Analyzing the Effect of Environmental Change and Resilience towards Education among Children During the Post-Pandemic Situation

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Introduction

Education among children is the cornerstone of societal progress and individual empowerment. It serves as the foundation upon which young minds develop the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to thrive in an ever-evolving world.

Moreover, education fosters critical thinking and problem-solving skills. In an era defined by rapid technological advancements and complex global challenges, the ability to analyze information, evaluate evidence, and think critically is more important than ever. By engaging with diverse perspectives and challenging assumptions, children learn how to navigate ambiguity, make informed decisions, and address real-world problems. Education cultivates a mindset of curiosity, inquiry, and resilience, enabling children to adapt to changing circumstances and thrive in an increasingly interconnected world.

Education is essential for sustainable development. By imparting knowledge about environmental conservation, sustainable practices, and global citizenship, education equips children with the awareness and skills they need to become responsible stewards of the planet. It instills a sense of environmental consciousness and ethical responsibility, inspiring children to take action to protect the environment and promote sustainable living practices. Education plays a vital role in shaping the attitudes and behaviors of future generations toward creating a more sustainable and equitable world for all.

Problems Caused by Environmental Change in Education

Environmental changes pose significant challenges to the education sector, affecting both infrastructure and the learning

process itself. Here are some of the problems caused by environmental change in education. Extreme weather events such as hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and droughts can damage school buildings and infrastructure, disrupting the learning environment and causing temporary or long-term closures. This interruption in education can have detrimental effects on students' academic progress and overall well-being. Environmental changes can lead to increased exposure to air and water pollution, as well as the spread of vector-borne diseases. Poor air quality and contaminated water sources can negatively impact students' health, leading to higher rates of absenteeism and reduced concentration in the classroom.

Climate change-related disruptions to agricultural systems can exacerbate food insecurity, particularly in vulnerable communities. Children who experience hunger or malnutrition are more likely to suffer from poor health and cognitive development, hindering their ability to learn effectively. Environmental changes, such as rising sea levels or desertification, can force communities to migrate or relocate, leading to displacement and the disruption of educational opportunities for children. In some cases, remote or marginalized communities may face challenges accessing quality education due to inadequate infrastructure or lack of resources.

Schools located in disaster-prone areas are at higher risk of damage or destruction during environmental emergencies. This vulnerability not only jeopardizes the safety of students and teachers but also undermines the continuity of education in affected regions. Environmental changes, including natural disasters and climate-related displacement, can have profound psychological impacts on children, causing stress, anxiety, and trauma. These mental health challenges can interfere with students' ability to focus, learn, and engage in educational activities. As environmental conditions evolve, there is a growing need to integrate climate change education and environmental literacy into school curricula. However, many educational systems struggle to adapt their curriculum to address these emerging issues effectively, leaving students ill-prepared to understand and respond to environmental challenges.

Effect of COVID-19 and Resilience towards Education

However, there is a decline in education in the post-COVID era. Students find it too tedious to have the patience to study. And they find it a futile task, to sit and educate themselves

According to Palki Sharma, an Indian Journalist, in a Program "Between the Lines" stated that this post-covid era pays an Obituary to the written word and books as the activity of reading books has long gone and has met its untimely demise. She adds that this age is an "Age of Image" and in the contemporary world, students have developed a mindset of "quick learning". They have found more interest in swiping ten-second video reels on social media than in flipping a 200-page novel. Many famous US publishers such as Penguin Random House and Amazon Westland have shut down their Printing shops due to inadequate printing orders and the closure of libraries.

This kind of decrease in reading ability is mainly due to digital addiction. During the COVID-19 time and the Quarantine period, people were locked down and isolated from the outside world. Students had access only to Television and mobiles. Only through digital screens, people came to know the news. This situation solely made the students get addicted to digital screens. Students were made to join through the virtual meeting platforms for studies. All lectures and notes were shared through online classes. After this situation, many news articles have shown the statistics of a drop in reading ability and math skills among the students.

According to an article from Education Plus, The Hindu, statistics show that both virtual and Classroom education are important. That is the book and the screen can co-exist, as they both play an important role in a child's development when used mindfully. Education should not be forced down to children's throats. They have to be engaging and enjoyable. When it comes to digital

screens, children learn concepts easily when there is visual learning. The scope of multisensory experiences is also appealing. With digital platforms being a source of content, the array of resources available offers a diversity of perspectives and ideas even when one is within a limited learning environment.

Conclusion

Thus students have to overcome environmental change and adapt the advanced learning through technology and should develop resilience towards education. Educators and parents should guide their children to make use of digital screens as a positive resource.

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