

Impact of national environment awareness campaign during 2006-2014 in Maharashtra, India

■ B.K. KAKADE, S.E. PAWAR AND P. A. DUDHADE

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ABSTRACT : The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change, (MoEF) Govt. of India has launched several programmes which aim at spreading environmental consciousness among the student's, community and professionals. The present study is to assess impact of the National Environment Awareness Programme (NEAP) in Maharashtra for the period 2006-2014. The study includes over 6500 organizations from 35 districts of Maharashtra. The scale and scope of the programme can be seen from the response received from local level organizations such as NGOs, schools, colleges, Govt. institutions and women groups aspiring to work on four important thematic areas and environmental issues in their surroundings. It is not only the spread but also the number and type of participating organizations over period. Impact of the study is assessed based on the indicators *i.e.* outreach of the programme, contribution of local organizations in environment awareness, capacity building and growth of local organizations through diversification of activities. For the period of over past ten years over 13000 organizations applied and were connected with MoEF of which 50 per cent were approved and conducted programme to reach to community in general, students, teachers, women, farmers and field functionaries. These organizations worked on four important thematic areas *i.e.*, waste management, biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and forest and sustainable livelihood. In the process, these organizations have built their skills and capacities and diversified into other important sectors such as health, education and women's issues.

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Author for correspondence :

S.E. PAWAR

BAIF Development
Research Foundation,
PUNE (M.S.) INDIA

See end of the article for
Coopted authors'