



QUARTERLY BULLETIN

SPOTLIGHT



“If we don’t act against climate change, we will never be able to cover our children’s healthcare bills, no matter how much money we leave for them.”

– Mr. Pradip Burman
Chairman, Mobius Foundation

Welcome to the first issue of our Quarterly Newsletter which we prepared while working remotely during the unprecedented lockdown to halt spread of COVID-19 pandemic. The Corona Virus is now on the spotlight, shifting the focus from many other pressing global environment and sustainability issues like climate change, biodiversity loss, wastes and air and water pollution. The year 2020 started with World Economic Forum Report which named environmental concerns mainly the climate change and biodiversity as top risks for business leaders, NGOs, academics and others. This was quite obvious in view of devastating fires ravaging Australia and the Amazon, and failure of world leaders to commit to fast track Climate action at COP25 in Madrid.

The year 2020 was supposed to be the Super Year for Environment and Sustainability. The world was preparing itself to accelerate action on climate crisis and fast track the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The new biodiversity agenda and framework for education for sustainable development--ESD 2030 were set to be launched. We at Mobius Foundation along with our partners organized the International Conference on Sustainability Education (ICSE) in September 2019. The conference identified ESD as a key concern and enabler of environmental sustainability. We were looking forward to further consolidate and strengthen the sustainability education during 2020. The COVID 19 has overshadowed all these concerns with its rapid spread across the nations and societies affecting lives and livelihoods of millions of people.

The pandemic has some positives as well. We could now see cleaner air and water and clear skies and landscapes with thriving biodiversity. Carbon dioxide emissions are expected to fall by 8% due to shuts down of much of the global economy. Behavioural changes such as hand, respiratory and environmental hygiene, could become the new normal for a healthy society. Let’s hope, post CORONA stimulus packages and policies herald and green and sustainable future for entire humanity and biosphere.

Through this newsletter, we will share with you glimpses of our work and initiatives on environmental sustainability. We do look forward to your valuable advice, comments and ideas to continue the dialogue on sustainability.

Dr. Ram Boojh
CEO, Mobius Foundation



PROGRAMMES

“Youth for Earth” Campaign

Mobius Foundation joins the Earth Day Network and Climate Reality Project India to organize the “Youth for Earth” Challenge to mark the celebration of Earth Day 50th anniversary in 2020. The campaign is for youth to showcase their environment-friendly actions and tell the world that change starts from them.

BE A 'CHAMPION FOR EARTH AND A CHANGE MAKER'



To honor the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day and the younger generation who is doing so much to mitigate the several environmental problems the world faces today, The Climate Reality Project India, Earth Day Network and Mobius Foundation invite young change makers to show the world it's time to act.

“Youth for Earth” looks to those change makers who have brought about a betterment of the environment in their campuses or community by and made their surroundings, cleaner, greener, and less polluted.

To know more and to participate in the “Youth for Earth” Campaign log into: www.climateReality.org.in/youth-for-earth



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Environment and Climate Change Conclave 2020



A National Conclave on Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals was organised by the Greenlco Eco Foundation on 18th January 2020 at the DeenDayalUpadaya College, University of Delhi.

The main objective of the conclave was to sustain physical and social environment towards building a sustainable nation by, partnering institutions, schools, colleges, industries, corporates, Government and civil society etc.

Dr Ram Boojh and Ms Kavya Singh Yadav attended the conclave. Dr Ram Boojh addressed the Conclave on the topic “Environmental challenges and sustainability options for a better world” As a keynote speaker.

Leaders for Nature Programme

Mobius Foundation has partnered with the IUCN in the Leaders for Nature (LfN) programme. LfN India sensitizes companies on the value of nature, and integrate it in their strategic decisions making process. It facilitates discussions and networking amongst its members; and fostering collaboration on conservation projects by companies. The first meeting of IUCN India's Leaders for Nature Advisory committee was held on the 7th January 2020 at IUCN India Country office.



Dr Ram Boojh, Ms Archana Kushwaha and Ms Kavya Singh Yadav from Mobius Foundation attended the meeting. Dr. Ram Boojh, mentioned about potential areas of collaboration under the programme specifically sustainability education focusing on traditional knowledge systems, Biodiversity conservation and nature based solutions.

Young Ideas

A second-year student at Ramjas College, University of Delhi Ms. Sonakshi Yadav, came with the proposal “Plastic Waste Management 2016 – Responsibility of Producers, Importers and Brand Owners (PIBOs)”. She discussed that primary responsibility is to establish a system for collecting back the plastic waste generated due to the packaged products. The aforementioned approach can be started off as a pilot project by Mobius Foundation, in certain areas. Apart from achieving the goal of making Extended Producer Responsibility systems more efficient, we will also be able to gather data about consumer choices and the real condition of Multi Layered Packaged waste collection and treatment in the areas. This data will not only help us in future projects but also benefit Dabur’s EPR initiative.



MEETINGS/EVENTS

▶ Meeting with WWF India

A discussion session was organized with Ms Radhika Suri, Director, WWF India and her team at the Mobius Foundation office at Brakhamba Road to discuss possibility for collaboration. Ms Suri presented WWF India’s educational programmes such as Eco Trails (connecting with nature), EkPrithvi (Building conservation leadership), One Planet Academy (Digital Resource Centre for Environment Education), WWF – Volunteers (People for Planet) and, Wild Wisdom Quiz (Discovering the Wildlife Champions).

▶ Building Transformative Capacity for healthy cities and neighbourhoods

Dr Mansi Jain a Post Doctoral Researcher from Department of Human Geography and Planning, Institute of Risk Assessment Sciences Utrecht, Netherlands has submitted a proposal to Mobius Foundation for organizing a series of capacity building workshops in New Delhi with the aim to build transformative capacity of city level stakeholders. In this endeavour, Utrecht University will act as a knowledge partner to bring in the expert scientific knowledge and international case studies with insights in ongoing research projects.

The series of workshops will engage with target stakeholders such as urban planners, architects, government officials, research community as well as the NGOs to assess health risks and how assessment as a tool/ technique can provide deep insights to the process of urban transformation but also recognize the pathways towards a more sustainable urban development. Two discussion sessions were held in the Mobius office. Ms mansi will come forward with further clarification to take forward the proposal in discussion with concerned stakeholders.

▶ UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in Berlin

Mobius Foundation in partnership with the CEE (Centre for Environment Education) and FEE (Foundation for Environment Education) has proposed to organize a special Session during the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development during proposed UNESCO World Conference on ESD in Berlin, Germany. The proposed Session will discuss the outcomes of the ICSE 2019 in the context of ESD 2030 and the plan to test the ESD curriculum within the framework of whole school approach with special reference to the environment and sustainability curriculum for two schools being set up by Mobius Foundation viz Gyan Anant Vidyalaya (a rural day school) and World Environment School (WES) (a boarding school) in India.

▶ **Regional Consultation on Enabling Climate Resilient Agriculture in the Indian Himalayan Region**

Mobius Foundation in association with the ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) is proposing a workshop on Climate Smart Sustainable Farming. The proposal was discussed with Dr A Arunachalam, Assistant Director General (International Relations), ICAR who advised to start with a Regional Consultation to discuss the key points related to Climate Smart Farming in the Indian Himalayan region which is more vulnerable to climate change.

▶ **ClimFishCon 2020**

Dr Ram Boojh attended the International Conference on Impact of climate change on Hydrological Cycle, Ecosystem, Fisheries and Food Security (ClimFishCon 2020) held at Cochin, India during 11-14 February 2020. He delivered the key note address in the conference and chaired technical session on Biodiversity and sustainable development and also spoke in the concluding session of the conference.



▶ **International Conference on Sustainable Development and Education**

Dr Ram Boojh was invited by the Central University of Kerala, Kasargod to deliver the key note address in the International Conference on Sustainable Development and Education held on 4-5 March 2020. He spoke on the ESD 2030 in the inaugural session, interacted with participants and has a special meeting with profGopakumar vice chancellor of the university.



PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Development of Green Curriculum Framework for World

World Environment School

World Environment School is an initiative of Mobius Foundation and as per Shri Pradip Burman, Chair of the Mobius Foundation and Founder of WES, "To develop a world class international school aimed at creating global citizens dedicated to environmental custodianship." Centre for Environment Education (CEE) a national level institution and Centre of Excellence in the field of environment education is working closely with WES towards developing curriculum framework.

A curriculum framework for WES has been developed with the perspective where students are naturally curious and observant and therefore suggested EE's pedagogy is highly activity and inquiry-based. An extensive background research was done by CEE team to review various EE and ESD efforts at school level at national and international level.

WESc session at International Conference on Sustainability Education (ICSE) was evolved out of the concerns, efforts and discourses that CEE has been making in relation to the environment and sustainability education, its role in the formal education system and ways to go about finding an approach to make classrooms reality. The International Conference on Sustainability Education (ICSE) organized by Mobius Foundation with the support of CEE provided an opportunity to facilitate a session keeping WES in mind. This conference

brought together experts, researchers, practitioners etc. together to plan and share EE and ESD efforts. This working session was aimed to bring together different stakeholders with different capacities such as teachers, policymakers, researchers, practitioners, etc. for sharing their experience and also provide their suggestion on the curriculum framework of WES.

The WESc is introducing Middle school (Secondary 1) with International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) offered by Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) - UK which will be for students aged 11 to 14 yrs (grades 6-8).

Vision

Imparting quality education to its students by providing enabling learning environment that makes them compassionate and caring generation which acts towards creating sustainable future.

Mission

World Environment School is committed to develop global leaders who are inquirer, responsible, open minded and empowered for preserving the environment as stewards with strong environmental and moral values.



AAKAR Project

The project was piloted in 2 districts Behraich and Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh. Committed to Sustainability 'Aakar' was intended to catalyse improvements in reproductive behaviour, impacting family size resulting in effective community action in selected districts of Uttar Pradesh.

Project Aakar focuses on stabilizing population control in rural India which will ensure that development in these areas aren't compromising the resources for future generation because higher the population, higher will be the demand for resources, thus putting a stress on these resources in the name of development and provision of basic necessities and decent lifestyle to all which will not be in alignment to the definition of sustainable development. Thus, project Aakar is going to play a crucial role in the area of sustainability.



PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Sanjeevani

On World Environment Day (5th June 2018), Mobius Foundation started Sanjeevani Project in Sonapat and Panipat district of Haryana. The objective of Project Sanjeevani is to plant 5000 saplings in the nearby villages and to create awareness on benefits of trees for environment for students, communities, stakeholders etc. On the successful completion of Phase I, Mobius Foundation immediately decided to launch the next stage. On April 8th, 2019, Phase II of Project Sanjeevanilaunched with the same goal of environmental sustainability.

Mobile Health Camps

The health camps are organised by Mobius Foundation for the residents of the Durana, Sirsad, Ramghar, Mandi, Naulhta and Gohana districts, Uttar Pradesh where the gov/ private dispensary are away from the village. Stepping up for the need of the hour, Mobius Foundation organized 23 Mobile Health Camps in the remote areas of UP to create awareness of healthcare and hygiene among students, youth, women, and farmers. Approximately 2000 patients were treated in these camps held in every 15 days.



Pass on Plastic – Recycling is the cure



Mobius Foundation initiated plastic waste collection as a pilot project in residential society of MayurVihar Phase 1 Pocket 5 . The collection stations (6 Bins) were placed on 14th Feb 2020 in the society for the public to donate their plastic waste. Eco Wise is one of the leading waste management company in Delhi NCR collected the Plastic for the first time on 8th March 2020 (first Sunday of the month) from the society.

Mobius Foundation provided incentives to the people who donated their plastic waste at the collection stations. The incentives were in the form of eco-friendly products made up of recycled or waste material.



Gyan Anant Vidyalaya

Gyan Anant Vidyalaya addresses environmental issues by bringing awareness through education in rural areas. A school is a place where new ideas germinate, develop roots and grow tall and sturdy. It is a unique space that covers the entire universe of knowledge. It is a place where creative minds converge, interact with each other and construct visions of new realities. Established notions of truth are challenged in the pursuit of knowledge. To be able to do all this, GyanAnantVidhyalaya has diverse in its design and organization, reflecting the unique historical and socio-cultural settings.



NEWS FROM PARTNERS

CEE

Centre for Environment Education

Centre for Environment Education (CEE) was established in 1984 as a Centre of Excellence of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. As a national institution, CEE's mandate is to promote environmental awareness nationwide. Ms Archana Kushwaha and Ms Kavya Singh Yadav of Mobius Foundation got the opportunity to visit CEE, Ahmedabad office. We attended Planet Protector academy workshop and the major learning outcome of the

workshop was that Best practices from Canadian environmental education that you can bring back to your school and integrate into classroom teaching. Also Interdisciplinary and experiential learning approaches to deeply engage students with environmental and social issues. Along with that we visited VikramA Sarabhai Community Science Centre, Sundarvan – A nature discovery centre, Mahatma Gandhi Ashram at Sabarmati and Natural environment at CEE.

CEE, India is working in collaboration with Mobius Foundation helping to develop the curriculum and pedagogical approach for the school. The task involves developing and facilitating the implementation of the environmental education (EE) and education for sustainable development (ESD) programmes at World Environment School (WES).



NEWS PICKS

Headline Stories from Media





Mark Your Calendar

International Day of Education

LEARNING FOR PEOPLE, PLANET, PROSPERITY, AND PEACE

International Day of Education was observed on 24th January 2020. -The celebration this year marked will position education and the learning it enables as humanity's greatest renewable resource and reaffirm the role of education as a fundamental right, a public good and an enabler of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It will frame 'inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all' as a goal in and of itself, as well as a necessary means to accelerate progress to meet the targets of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Source: <https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/education-day-2020-concept-note-en.pdf>



World Wetlands Day



Source: <https://www.worldwetlandsday.org/>



World Wildlife Day



On 20 December 2013, at its 68th session, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed 3 March – the day of signature of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) – as UN World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants. World Wildlife Day is celebrated this year under the theme 'Sustaining all Life on Earth', highlighting the unique place of wild fauna and flora as essential components of the world's biodiversity, as well as a key pillar of livelihoods for people, particularly among communities that live close to nature.

Source: <https://www.wildlifeday.org/>



International Day of Forests

With the out bust of Coronavirus, it has become very clear to mankind that nature is powerful and you can't control it.

Hence to spread awareness about the environment and the importance of forests International Day of Forests or the World Forest Day is celebrated on March 21 annually over the world. On this day, the UN advises governments across the globe to promote their forests and to undertake activities such as tree planting and wildlife education. Forests and woodlands are made up of over 60,000 tree species and they are the home of about 80% of the world's terrestrial biodiversity. More than a billion people depend directly on forests for food, shelter, energy and income. The theme for each International Day of Forests is chosen by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and the theme for 2020 is "Forests and Biodiversity."

Source: <http://www.fao.org/international-day-of-forests/en/>



World Water Day



Source: <https://www.worldwaterday.org/>

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