

Environment protection through nature club

Dr. Indrani

Department of Education, V.M.L.G. College, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India

Abstract

The dangerous effects of pollution are now apparent from the extinction of species to melting the Arctic & Antarctic glaciers. This necessitated the immediate action to protect the environment, from grass root level to international level. The objective of the study was to make aware the college students with the problem of pollution and the need to conserve resources and to encourage the students to undertake the projects of 'Each One Plant One' and 'Plastic Free College Campus'. Eighty Five students registered in the Nature Club of the college were the sample of the study. Students planted 226 plants of different types, made more than 200 paper bags to replace polythene and suggested a number of activities to conserve the nature.

Keywords: environment, paper bag, plantation, protection of environment

Introduction

The natural resources available on earth were sufficient for early man & that man did not harm the environment by and large, but the growth of human population and the process of development of man-made world increased the tendency to exploits the environment. The irrational exploitation of environment, increase in unhealthy chemicals and low level of planting new plants created major problem of pollution on earth. Today, many species of plants and animals have been extricated near to extinct. It is not that pollution does not effect the human race. Pollution effects not only the physical status of the man but it also effects the psychological traits as recall ability, language comprehension, perceptual motor ability etc. as reported by Anjum (1982) [1] and Yadav (1987) [2]. The dangerous effects of pollution are now apparent from the extinction of species to the melting of Arctic & Antarctic glaciers. This necessitates the immediate action to protect the environment, from grass root level to international level. Many attempts have been taken to protect the environment & to create the awareness among masses to protect the nature. Gupta & others (1981) found school going rural children significantly better on environment awareness than urban children, and the students of non-formal centers more aware about environment than the students of formal schools. This may be because we have very little activities in our formal education system to make the students aware with environmental concerns. Very little space is there in our formal urban schools & colleges to make the students realize the seriousness of problems regarding environment and to find out the ways and solutions at the local level. Pai (1981) [4] prepared a curriculum in environment studies for college students and found that students attending the course are significantly better on knowledge & attitude towards environment. Now, Universities have started introducing Environment Education as a qualifying paper at graduation level. Introducing environment as a subject compulsory to study for all undergraduate is not enough to make the students

aware and ready to protect environment. It provides only theoretical information about environment protection, whereas, to build positive attitudes towards environment and to inculcate various types of skills required for the purpose, there is a need to work with these students in real life situations, to expose them with the cruel realities and to empower them to take some initiatives at their own. With this aim the investigators started working with the undergraduate and post- graduate students studying in the college as an endeavor to protect the environment.

Objectives of the study

Following were the objectives to achieve through this study:

1. To make aware the college students with the problem of pollution and need to conserve resources.
2. To encourage the students to undertake the project of 'Each One Plant One' and 'Plastic Free College Campus'.
3. To guide them and to make them able to undertake the project.
4. To involve the college students to participate in nature conservation.

Method and Procedure

To conduct the study the following procedure was followed:

1. Nature club, V.M.L.G. College, Ghaziabad organized following essay competitions:-
 - i) 'Nature: What it gives to us'.
 - ii) 'Reason for conserving Nature'.
 - iii) Ways to conserve natural resources'.
2. After these competition the students of all classes (Graduate and Post Graduate) were encouraged to register themselves in Nature Club.
3. These volunteers were encouraged to survey regarding the source of pollution near the locality in which they were residing.
4. The ways to get rid of that pollution were discussed with them.

5. Students were asked to take projects for conserving the nature. After discussion on various projects, two projects were selected – ‘Each One Plant One’ and ‘Plastic Free College Campus’
6. Each One Plant One’ – On ‘Plantation Day’ the experts in the field of nature conservation discussed the obstacles which are faced to preserve the environment and enlightened the under graduate and graduate students of the college with various ways of protecting the environment. Students were encouraged to plant at least one plant and take care of the plant. The plants were distributed among them. After this the students were also encouraged to convince their neighbors and friends to plant at least one plant and to take care of it. In this way many plants were planted and nurtured. The follow up about the plants continued. Meetings with the students were organized from time to time to follow up the growth of the plants they planted and also to discuss other ways to conserve the nature.
7. Plastic Free College Campus – It was observed by the members of Nature Club that most of the students use polythene bags to keep their books, copies etc. in college campus. To reduce the use of polythene in the college, this project was undertaken. The alternatives of the plastic bags were discussed with the students. A two days workshop was organized to train the students to make paper bags. The chart papers used by the students of B.Ed. during their teaching practice and submitted for various competitions in the college were provided to the students. The students used old *dupattas* and *sarees* to make the paper bags durable. The students made paper bags using those chart papers and old clothes. The students using polythene bags were given the paper bags and were encouraged to prepare the same. Those students who continued to use polythene bags, were persuaded and were made convinced of using paper bags. On Founders’ Day of the college, students organized a stall “Plastic Hatao” by making 185 paper bags. The guests visited the college with plastic bags were requested to use paper bags instead of plastic bags. They were provided with the beautiful bags by the members of Nature Club.

Results

i) Regarding Plantation

The members of nature club planted 226 plants. The details of which are as follows: -

Type of Plant

1	Neem	30	2	Guavava	14
3	Jamun	24	4	Sagaun	13
5	Harshrangaar	36	6	Peapal	02
7	Chameli	34	8	Sadabahar	07
9	Kaner	05	10	Shahtoot	21
11	Gughal	07	12	Champa	03
13	Rose	07	14	Badam	02
15	Dehlia	04	16	Mandva	03
17	Rat ki Rani	01	18	Morpankhi	02
19	Genda	10	20	Gulabaas	01

Area wise Plantation

1	Ghukana Mour	09	2	Ashok nagar	06
3	Harvansh nagar	11	4	Bhur Bharat Nagar	06
5	Krishna nagar	10	6	Ram Nagar	03
7	Dujana	02	8	Seva Nagar	07
9	Bhoupara	06	10	Daulat Pura	05
11	Shastri nagar	09	12	Arthla	02
13	Muradnagar	07	14	Indragarhi	03
15	Mojpur	06	16	Shibbanpura	03
17	Harsaon	06	18	Indra Colony	03
19	Pratap Vihar	08	20	Dundahara	02
21	Pran Garhi	11	22	Jawali	01
23	Fafrana	11	24	Vasundhara	01
25	Raj Nagar	16	26	Raja Pur	02
27	Daulatpura	06	28	GovindPuram	02
29	Kailash nagar	06	30	Lohia Nagar	01
31	Nand Gram	05	32	Railway colony	05
33	Vijay nagar	19	34	Gandhi Nagar	03
35	Muradnagar	07	36	Sihani Gate	05
37	Hindon Vihar	06	38	GauPuri	05

ii) Regarding Paper Bags

Students prepared more than 200 paper bags and polythene bags were replaced with these paper bags.

Reaction of Students

Students reacted for the programme in the following way:

1. In the beginning most of the volunteers had taken the project as an assignment/fun but after getting involved in the activities they started realizing the need to preserve the natural resources.
2. They realized the problem of pollution.
3. Students suggested a number of activities, which could be a part of Nature Club. Some of them are management of waste & garbage, ways to conserve electricity, water, soil etc.
4. Students of nature club stopped to use polythene and usually encouraged their friends to use cloth or paper bags in place of polythene bags.
5. They usually tried to conserve the plants growing in the college campus.

On the suggestions of students the activities for the next session were planned.

Implications

1. This approach may be used at a larger scale. Entire community/ village/ town/ city may be involved to form a Nature Club.
2. This approach help in developing thinking skills, team spirit, feeling of learning and working together among students.
3. This may be used as a very effective tool of education for developing positive and healthy attitudes and values.

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