

## Children Empowerment on Addressing Climate Change

### Why in news?

\n\n

Schoolchildren in Australia had demonstrated on the streets against their government's lackluster response to climate change.

\n\n

### What are the demands of the Australian children?

\n\n

\n

- Australian children have been studying environment science in their regular curriculum.

\n

- It specifically refers to the dangers of global warming and the impending disasters associated with climate change.

\n

- But in addition to the curriculum, direct experience of endemic forest fires impelled adolescent minds in Australia to mount public protests.

\n

- The children's demonstration stated that, over the recent years Australia has experienced dire consequences of global warming.

\n

- Due to this the children face dropping of their school routine on a working day.

\n

- They were conveying the feeling that natural catastrophe would make academic attainment meaningless.

\n

- Several student claims articulated specific demands, which includes the closure of a new coal mining projects.

\n

\n\n

### What was the government's response on the demonstration?

\n\n

- \n
- Children's mass protest received sharp reactions from Australian ruling administration.
- \n
- Australian Prime Minister responded that students should focus on learning and avoid activism.
- \n
- Other pro government supports claimed that students should be learning about geology and mining rather than protesting on streets.
- \n
- Global leaders see climate change as an irritating discourse, they also think it has no substance or truth.
- \n
- These leaders believe that no goal should override high industrial and economic growth.
- \n
- As for the threat of climate change, these leaders deny it and blame activist scientists for creating and spreading a myth.
- \n

\n\n

## **What are the issues in understanding climate change?**

\n\n

- \n
- A basic lesson in geography in elementary schools across the world concerns the distinction between 'climate' and 'weather'.
- \n
- The two concepts are typically explained as being different in terms of changeability.
- \n
- Weather changes from day to day and season to season, according to standard geography texts.
- \n
- Climate, on the other hand, refers to a permanent frame within we study change in weather conditions.
- \n
- So, the term 'climate' is used for classifying the world and each country in zones, these zones constitute the permanent lore of learning.
- \n
- It is intellectually challenging for many people to reconcile this notion of climate with the idea of climate change that the UN is using to warn people against terrible environmental disasters.
- \n

- Apart from this the sustainable development goals promoted by UNESCO have been included in the school syllabus across Asia, but their presence is merely nominal in most countries.

\n

- Policy documents include environmental concerns, but priorities economic growth.

\n

- In the context of globalization, most countries propagate competitive nationalism.

\n

- It is used as a major ground for regimentation of children's bodies and minds in order to ensure that they become proud, loyal citizens.

\n

\n\n

### **What the Australian demonstrations emphasizes?**

\n\n

\n

- The Australian children who registered their protest on city streets feel more sensitive than Australia's political leaders to the threat of climate change.

\n

- The reason perhaps lies in the nexus between politics and economic interests.

\n

- All environmental struggles are caught in sharply divided goals of popular politics and people's right to live in a safe and sustainable environment.

\n

- Those who espouse environmental causes are often seen as romantics while people who support fast economic growth based on rapid industrialization are perceived as practical realists.

\n

- Australian children have rejected this view and figured out that the term 'climate change' means little to their political leaders.

\n

- The Australian children made it clear that they have no financial investments to be redeemed by deeper mining for coal or building taller apartment blocks.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Hindu**

\n

