



# World Sustainable Development Summit 2020

## *Towards 2030 Goals: Making the Decade Count*



A Tata Steel - TERI Initiative

### **Thematic Track: Green Curriculum – Challenges and Opportunities**

Date: January 29, 2020 | Time: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Venue: Tamarind, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road

*“Both formal and non-formal educations are indispensable to changing people's attitudes so that they have the capacity to assess and address their sustainable development concerns.” - Chapter 36 on Education, Awareness and Training of Agenda 21.*

Education is learning to know, learning to be, learning to live together, learning to do and learning to transform oneself and society. The role of education is critical in view of the current environmental crisis so as to capacitate people to create sustainable, resilient communities both locally and globally to lead an informed and empowered life of contentment and satisfaction. To achieve this education needs to go beyond mere transfer of information to adoption of active, participative, and experiential learning methods that engage students and make a difference to their understanding, thinking and ability to act.

To attain sustainable development it is essential to teach Environment Education in schools to encourage students to conserve and protect the natural environment in their schools and in their neighbourhoods. The idea is to use various modes of teaching learning process to share knowledge to bring about attitudinal and behavioural changes in youth of our country. From the year 2005 onwards, Environmental Education (EE) was associated with Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The EE/ESD pedagogies included student-centric, hands-on learnings, and active participation. ESD is an important pedagogical tool from as focuses on interdependence between human beings and ecology. Beyond 2014, The Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD (the follow-up programme to the Decade of ESD), seeks to generate and scale-up ESD and to accelerate progress towards sustainable development.

Current challenge is to have an ethos in schools that openly and enthusiastically supports Environment Education which mainly depends upon the interest and effort shown by senior management or individually trained and motivated teachers who often incorporate environment concepts in their own specific subject.

National Education Policy adequately recognizes teachers as the Torchbearers of Change. It also lays the focus on continuous teacher professional development. The Green School

project also reiterates the centrality of connecting with teachers as a stepping stone towards success of the effort. Several initiatives like training workshops, innovation learnings and participation in national forums like WSDS have been initiated to recognize and further strengthen teachers' efforts in the project.

Tata Steel Limited in association with TERI launched an ambitious project in April 2017 in the operational areas which works around development of a green pedagogy. Under this project, training of teachers and students on specific environment topics has been initiated. This learning further translates into action based projects aimed at finding locale specific solutions. The project with its activities tries to reach out to the students through informal education methods on sustainable development issues. **Green pedagogy** designed under the project involves systemic thinking, participatory learning, and thinking creatively for future scenarios. This will help teachers in developing student's personal and social wellbeing, and inspires them in meaningful involvement in their local social, economic and ecological communities.

The project has already made its presence at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25) in Madrid. A case study on '**The Green School**' project was presented at the India Pavilion in Madrid on December 3, 2019 during a session on 'Green Education: Joining hands to address Climate Change'.

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship event of TERI. WSDS strives to provide long-term solutions for the benefit of the global community by assembling the world's most enlightened leaders and thinkers on a single platform. The session '**Green Curriculum – Challenges and Opportunities**' at WSDS 2020 will provide a platform to the educators from remote locations of Jharkhand and Odisha to showcase their local learnings and collaborate with other stakeholders from different states that will help in strengthening their learning process and will also generate ripple effect. The various other players in the field of education will be invited for the session to further strengthen the initiative as the session aims at discussions and deliberations that are directed towards following points.

- Green Curriculum - Sustainable Learning
- Case studies - transforming local learning in order to cultivate a learning environment
- Innovative and transformative ideas to solve own problems within communities
- Barriers to integrating sustainability education into schools

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