

Creating Sustainable Schools by Katy Rustom, Co-Founder, Centre for Environment Research and Education

The session dealt with the need for environmental education. Environmental education in action is imperative to ensure that future generations gain the requisite knowledge, skills, values and mindsets to practice sustainability. The need of the hour is to create sustainable schools because as Ms. Rustom says, "Environmentally sustainable schools are economically and educationally sustainable schools."

Discussion Questions raised during the session:

What are Sustainable schools?

Sustainable schools are those that teach students their responsibility towards the environment using innovative practical techniques varying from energy conservation to going green.

How can we create Sustainable schools?

The culture of environmental sustainability can be built by consistently using a few vital questions. Educators and students can find the most suitable ways to express their answers and address the issues.

- *What are the resources you use regularly? Eg : Petrol*
- *How are these resources obtained? From fossil fuels.*
- *How much are you using? 1 litre per day on an average.*
- *Where do you tend to misuse or waste it? At traffic signal and in slow moving traffic.*
- *How much are you wasting? On a average 1/15 of the fuel .*
- *Can the wastage be avoided? Yes! By turning off the ignition at traffic signals.*
- *What are the other adverse effects caused by using petrol as automobile fuel? Using petrol also increases air pollution by increasing carbon content in the air.*
- *Can the utilization of the resource be reduced or minimized? Yes, by using public transport.*
- *Is there a resource that can be used in place of petrol that does not cause as much damage to the environment? Yes, LPG can be used.*

Hence a guided reflection of this kind will help in finding answers to pressing issues which need to be addressed immediately.

Increasing awareness, sense of urgency and sense of responsibility among students is no less than empowering them and the generations to follow to create a better world for themselves.

