

# Chapter 10

## The Introduction, Current State, and Policies for the Future of Environmental Education in Curricula and Educational Institutions in Bangladesh: Perspectives From Policies and Practice

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*The climate over the Earth's surface has remarkably been affected by various inconsiderate usages of natural resources and human-made disasters worldwide, such as substantial growth of fossil fuel consumption and coal-energy-dependent*

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*infrastructures, abundant use of synthetic materials, and the absence of environment-friendly technologies and solutions. In addition, in recent years, people seem to be more indulged in hyper-consumerism, quickly changeable products and fashion, and unsustainable urban design and living habits, which generates more waste and gives birth to numerous complex environmental problems. For the last few decades, the delicate balance of the Earth's ecosystems has continued to face constant threats, ranging from the profound impacts of climate change to the depletion of biodiversity and the severe consequences of pollution.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

The climate over the Earth's surface has remarkably been affected by various inconsiderate usages of natural resources and human-made disasters worldwide, such as substantial growth of fossil fuel consumption and coal-energy-dependent infrastructures, abundant use of synthetic materials, and the absence of environment-friendly technologies and solutions. In addition, in recent years, people seem to be more indulged in hyper-consumerism, quickly changeable products and fashion, and unsustainable urban design and living habits, which generates more waste and gives birth to numerous complex environmental problems (Bocken & Short, 2021; Sangwan & Vyas, 2020). For the last few decades, the delicate balance of the earth's ecosystems has continued to face constant threats, ranging from the profound impacts of climate change to the depletion of biodiversity and the severe consequences of pollution (Baste & Watson, 2022). As a result, there has been a notable global focus on environmental protection, with growing concerns about the current state and conservation of nature, environment, and diverse ecosystems for the future taking the central spot in the global development agendas (Kremen et al., 1994; Arthington et al., 2018; Baste & Watson, 2022).

Achieving a sustainable future relies heavily on a reciprocal relationship between environmental stewardship and economic development strategy (Salequzzaman & Stocker, 2001). Environmental education (EE) plays a crucial role in fostering the needed balance by enhancing public awareness, knowledge, and positive attitudes toward environmental protection and sustainability (Sultana et al., 2017). Thus, EE is gradually becoming a new phenomenon in development thinking in response to the contemporary environmental challenges (Chowdhury, 2014). Hence, governments and organizations across the globe are now progressively allocating resources to environmental protection and awareness-building initiatives to build a population that is knowledgeable, responsible, environmentally aware, and capable of tackling the challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution (Rovňák et al., 2021; Clark & Whitford, 2011).

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