

SOME ISSUES ON EARTH SCIENCE EDUCATION - AN INDIAN SCENERIO

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Unlike core sciences viz., Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology; Earth Sciences (primarily Geology) were never considered, to the knowledge of the author, important either at secondary (i.e., after 5th level) or at higher secondary (i.e., after 10th level) education system in India as a separate subject. Further, there was no attraction towards Geology even at the undergraduate level, among the majority of the Indian student community. Although the Geological Survey of India is one of the oldest organizations, but never was it considered as glamorous profession by the job seekers.

In recent years a few important earthquakes, like Latur, Bhuj (India), and December 26, 2004 Indonesia which triggered tsunami; the ground water crises in different parts of Indian land mass (that lead to suicides among farmer community) created a greater interest in public in general; and school and college going students in particular regarding understanding of interior of the earth . Thanks to the powerful electronic media coverage the people were largely galvanized about the importance of earth sciences. Against this background the reasons for disinterest towards earth science education among the youngsters are analyzed and corrective measures are suggested in order to make the earth sciences education more attractive and that may create a good job market.

Keywords: Earth Sciences, Education, Earthquake, Groundwater, Tsunami, Job-Potential, Indian Student Community.