

Making Change Happen

An environmentally-conscious society can be created only if the young citizens of that society are empowered with sufficient knowledge, enabling skills, and appropriate attitude and values. The Green School project was launched by TERI in association with Tata Steel Limited in order to help them to improve their critical, interdisciplinary, and holistic thinking. The focus of the project is to create awareness and enable school fraternity to comprehend their relationship with the nature and make concerted efforts to conserve it for a 'quality' environment with improved standards of living. The project activities engage students, teachers, community members and Tata Steel employees in promoting environmental sustainability. The project vision is to empower students by creating awareness on climate change and highlight ways in which a sustainable lifestyle can help mitigate the adverse impact of climate change through effective water and energy resource management initiatives at local levels.

In this context, one of the focus areas is education, training and awareness building amongst all segments in the society. Education has an important role in achieving a transformative impact on the society, since it is an enabler that enhances:

- appreciation and knowledge of environmental issues
- behavioural changes leading to pro-environment practices
- adoption of sustainable consumption practices
- lifestyle changes through improved health and overall well being
- livelihood opportunities in school linked communities

The project has already made its presence at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP24) in Poland. A case study on 'The Green School' project was presented at the India Pavilion in Katowice, Poland on December 13, 2018 during a session on 'Capacity Building for Climate Change'. The session "**Making Change Happen – A Thematic Track for Educators'**" at WSDS 2019 will further strengthen the initiative as it aims at sharing of its global experience at COP 24 and innovative initiatives undertaken by teachers to support their teaching-learning process at local level. The seminar will have two days of focussed discussion on rethinking education for a transformative change and will be reaching out to the educators from remote locations of Jharkhand and Odisha.