

# Today Shapes Tomorrow

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**Abstract:** The environment and its relation to humanity is one of the most important problems of the present time. Until a few years ago, perhaps the fear was that mankind might destroy itself misusing the nuclear energy which it had come to master. Probably many of the environmental dangers can be averted through concerted co-operative human action. Economic interest may be involved, the reorientation of attitudes required may not be easy. This paper should prove a valuable introduction to a foundation course on environmental concern.

**Keywords:** Environmental education, IUCN and Economic Growth.

## 1. Introduction

To define environment is as difficult as defining life. It is the totality of the entity on which we and all other organisms subsists. It is life itself, a direct handwork of the Almighty. Nature teaches us that no organism can exist in vacuum. They are all inseparably related with their physical and biological surroundings. Environmental education is widely agreed that education is the most effective means that society possesses for confronting the challenges of the future. Indeed, education will shape the world of tomorrow. Environmental Education has sometimes been interpreted narrowly to relate only to the scientific aspects of environmental problems. This approach does not address a holistic education about environmental matters. Here environmental education is used in its broadest sense to include:

- Raising awareness
- Acquiring new perspectives, values, knowledge and skills.
- Formal and informal process leading to changed behavior.

Do environmental protection and, modern development go hand in hand? Are science and technology incompatible to the demands of conservation? These questions must have been variously answered in scores of seminars and conferences throughout the world. But today they have become moral questions which cannot be answered through mere cost benefit calculations. Our answer is that development and preserving the quality of the environment are two sides of the same coin. "Development means increasing society's ability to meet

human needs. Economic growth may be an important component of development, but it cannot be a goal in itself. The real aim must be to improve the quality of human existence to enable people to enjoy long, healthy and fulfilling lives. At present, for huge numbers of people, life is hard, insecure and unfulfilling." IUCN. Development patterns should meet people's basic physical needs, namely adequate food, safe drinking water, shelter, sanitation and health care, secondly, it should enable people fully to develop their own potential to contribute to society. Here, we are stealing the future from our children. This generation is passing heavy ecological, social, and economic costs to their successors. A broader concept of sustainable development was first introduced in 1987 by the UN sponsored world commission on Environment and Development, chaired by Gro Harland Brundtland, the then prime minister of Norway. In its 1987 report 'Our common Future' sustainable development is defined as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their needs. "Basically sustainability means that it should continue to maintain its balance and quality forever. There has been wide spread debate about how best it can be applied to different cultures and economies. In this contest a strategy for building a sustainable society was proposed in 'caring for the Earth' published in 1995 by the International union for conservation of Nature, jointly with the united Nations Environment programmer and the world wide fund for Nature.

## 2. Conclusion

Sustainable development is a new way of life on Earth that is ecologically sound and socially just, Human survival and wellbeing could depend on success in elevating sustainable development to a global ethic. The integrity and health of the entire planet have to be kept in view and the narrow interests of individuals, groups and nations will have to be subordinated to global wellbeing.

## References

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