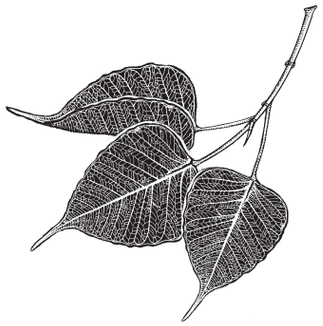
MODULE II



Understanding Sustainable Development

CEE
Centre for Environment Education

COMMONWEALTH of LEARNING

Acknowledgements

The **Green Teacher** is a unique capacity-building distance education course. This course will give teacher-learners an opportunity to empower themselves with knowledge and skills of effectively transacting education for environment and sustainable development in schools. This Course has been developed by CEE in partnership and with support from the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), Vancouver, Canada. The module '**Understanding Sustainable Development**' has been developed through a workshop with distance learning experts as well as subject experts.

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COL is an intergovernmental organization created by Commonwealth Heads of Government to encourage the development and sharing of open learning/distance education, knowledge, resources and technologies.

CEE us a national institution engaged in developing programmes and material to increase awareness about the environment,. CEE was established in 1984 as a Centre of Excellence in Environmental Education, supported by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Government of India. It is affiliated with the Nehru Foundation for Development.

Rationale and Content

ABOUT THIS MODULE

This module deals with the intricate links between environment and development and how complex and conflicting situations arise when we look at E&D issues. There are different perspectives to each development/environment situation, which have to be seen and taken note of. It is difficult to find absolute answers/solutions to these situations and hence it is important to know different perspectives and come out with the best possible way out. It is with this objective that this whole module has been structured.

The module further deals with how ecosystem-services have been utilized by humans and how it has affected the ecosystem. The **Essential Reading** for this module is the book titled '**Understanding Environment**'. In order to develop a deeper understanding of the subject, you are advised to read the respective chapter in the essential reading, before taking on a unit in the module. This will provide the necessary background with which the issues raised here would be understood correctly. Further, the detailed reading would provide you with additional information to help you in transacting these concepts better in your classroom.

COMPONENTS OF A UNIT

The Stories and Cases

In units of this module, we have put forth different situations, cases, stories and activities which help explore the concerns, issues and efforts related to the particular topic. Small exercises, at the end of such stories, provoke you as a learner to start looking at intricate links and contributions between the various spheres of development—ecological, socio-economical, historical, political as well as technological. These real-life situations are necessary to develop the right perspective that an educator needs to have in order to take up such discussions in a classroom situation. Thus such exercises would help you understand the complexities of issues involved and provide examples of plausible solutions, yet would leave much to think and discuss about.

As a matter of fact there are no answers being provided at the end of this module because of the fact that sustainable development related concerns and questions most often do not have a single 'right or wrong' answer; thus there are no absolutes, but situation-specific solutions which differ from situation to situation.

To help you develop the ability to look at, to respect multiple viewpoints and to explore a variety of facets and links, is the purpose of adopting this approach in this Module.

Unit-end Exercises

Questions given at the end of each unit are reflective/thought-provoking and help to understand the two sides of the environment and development dilemma. Shorter questions and exercises (in between the unit text) could be good tools for you to check your progress on basic understanding of the issues.

EVALUATION

Module-end Assignment

As you read through this module, you will note that four of the seven units have a '**Teacher Section**'. This section acknowledges and appreciates your role as practicing teacher/educators and is designed to give you ideas in transacting many of the sustainable development related themes in an interactive way in your classroom.

Like Module 1, each Teacher Section ends with a **Feedback**, where you as a student of the Green Teacher Diploma Course are supposed to carry out a few such activities/ exercises and submit back. Of the four such activities, you are required to submit at least three. These will be evaluated and the credits will be added to your overall score of the Green Teacher Diploma. For more details on evaluation and weightage, you may refer the 'Learners' Handbook'.

Besides the module-end assignment, this module would carry a weightage of **10 credits** (out of 60) in the final examination.

The following icons will guide you throughout the unit:

Introduction

Objectives

Check your progress

Unit end exercise

Teacher section

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