

TERI – NCSTC Eco Next Investigation for Youth

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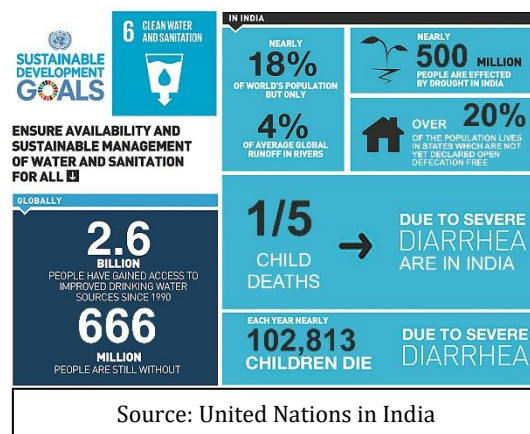
National Council for Science & Technology Communication, DST, New Delhi

Eco WASH Training 2018 – 19

Background

According to the Global Baseline Report 2019, 896 million people use health care facilities with no water service and 1.5 billion use facilities with no sanitation services. It is likely that many more people are served by health care facilities lacking hand hygiene facilities and safe waste management.

As per the United Nations in India, the overall proportion of Indian households with access to improved water sources increased from 68% in 1992-93 to 89.9% in 2015-16. However, in 2015-16, 63.3% of rural households and 19.7% of urban households were not using improved sanitation facilities. According to the World Bank, more than 520 million in India were defecating in the open – the highest number in the world. Thus there is an urgent need to promote sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene practices and involve youth in a mass awareness campaign which would lead to required behavioral change. Youth, with their charismatic approach and motivation help in triggering change. They play a proactive role in the society and have the utmost ability to drive the development agenda in their surroundings and vicinity.



With this background, in September 2018, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) launched TERI- NCSTC Eco Next Investigation for Youth which is catalyzed and supported by National Council for Science & Technology, DST, New Delhi.

The first component of the project- **Eco Eureka Training** focused on connecting nature and science with an objective to showcase how science can be used for the conservation of nature and the environment. This has been conducted in Bengaluru, Delhi, and Goa.

The second component of the project- **Eco WASH Training** will focus on enhancing the learnings on WASH (Water Sanitation and Hygiene) which is an important environmental social and human right issue. The aim is to train a cadre of students as WASH educators, wherein they will be provided with theoretical as well as practical knowledge to understand WASH issues in the community.

Objective

- To provide a platform to the youth to learn concepts on water, sanitation and hygiene
- To create awareness on issues of water accessibility, sanitation , sustainability and encourage a systemic, multi-disciplinary approach to understanding and solving WASH related issues
- To hone leadership skills in youth, this will subsequently enable them to transform knowledge into action at the grassroots level

- To instill a sense of responsibility and engage youth in environmental stewardship to play a pro-active role in addressing issues related to sustainable development
- To encourage use of media as a means of reaching out to the masses

Session and Highlights- TERI- NCSTC Eco WASH Training 2018 - 19

As part of Eco WASH Training, students will be trained in a 5 day programme as WASH educators, wherein they will be provided with theoretical as well as practical knowledge to understand WASH issues in the community. Subsequently, these trained educators will undertake sessions for schools, colleges and communities, thus increasing the outreach of the project. The following aspects will be touched upon:

- ✓ Expert session on WASH where research groups will facilitate hands- on training to students on relevant issues. Scientific information and communication technologies will play a pivotal role to solve the critical water and sanitation problems.
- ✓ Nature based solutions: Participants will be encouraged to explore solutions on issues of WASH; local issues affecting the life of people will be discussed and deliberated upon through on field experiences. Discussions and brainstorming sessions will result in seeking solutions which will be innovative in nature.
- ✓ TERI – NCSTC Eco-WASH Educator Fellowship: Participants will be asked to develop project ideas, the best two ideas will be given a seed funding of Rs 15000 to implement their assignments in schools, colleges and communities. These assignments will help to create awareness on water, sanitation and hygiene.
- ✓ WASH related sites: Students will be exposed to sites which are of relevance to water, sanitation and hygiene issues. Local initiatives and case studies will be discussed.
- ✓ Simulation Exercise, Group Activities and Presentations: Simulation Exercise based on the above issues, group activities and presentations will be organized for the participants.
- ✓ Opportunities for participants to enhance their leadership potential and establish networks will also be involved where students will be divided into groups and asked to work on specific issues of environmental concern. They will document the present situation and propose innovative solutions in the form of articles / blogs / videos. These stories will be shared across TERI and NCSTC networks for public awareness.

Participant Profile

Undergraduate and Post graduate students between the age group of 18- 25 years from any recognized university and college near Bengaluru and Delhi NCR are eligible to participate in the training programme. Women candidates are encouraged to apply.

For further information, please contact

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