



**SAVE THE WESTERN GHATS
CONCLAVE 2012
'PRACTITIONERS'
CONCLAVE'**

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION: FORMAL AND NON-FORMAL

SLOT: 4 PM TO 6 PM DAY 1

FORMAT: PANEL DISCUSSION

This session will focus on discussing the importance of formal and non-formal education in the field of environmental conservation. The discussions will center on the way in which education can be used as a means of empowering the youth to voice the concerns of the environment and critique the way in which the government has used this medium. The session shall aim to bring up pertinent issues on the way Environmental education is delivered in the context of awareness generation, conservation and sustainable development and how non-formal environmental education can be developed, imparted and optimized for a greener future.

Scroll down for the *Session Brief*.



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SESSION BRIEF

One of the crucial roles of Environmental Education is to highlight the interdependence between man and bio-physical environment. Environmental education allows people to appreciate this dependence and the sustaining interrelationship between nature, culture and human life. Therefore education can be stepping stone towards cultivating a curiosity, generating respect and encouraging a healthy mutual coexistence with nature. And like all forms of education, this endeavor too is not limited to books and classrooms but is rather an ongoing experience which is to be lived and enjoyed. There is no age or no timeframe to inculcate interest in the environment and this process of education should be a life long journey where one is sensitized to learn and absorb more about the environment at every walk and juncture of life. Therefore this session deals with discussing Environmental education in both its formal and non-formal manner. Infact one of the major aspects that will be brought forward by the panel is the need to 'Environmentalize' all aspects of Education rather than just a token subject formally allotted to the issue. Making the entire process of Education Environment friendly and critical will go a long way in sensitizing people towards the greater issues of the Environment.

The comprehensive scheme of 'Environmental Education, Awareness and Training' was laid down in the year 1983/84 to formalize Environmental Education. Though its full implementation took much longer to come about, at present Environment Education forms a part of every curriculum followed in Indian Schools. But, the panel will debate on whether just this formalization offers enough scope to do justice to the issues of Nature or whether lack of practical exposure to ground realities, improper teaching training and lackluster curriculum prove to be impediments. The circulation of non-formal environment education



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modules and the way it can be fruitfully dispensed will also be discussed in this session.