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# Information Explosion and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Youth:

Prospects and Challenges

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## Spreading Environmental Awareness using Technology

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### ABSTRACT

*The effects of technology on the one hand, since the Enlightenment, technology, especially science-based technology, has offered the promise of a better world through the elimination of disease and material improvements to standards of living. On the other hand, resource extraction, emissions of dangerous materials, and pollution of air, water, and soil have created conditions for unprecedented environmental catastrophe and have already caused irreversible damage to the biosphere. Technology and Societies evolve hand in hand. The present challenging task is to use this technology for spreading awareness and help in Sustainable Development. The objective of this paper is to understand the role of technology for spreading environmental awareness and to focus on the recommend changes in the modern education system in this digital era by usage of new technology.*

### Introduction

Man is an important part of the biotic component of the environment so he plays important roles in the natural environment system in different capacities such as- 'Biological or Physical Man', 'Social Man', 'Economic Man', and 'Technological man'.

In the prehistoric period the role of primitive man in the functions of natural environment system was fundamentally to use the environment resources. But with cultural development the skill and technology of man developed and his roles towards natural environment also changed progressively such as from user through modifier and changed to destroyer of the natural environment.

Journey of primitive man from the period of hunting, food gathering to the dawn of industrial revolution in the late 19th century (1860 A.D.) and with the emergence of science and development of more efficient and sophisticated technology led to reckless and indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources for industrial expansion and urban growth which have altogether created most of the present day environmental and ecological problems of global dimension. (Singh 2004)

This substantial change and shift in the nature and magnitude of man's interactions with the natural environment has given birth to numerous environmental problems. The first destruction of environment started with inadvertent burning of forests. D.B.Botkin and E.A.Keller 1982 said that "fire was one of the first major technological tools used by the human beings to change the environment for their benefit. Indeed, fire has been used around by the world by early people to clear the land for improved travel or hunting or for farming."

Awareness is the sense of what is happening, who is around, what they are doing, what their states of emotion and whether or not they notice you. Social awareness and how they are promoted by digital elements in networked collaborative virtual environment. (Zainura Idrus 2010)

Environmental awareness proves important for several reasons; it fosters a sense of connection to the natural world, promotes sustainable development and encourages conservation of irreplaceable natural resources and vulnerable plant and animal species. Environmental awareness essentially serves as an educational tool, helping people around the world understand the economic, aesthetic and biological importance of preserving resources and reducing or eliminating the harmful impacts of man-made alterations. Environmental awareness or education helps people understand the consequences of human activities on various lands and identifies remedial solutions. This study tries to explain the concept of

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Planning. Mammoth Observations are required on Spatial and Temporal scales Weather Charts are analyzed using Information Technology Tools and Forecasts are made.

#### Green IT Initiative by Government of India

IT sustainability is the study and practice of environmentally sustainable IT or computing. This can include "designing, manufacturing, using, and disposing of computers, servers, and associated subsystems efficiently and effectively with minimal or no impact on the environment. Besides IT itself being green, it can support, assist, and leverage other environmental initiatives to achieve energy efficiency and reduce carbon footprint in every walk of life by offering innovative solutions.

In addition to moving itself in a greener direction and leveraging other environmental initiatives, IT could also help create green awareness by assisting in building communities, engaging groups and supporting education and green advocacy campaigns. The Green IT initiative is Government of India initiative by awarding a project for development of ICT Technologies for smart buildings with low carbon emissions to C-DAC Chennai and C-DAC Bangalore. A project to develop technologies for achieving power optimization in HPC systems has also been initiated at C-DAC Pune.

#### Suggestions and Recommendations -

The consideration and development of environmental awareness within the world of globalization and acknowledge of the fact that this development can be even further enhanced by computer and education is a reality that should be accepted by all now.

- » The implementation of various digital technology and devices in school environment.
- » The development of related knowledge levels and their implementation becomes much easier. Because, the school environments' high possibility of realizing planned, programmed, and regular behaviors is accepted by all experts.
- » The ways to utilize computers and other digital devices in all stages of education and training should be found out and educators should be equipped enough to provide computer based education. To put it in a nutshell, the education system in our country should be enhanced to the contemporary level and be implemented as required by the age in order to adapt to the rapid changes being experienced in our country and in the world.

#### Conclusion -

In an ideal world people live in peace and security, breathe fresh air, drink clean water and uncontaminated food. They have healthy life to enjoy, contented and educated society. The reality is far from this ideal.

There is an alarming and dangerous situation. There is a growing concern about the long term future, the resources of the planet, the environment and high levels of poverty, which are linked with the spread of disease, social unrest, population growth and environmental degradation. Sustainable development has come to prominence, neither as a sudden fad nor a silly fashion, but rather to bridge the gap between the ideal and real worlds. (Willis 1999)

The digital technologies will work as a force to transform work of conservation scientists, protected area managers and conservation organizations. The need of the hour is to incorporate digital technologies and the concept of 3R in the curriculum of primary to higher education to provide education to each and every citizen of this planet to contribute in sustainable development.

*"You cannot change your future; you can change your habits. And surely your habits can change your future."* Dr. Abdul Kalam

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