

Analysis

Solutions to climate change are coming from diverse corners of the world. There are different enablers including technology, financial mechanisms, systems change, policy, legal mechanisms, and education contributing to the efforts for the paradigm shift required to build low carbon and resilient societies. The selected case studies highlight education as a crucial enabler which not only directly and indirectly (by influencing other enablers) addresses causes and impacts of climate change but also provide a range of socio-economic benefits. A variety of educational methods used in the case studies include training, capacity building, communication campaigns, research and information, provision of guidance, stakeholder consultations, seminars and workshops, informal discussions and meetings, demonstration, tours and visits, trial and experimentation, and peer learning. These methods have aided in overcoming barriers and provided for implementing solutions.

The Barefoot Engineers case study exemplifies how through training women, skills were imparted thereby enabling widespread adoption of new technology to harness clean energy. Training helped to overcome gender stereotypes by empowering women to set up decentralized energy system for communities.

The Cool Biz Campaign case study shows how the innovative use of communication media and events that included fashion shows, media promotion and energy consumption guidelines along with the relaxation of rigid official dress codes, generated acceptance for a dress code suitable to local weather conditions thus leading to the reduction of building heating or cooling energy needs. This project helped to create major behavioural change through greater awareness.

In the case of the Bus Rapid Transit System, visits by decision makers to cities implementing BRTS model and public participation through various methods like workshops and consultations helped to believe in the model and implement it. On the other hand promotion of the BRTS model through various medium aided building a positive image and generate acceptance of the system.

The Eco driving Programme on the other hand endorses the value of training, media campaigns, provision of appropriate driving curriculum and demonstration helped change driving behaviour to promote fuel consumption efficiency.

In a different context, the Energy Efficiency Program for Brick Producers in Latin America served to mitigate climate change through demonstration, training and knowledge exchange and the promotion of new technology by early adopters convinced brick producers to switch to energy efficient kilns.

The case study Empowering Consumers towards Energy Efficiency clearly demonstrates how providing information on individual and household energy use patterns along with advice for saving energy has proved to be effective in changing behaviour thus leading to positive action.

The Climate Right Project through trial and demonstration proves that the sharing of crucial information like data on individual consumption patterns and carbon footprint along with guidance on available alternatives aided the behavioural change process empowering consumers to make the right choices.

The Water Campaign, Jal Jeevan Hai case study presents us with irrefutable evidence that training, resource mapping, community dialogue, capacity building and awareness rallies have succeeded in teaching farmers about appropriate water conservation technology besides inculcating behavioural change and promoting the conservation of water through the adoption of water conservation measures.

The case study Empowering Vulnerable rural communities to Adapt and Mitigate the impacts of Climate change in Central Tanzania, Chololo Ecovillage strongly emphasizes the critical importance of education and communication. It shows how training, demonstration, peer learning, education tours and visits, seminars and workshops, farmer field days and demonstration can help in the transfer of knowledge, adoption of innovative low carbon technologies and practices and learning from a trial and experimentation process all of which enable communities to adapt and be resilient.

The Kiribati Adaptation Program has, through multi-stakeholder consultation, surveys, participatory workshops and campaigns, building skills and strengthening institutional capacities, ensured the integration of stakeholder concerns in formulating a national climate change adaptation response as well as in sensitizing communities for creating readiness to adopt adaptation strategies.

The Raising Risk Awareness case study illustrates how training enables the transfer of technical knowledge to scientists equipping them to generate country-specific research analysis and results which can assist in making informed decisions. Workshops and appropriate communication materials helped to convey technical information in a simple and comprehensible manner sensitizing stakeholders especially media and citizens and encouraging them to take action. Collaborative work and partnership led to further knowledge development.

The Brazil Observatory of Climate and Health case study underscores the important role that collaborative research plays in generating information and co-creating knowledge thereby contributing to informed decision making. An online tool like a website can go a long way towards sharing information, reaching out to more people and sensitizing them on all aspects of climate change and health.

In the case of the Climate Change Adaptation Project in Oasis Zones, the methodology of workshops, training courses, updating and sharing of relevant information proved highly effective in sensitizing communities to climate change issues in their region while contributing to the design and implementation of adaptation measures that enhance resilience.

In the Climate Change Relocation Project we see how public participation and discussions have been successful in engaging vulnerable communities in the plan for relocation. Training and technical support provided to the community helped them acquire new skills and means of livelihood. Visitors who then study this as a successful case of relocation and who then disseminate information about this case have also contributed to raising general awareness on the sensitive topic of climate change migration.

Terre d'ecole's Education Project used traditional knowledge, curriculum and modules, media and communication strategy to sensitize school students about environmental challenges while sharing information to assist them in making informed consumption choices.