

## **Education - Enabler of Climate-Change Containment**

### **What is the issue?**

Alongside the efforts of nations to combat climate change, it is time to recognise the transformative role that education can play in mitigating climate change.

### **What is the priority now?**

Asia-Pacific region is responsible for nearly half of global GHG emissions.

More than 60% of people in the region work in sectors that are highly susceptible to changing weather patterns.

- The battle against climate change will be won or lost in Asia and the Pacific.
- Asia and the Pacific must thus promote a new paradigm of economic development.
- This should aim at making climate actions into drivers of economic growth that are ecologically sustainable and climate-friendly.
- Pursuing this requires a fundamental transformation of the mindset and lifestyle of future generations, for which education must become an active agent.

### **How will education play a transformative role?**

Education should aid the transition from effective short-term climate actions to sustained, structural medium- to long-term changes that are underpinned by new mind-sets.

- Incorporate values such as global citizenry and sustainable development into foundational and formative years of study.
- Raise self-awareness, enable a cultural transformation
- Change the mind-sets and lifestyles of future global citizens
- Making education more responsive in producing experts, innovators, and leaders with understanding on climate change and development challenges. E.g. Greta Thunberg
- Scaling up learning particularly for disadvantaged and marginalized groups including girls and women.

### **What does this call for?**

- Re-imagining education to bring about the early-stage mind-set change to prepare future generations.
- More investment and better quality of expenditure in education.
- Comprehensive cooperation between central and local governments, schools, universities,

communities, NGOs and the private sector.

- Develop education policies to engage students in sustainable development through science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) projects.

### **Examples**

- Italy requires all students to take more than 33 hours of climate change classes each year in higher secondary education.
- Republic of Korea - Projects to transform schools into green campuses to showcase education programs for environmental protection and use eco-friendly energy.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) - Launched the Climate Change Fund in 2008; pursued ways to mainstream climate change issues in education.
- The Ban Ki-moon (BKM) Foundation For a Better Future is urging governments and the international community to prioritize environmental education, encourage young international leaders and empower women and young people.
- The ADB and BKM Foundation will collaborate closely to mobilize more partners, resources, and expertise.

**Source: Livemint**

