

International Conference On Sustainability Education



September 9-10, 2021 | 14:00-18:00 Hrs IST

Highlights by Young Reporters for the Environment



Young Reporters
for the environment

A Virtual Conference



Session 6: Climate Change, Education and Literacy



“In the training program initiated by the Climate Reality project, during the green sessions, not only students but their parents also join for a better understanding of the subject.”
-Ms. Rekha Lulla, Program Manager, The Climate Reality Project, India

Session 7: Education for Advancing Circular Economy



“Society needs to start somewhere, and that is (waste) segregation.” -Ms. Shalini Sharma, Founder Director, Global Institute for Circular Economy & SDGs, India

“We must dedicate ICSE 2021 for the hope of the future”
-Dr. Ram Boojh, CEO Mobius Foundation

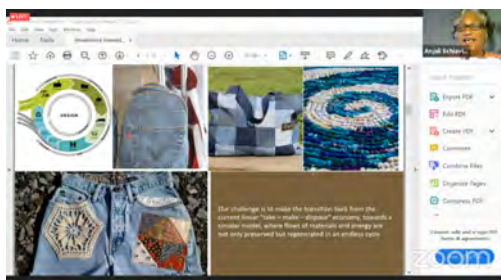
Opening Plenary



“Children are our future, but we should give them the skills set to build the future for themselves.”
-Dr. Vibha Dhawan, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)



“We were just born 4 hours ago!”
“If we consider the age of mother nature - 4.6 billion years as 46 years, then we (humans) have just been born 4 hours ago and whatever damage we did to mother nature is within 30 minutes.”
-Dr. Anil Prakash Joshi, Founder HESCO



Session 7: Education for Advancing Circular Economy

On the left is an example of reusing materials to create new products. Anjali Schiavina is concerned about how to ensure that products made from reused material become more mainstream.

“When we connect the student to the farmer and he gets to meet him face to face, or we connect the students to the workplace, or to the factories, so what happens is what they have learned, they will experience, and what they experience, they don't forget.”
-Ms. Anjali Schiavina

Session 8 : MISSION SUSTAINABILITY-Education and awareness for population stabilization



“Population explosion is as serious as climate change.”
-Mr. Terry Spahr, Founder, and Director, Earth Overshoot

Session 9: Ecosystem Services, Biodiversity, and Forest Ecosystem



“The last year 2020, I often thought, was it a setback to our globe? We saw what was happening in terms of the human cost, environmental cost and the economic cost that we have to pay. One thing is very clear, Covid-19 showed us the interconnectedness of how the environment, society, and economy are intricately connected and how these connections affect the well-being of our society.”
-Ms. Gayatri Raghwa, Environment Education Consultant, UNEP

SESSION 10: Nature Connect and Informal Education



“Humans have an innate tendency to connect with nature.”
-Ms. Radhika Suri, Director, Education WWF India

SESSION 8 : MISSION SUSTAINABILITY- Education and awareness for population stabilization



Since 1900, the world has gone on to produce five times more people. So any action is the need of the hour. The distribution of contraceptives is the most important aspect taken into consideration but as we see in rural India, women want to stabilize the population but they do not have the means to do so.

“To choose between development and environment respectively, the second should always come first.”- Dr. Pradip Burman, Chairperson, Mobius Foundation

SESSION 9: Ecosystem Services, Biodiversity, and Forest Ecosystem

“Normally everybody says YES it’s time to change. We all want change but when they ask who wants to change, people are not so ready to raise their hands.” -Ms. Gayatri Raghwa, Environment Education Consultant, UNEP

Below are the figures of mangrove coverage across the globe shown in a video.



SESSION 10: Nature Connect and Informal Education
There are mainly 2 reasons for nature disconnect which are “Tech Boom” and “Pandemic”. Youth need to connect with nature.

The various tools to reestablish the lost nature connection for the youth can be:

- **Ecotrail** - Observation skills and knowledge about eco-sensitive areas
- **Biodiversity workshops and courses**
- **Green schooling** - Eco-schools with kitchen / herbal gardening
- **Publication for identification of biodiversity**
- **Citizen Science**



The initiative, “Nature for All” - to work with communities with climate change and biodiversity in silos, involving all indigenous people, youth, women and commercial sectors in a single platform to preserve and protect the existing biodiversity.

India takes the BONN CHALLENGE - India has decided to restore degraded forest and the landscape of over 20 million hectares.

Concluding Plenary



“Nature connection is not just going into nature and looking at the beautiful things around. It has emotional wellbeing, it has mental wellbeing attached to it.”

-Ms. Chetna Kaith, WWF Project Lead reporting on Session 10

One-to-one interview session with speakers

I heard that when making the documentary, 8 Billion Angels, your aim was to make an emotional impact. What kind of challenges did you face to make an emotionally impactful documentary?

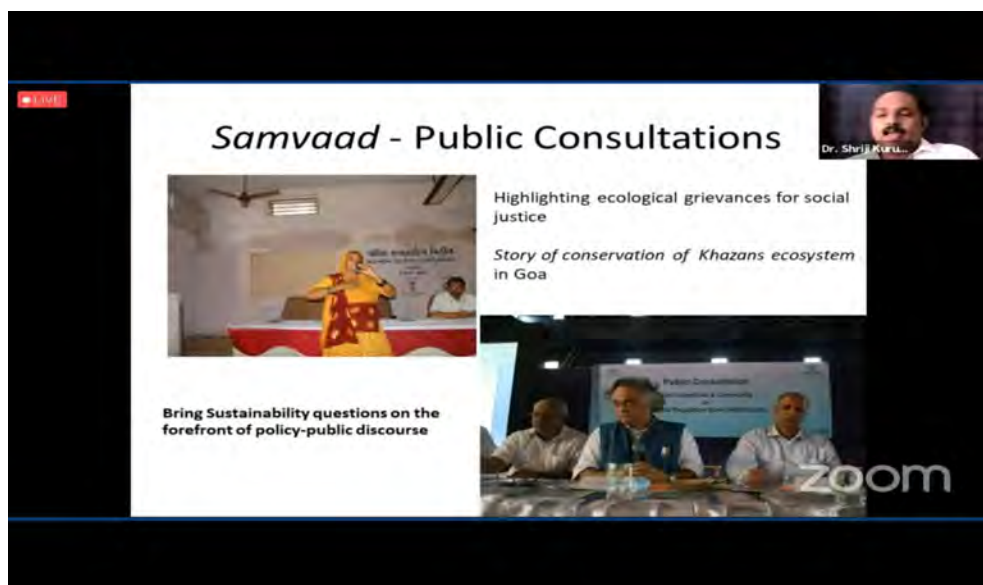
“I think that what’s important with storytelling is you can’t have people who occupy a screen and say, this is how you do things. You can’t have it to be the word of didactic. People who teach others, they have to rise organically, and the stories that are in the film (8 Billion Angels) are people in their environment, whether it is the oyster farmer who is struggling with the warming waters and the acidification of the waters for trying to grow his oysters to the struggle of people trying to breathe the foul air.” -Mr. Terry Spahr, Founder and Director, Earth Overshoot

How can a local community make sense of quality environmental education and its relevance for the strata of our society such as rural schools?

“We should realise that SDGs may not be known to many till the time they are advanced but they will still understand what is bad for the environment and bad for living. So many of the things they will implement, before they know that it is a part of SDG.” -Mr. Kartikeya Sarabhai, Founder and Director, Centre for Environment Education (CEE)

SESSION 11: Ecosystem and Sustainable Education

Dr. Shriji Kurup, Programme Coordinator, CEE shared viewpoints addressing ‘key challenges and strategies for engaging citizens and communities towards sustainability education for restoring ecosystems.’ Below are some of the highlights cited from CEE programmes and projects.



- Samvaad - public consultations and organizing power of a collective - as a strategic tool for enhancing engagement
- Creating shared learning experiences through participatory planning, implementation and evaluation
- Reimagining development - restoration spaces - with an ecosystem mindset and approach - influencing policy
- Building from Parampara - traditional wisdom
- Connecting sustainability education with livelihoods enhancement
- Legal literacy and outreach as a strategy for protecting ecosystem services and spaces

Interview with Mr. Atul Bagai, Country Head UNEP-India

What emphasis would you like to give to youth like us in being much more responsible citizens, the first to get affected by climate change and the last to mitigate it, in protecting the ground we stand for a healthy sustainable future where quality of air, water, food and living are a right to all unbiased?

“Wrath of climate change, done by an older generation than ours, the impact is borne by your generation and this is a sad reality. But there should be hope that is by understanding the quantum of the problem and the associated impact created. Youth can take up actions and you are powerful and can have important influence especially at the starting of the consumption decisions at the family level and when you decide on what product you need to purchase, the producers will be forced to shift to more eco-friendly manufacture.”

-Mr. Atul Bagai, Country Head, UNEP India