objectives of the scheme.

**Table -5**

**Responses of Community People for Participation in Environment Related Activities Carried Out by School in Their Locality**

Sr. No.	Items	Frequency/Percentage of Responses of Community people (100=100%)
1.	Celebration of environment day	40 (40.00%)
2.	Declamation contest	15 (15.00%)
3.	Quiz competition	13 (13.00%)

4.	Rally	32 (32.00%)
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**Table-5** shows that 40 percent of community people were of the view that the most appropriate way to create interest among school students towards environment related activities is celebration of Environment Day, while 15 percent of community people were of the view that they participated in declamation contest., while 13 percent of community people were of the view that they participated in quiz competition, while 32 percent of community people were of the view that they participated in rally organized by the school.

**Table-6**

**Responses of Community People for Reasons of the Unsuccessfulness of Any Programme Run for the Community**

Sr. No.	Reasons for Unsuccessfulness of Programme	Frequency/ Percentage of Responses of Community People (100=100%)
1.	Gender issues and no women participation	8 (8.00%)
2.	Inter and intra-village conflicts	64 (64.00%)
3.	Lack of statutory authority to local institution	18 (18.00%)
4.	Do not know	10 (10.00%)

**Table -6** shows that 8 percent of community people were of the view that gender issues and no women participation is responsible for unsuccessfulness of programme, while 64 percent were of the view that there is inter and intra village conflicts which is responsible for unsuccessfulness of programme ,while 18 percent of community members were of the view that there is lack of statutory authority to local institution which is responsible for unsuccessfulness of programme, while 10 percent were of the that they do not know the exact reason.

**Table -7**  
**Responses of Community People or the Success of any Programme run for Community**

<b>Sr. No</b>	<b>Success of any Programme</b>	<b>Frequency/Percentage of Responses of Community People (100=100%)</b>
1.	Strengthen the inter links of community structures like mahila mandals, village forest communities, yuvak mandals.	18 (18.00%)
2.	Create an awareness that is conducive to carry out any programme	10 (10.00%)
3.	Community participation from passive to active	30 (30.00%)
4.	Periodical review of working plan	42 (42.00%)

**Table -7** shows that 18 percent of community people were of the view that it is necessary to strengthen the inter links of community structures like mahila mandals, village forest communities and yuvak mandals for the success of programme. However, 10 percent of community people were of the view that, it is important to create an awareness that is conducive to carry out any programme and make any programme successful, while 30 percent of community people were of the view that there is need of community participation from passive to active whereas, 42 percent of community were of the opinion that there should periodical review of working plan for the success of programme.

### **Benefits of Forest**

**Table -8**  
**Responses of Community People for the Most Valuable Product That They Get from Forests**

<b>Sr. No</b>	<b>Product that they get from Forest</b>	<b>Frequency/Percentage of Responses of Community People (100=100%)</b>
1.	Fodder for domestic cattle	35 (35.00%)

2.	Medicinal plants	8 (8.00%)
3.	Wood	43 (43.00%)
4.	All the above	14 (14.00%)

**Table-8** reveals that 35 percent of community people were of the view that they get fodder for domestic cattle. Whereas, 8 percent of community people were of the view that they get medicinal plants, while 40 percent of community people were of the view that they get wood from forest whereas, 14 percent of community people were of the view that they get all things mentioned from the forest.

#### **Role that NGO Play in Locality**

**Table -9**

#### **Responses of Community People for Role that NGO Play in their Locality**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Role of NGO</b>	<b>Frequency/Percentage of Responses of Community People (100=100%)</b>
1.	Making people aware about harmful effects of deteriorating environment	23 (23.00%)
2.	Tree plantation	30 (30.00%)
3.	Organizing campaign related to environment	10 (10.00%)
4.	All the above	37 (37.00%)

**Table -9** shows that 23 percent of community people were of the view that NGO work for making people aware about harmful effects of deteriorating environment, while, 30 percent of community people were of the view that NGO work for tree plantation. 10 percent of community people were of the view that NGO work for organizing campaigns related to environment. Whereas, 37 percent of community people were of the view that NGO work for all above mentioned causes.

#### **4.4.6 Environment Related Problem the Community People face in their Locality**

**Table -10**  
**Responses of Community People for Environment Related Problem they face in their Locality**

Sr. No.	Problem Community People Face in Locality	Frequency/Percentage of Responses of Community People (100=100% )
1.	Stray Animals	6 (6.00%)
2.	Lack of dustbin	22 (22.00%)
3.	Rubbish heaps	68 (68.00%)
4.	Lack of plantation	4 (4.00%)

**Table-10** shows the data that 6 percent were of the view that they face the problem of stray animals. 22 percent of community people were of the view that there are lacks of dustbins in the locality because of which people throw their garbage here and there, which spoil the fresh air of that area. 68 percent of the community people were of the view that there is rubbish heaps in the locality. 4 percent of the community people were of the view that there is lack of plantation in the locality.

**Table-11**  
**Responses of Community People for what Can they do to Preserve Environment in their Community**

Sr. No.	Statements	Frequency/ Percentage of Responses of Community People (100=100%)
1.	Making people aware of environment related problems	11 (11.00%)
2.	By active participation in environment activities	68 (68.00%)
3.	Abating pollution by man (smoke, pesticides, sewage)	21 (21.00%)

**Table-11** shows the data that 11 percent of community people were of the view that they can preserve the environment in their community by making people aware of environment related problems while, 68 percent of community people were of the opinion that community people should participate actively in environmental related activities. Whereas, 21 percent of community people were of the opinion that we can protect the environment by abating pollution by man (smoke, pesticides, sewage).

### Protection of Environment in their Locality

**Table -12**

### Responses of Community People for the Measures they suggest for the Protection of Environment in their Locality

Sr. No.	Protection of Environment	Frequency/Percentage of Responses of community People (100=100% )
1.	No deforestation	45 (45.00%)
2.	Development of proper toilets/drainage system	42 (42.00% )
3.	Employment through various projects launched by H.P. government	6 (6.00%)
4.	Attitude change through environment education among masses.	7 (7.00% )

**Table- 12** shows the data which reveals that 45 percent of community people were of the opinion that there should be no deforestation, while 42 percent of community people were of the opinion that in village there is no proper arrangement of toilets and drainage system, while 6 percent of community people were of the opinion that village people definitely take interest, if they get some employment through various projects launched by H.P government. 7 percent of community people were of the view that we can change attitude through environmental education among masses.

### Problem of Community People they face in the Implementation of Environmental Education Programme in their Locality

**Table -13****Responses of the Community People for Problem they face in the Implementation of Environmental Educational Programmes in their Locality**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Problem in the Implementation of Environment Programme</b>	<b>Frequency/Percentage of Responses of Community People (100=100% )</b>
1.	Lack of grant and financial assistance	45 (45.00% )
2.	The condition of schools in rural areas/remote areas is poor and unhealthy.	35 (35.00% )
3.	Local organization and local people are not allowed to collaborate with schools in planning the curriculum and budget.	20 (20.00% )

**Table- 13** shows 45.00 percent of community people were of the view that lack of grant and financial assistance is main problem due to lack of finance, Environmental Educational Programmes cannot run successfully, while 35.00 percent of community people were of the view that the condition of school in rural areas/remote areas is poor and unhealthy whereas, 20.00 percent of community people were of the view that local organization and local people are not allowed in collaborating with schools in planning the curriculum, school activities and budgets. Tree plantation is carried out by the panchayat and local people, local people does cleanliness of locality time to time. The work like making stonewall is carried out by the local people based on employment.

**Findings of the study**

1. Majority of community people are of the view that proper disposal of waste material is important for the sanitation of the environment, there should not be over grazing of the animals, and we should clean public places and parks. community people are of the view that they participated in reforestation in their community, they participated in cleanliness drive for maintaining sanitation condition of the locality. Few have expressed that they participated in awareness programme in the community for creating awareness among masses. They participated in various schemes, which are launched with the objective for the involvement of grassroots institution such as gram-panchayats, mahila mandals, yuvak mandals. The students should get opportunity to participate in environment related activity in a meaningful and effective way. Few are of the view that science must be practicum based by linking with local environment and there

should be proper co-ordination between development agencies and educational administrator.

2. The data reveals that few community people are of the view that it is necessary to strengthen the inter links of community structures like mahila mandals, village forest communities and yuvak mandals. Majority of community people are of the view that there should be community participation from passive to active and periodical review of working plan is must. They get fodder for domestic cattle whereas, few are of the view that they get medicinal plants and wood from forest. NGO work for making people aware about harmful effect of deteriorating environment but some of the community people are of the view that NGO work for tree plantation. NGO work for all these cause.
3. Some of the community people are of the view that they face the problem of stray animals. There is lack of dustbins in the locality people throws their garbage here and there, which spoil the fresh air of that area. Majority of community people are of the view that there are rubbish heaps in the locality and that there is lack of plantation in locality. Majority of community people are of the view that there should be proper disposal of waste material, there is lack of environment awareness among community people and forest fire is main problem. There should be no deforestation some are of the opinion that in village there is no proper arrangement of toilets .Some are of the opinion that village people definitely take interest, if they get some employment through various projects launched by H.P. government and few community people are of the view that we can change the attitude of people through environmental education among masses.
4. Lack of grants and financial assistance is main problem, the condition of schools in rural areas, remote areas is poor, unhealthy and local organization and local people are not allowed in collaborating with schools in planning the curriculum, school activities and budgets.

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