

Training Workshops for ESD Practitioners

Executive summary

The vital objective of this programme was to build capacities for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in order to reach out to people who were best placed to help implement a sustainable development approach in schools, not only in lessons but also as a form of school development. Conducted through a series of lectures, expert sessions, field trips, and group activities, these trainings were organized in Bangalore, Guwahati, and Dehradun.

TERI North-Eastern Regional Centre, Guwahati organized the first set of training from 11th to 15th February 2013 which was attended by 34 participants including teachers, NGO practitioners, and representatives of various educational institutions. This five-day residential training was a great success. Divided into four modules, it provided the participants a lot of information on ESD in terms of environmental integrity, economic viability, and social justice, as well as political participation and good governance for present and future generations. It also provided a platform to put forward their views, exchange ideas; form a common network thereby reaching out to many more like-minded people and formed a community of practitioners who are able to rethink the role of schools, seeing them as a field for promoting everyday sustainable practices, not only in classroom activities, but as a way of life.

The second training for ESD practitioners was conducted in Dehradun on February 21, 2013. Attended by 63 professionals, it provided the participants a new motivation to become empowered to develop and evaluate alternative visions of a sustainable future and to work collectively to fulfil these visions through Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Sessions on local and regional biodiversity concerns, action projects on biodiversity, linkages between ESD and biodiversity, and discussions on local best practices related to biodiversity conservation were well received.

The third training for 28 participants including teachers, NGO practitioners, and representatives of various educational institutions was organized at Southern Regional Centre, Bangalore from March 4–8, 2013. Appreciating the role of the ESD trainer was an essential cross-cutting aspect of all modules of this Training of Trainers (ToT) course.

During the current UN ESD decade, experts worldwide are striving to develop and implement education activities in their countries. Sustainable development implies that local actions are taken in a context of global responsibility and mutual understanding. For this reason InWENT linked up experts from four selected countries (Mexico, India, South Africa, and Germany) in a joint project, which provides them an opportunity, as participants in a multi-national approach, to exchange experiences, share approaches, and discover synergies. These training were a part of the initiative taken up under this charter.

