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Dr. Mukesh Kumar Malviya

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-Special Issue-
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Dr. Mukesh Kumar Malviya



Social and Legal Research Foundation, Varanasi (India)

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(Painting)

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“Changing Environment: Issue and
Challenges”

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The Role of Art in Environmental Awareness & Education

*Shalini Singh

Introduction

Today in which environment we are living, is not very safe. It has so many issues like Global warming, excess of green house gases, increasing lack of water & food resources, depletion of fossil fuels, accumulation of toxic wastes, deforestation and endangerment of global biodiversity. These environmental issues are the result of human activities, which is very harmful for us.

These environmental issues raises a variety of reactions between citizens : a few have started taking action to save the environment , some have started taking precaution in their everyday consumption habits, while others are indifferent towards the environmental issues.

Being a part of this environment this is our duty to preserve our environment. By any mean if we can save our planet it will be a very good cause. From any field we belong, we can contribute in the environmental awareness and education like writers can spread awareness through literature, musician through the music and an artist convey their message through the art.

Art is the fantastic media to represent environmental issues. Imagination and creativity can convey strong message.

Methods & Medium:

Drawing, sculptures, installations, architecture, digital arts, movies are so many varieties of art through which we can spread environmental awareness. Artist can portray the seriousness of the environmental issues. This movement can use three approaches in order to serve these purpose:

1. **Realistic approach** : An artist can have realistic approach. It means whatever he is seeing in the society, he depict as it is.
2. **Idealistic approach** : These artists are directly looking in the future with the objective of pointing towards the possible solutions in a constructive way. By these means they will transform serious issues in to interesting matters.
3. **Truth exaggeration approach** : In this approach artist showcase the problem in exaggerated ways which makes us shocked. They grasp the attention

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through their unconventional presentation.

There are so many mediums in art by which artist can make aware the society about environmental issues.

1. Visual Art (Painting & sculpture) : Visual art has a very great impact on human minds. Artist can convey their message through their art. It can be either realistic or idealistic. Colors catch the attention of the viewer. Colors are very important to present the environmental beauty. In the lap of nature we realize the greatness of God and his creation. We start feeling that we should preserve this for our well being. Sculptures are also very good medium to spread the environmental awareness. Today artists are using waste materials in their sculpture to educate people.

2. Architecture : Impressive, Innovative architectural projects such as – Co2 positive building, which will breath green house gas emissions along vegetation filled tubes and release oxygen are new generation architecture. Architects are now giving a place to greenery in their architectures to motivate the environmental awareness.

3. Photography : Photography is one of the strong medium of art. Nature photography, wild life photography makes us realize that we have the treasure of nature so we should save our environment.

4. Digital Art : when we use digital technologies in the production of art called digital art. Today we are using computer. Digital art can be purely computer generated. Today we are using digital art to aware the people about their environment.

5. Installation Art : When we assemble three dimensional objects and space in artistic way for temporary period is called installation art. It has become very famous because it captures the attention suddenly.

6. Animated Movies : Audio – video medium always attract us. So this is the most attractive medium to spread the environmental awareness. Today animated movies, short movies and documentary movies are becoming the best sources of information. It has a good impact on every age group. This is the example of education with entertainment.

7. Exhibitions and Museums : Exhibition is the stage where an artist can showcase their art to public. Exhibition is the great source to expose the different art pieces to the society. The art works may be exhibited in museums, art galleries, art clubs or art halls etc. Exhibition is beneficial for society and artist as well. Several leading children's museums have begun employing green practices in their operations, expansion projects and exhibit environment. Museums are agents for social changes. Museums and galleries have produced extensive exhibition about ecology

8. Competitions : Organizing competition is also very effective medium in spreading awareness. Most of the awareness program targets children to educate

about environment and cultivate environment friendly habits in new generation, because children are the future of the world. They will run the world by their own wisdom, so its very important to make aware them about the environment. Central government, state government and private sector organize various art competitions for the children to spread the awareness in the society.

9. Recycled Art : When we use waste materials like paper, metal, wood, plastic bottles, plastic bags and canes in artistic way to create any art piece that is called recycled art. Recycling of waste materials save environment.dwe can use waste materials in painting, sculpture and installation art etc. collage is the best example of recycled art. In collage we paste the pieces of news paper, magazine, clothes, metal sheet, plastic sheet, thread, wool, cotton and buttons on the paper to compose the picture.

Result :

Thus it is proved now that our environment is facing so many problems and has so many issues. So we have to realize the seriousness of this matter and should pay extra attention towards this. If we want to live in safe environment and want to make better future for our generation then we have to be aware. Environmental issues have a very harmful impact on health, vegetation, water, food and energy resources. We are living because of our environment if it will be in danger so how can we survive. Every person of this earth can contribute in saving environment and spreading awareness of environmental issues. Artist play a role as a social and cultural agent and link between people and the environment. Artist has always been inspired by nature. But now they are using it to remind people that nature still exists in a still beautiful but increasingly fragile state.

Today there are so many artists in all areas of art, directing their energy towards environmental issues. Art is such a powerful tool for expression. History can offer examples of the artist's contribution to environmental awareness. In 19th century United States artists who drew distant landscapes were able to influence decision makers of society. Eco art creates awareness, changes human behavior towards other species, encourage the long term respect for the natural system. Ecological artist whose work directly addresses environmental issues through educating people about natural world.

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