

ROLE OF EDUCATION IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development is that which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- (1) Environmental (2) Societal (3) Economic dimensions are balanced in the pursuit of development, that is without distorting the already existing , so that future generations is also able to enjoy at least the quality of life and opportunity as we.

PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- (1) Establishing the principle of equity by eradicating poverty and reducing disparities in living standard at the global level.
- (2) Discouraging the unsustainable pattern of production and consumption.
- (3) Promoting an open international economic System which leads to economic growth and Sustainable development throughout the World.
- (4) Sharing of knowledge and innovative technologies among nations.
- (5) Conserving and restoring the earth's ecological balance.
- (6) Participation and contribution of every member of the nation in the all round development and growth.

ROLE OF EDUCATION IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

There is a lot of difference in the illiterate and literate person. An educated person can (1) Make rational decisions (2) implement the available Information wisely, (3) raises the economic status of the family, (4) develop the skills necessary to take and fulfill the responsibilities of the family and society, (5) Can make use of innovative technologies for constructive development.

So education plays a very important role, without education development of the country is not possible, what to talk of Sustainable development. Education helps in Social transformation it also trains the people in certain policies, practices and procedures, and teaches them the abilities to perform certain task.

HOW TO START EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- (1) The first priority is to improve the Basic Education which will lead to change of thinking, attitude, values and perspectives in totality which in turn encourage and support public participation and community decision making.
- (2) The second priority is to reorient the basic education system in such a way that an individual understands the difference between the sustainable and unsustainable pattern of production and consumption from the very beginning. The whole education

system should be fabricated in such a way that people understand the necessity and importance of sustainable development and its impact in order to save the future generations.

- (3) The implementation of Educational For Sustainable Development is not only the responsibility of formal education but the non formal education Sector (non-governmental organization, Public health educators, various enterprises) and also informal education sector (News Paper, Television, Radio, Hoardings) must also work in this direction so that people understand the goals of a sustainable society and has the knowledge and skills to contribute to those goals.
- (4) It will a challenge for the society in the process of creating Education Sustainable Development curriculums that is to include or select those topic which support sustainability goals only.

WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

- (1) Use of Renewable resources should not exceed their rates of regeneration.
- (2) Non- renewable sources do not exceed the rate at which sustainable substitutes are developed.
- (3) Rate of pollution should not go beyond the limit that it disturbs the adjusting capacity of the environment.
- (4) All resources should be used with maximum efficiency that is wastage should not be allowed.
- (5) Exponential growth of population should be checked, because there is a direct proportionality between consumption and the increasing number of individuals.
- (6) Environmental stress should be reduced to minimum to save the mother earth.

- (7) Non-Renewable resources should be used to the minimum since there is no substitute for them. A time can come when life becomes paralyzed without them.
- (8) There should be a check on the conditions of resources being used, their consumption, the environment and the welfare of humans.

WORLD CITIZENSHIP : A CONCEPT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The sense of responsibility can only emerge when we think that everyone is same and the concept of oneness of humanity is essential for a peaceful, prosperous world society. World citizenship encourages a wide loyalty, a love of humanity as a whole; there is no space for demarcation, and differentiation.

World citizenship encompasses the principles of social and economic justice, both within and between the nations, equality of social, national and religious harmony, rational decisions for the common welfare of society, willingness to sacrifice for the common good.

Other dimensions of world citizenship which promote human dignity, understanding, cooperation, desire to serve trust worthiness, automatically develops if concept of oneness is bestowed in us. For sustainable development it is essential that the concept of global citizenship is there, and it becomes the joint responsibility of whole world to achieve the goals of Sustainable development.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Concept of social justice is very important. It includes meeting basic human needs and concern for the rights, concern for others, welfare of others, respect for the traditions and religions of other societies and cultures, and it fosters empathy for the life conditions of other people. Social Justice also includes the concept of intergenerational equity which is very important, which means the

preservation of resources (forests, fossil species, fuels) for future generations. Values taught in school should not only be limited to one's surrounding but should also reflect the larger values of the society.

THE CONCEPT OF EARTH CHARTER

The Earth Charter is a synthesis of values, principles and aspirations that are shared by a increasing number of women, men, and organizations around the world. The Earth charter was written with extensive international consultations over many years. It says

We urgently need a shared vision of basic values to provide an ethical foundation for the emerging world community. Therefore together in hope we affirm the following inter dependent principles for a sustainable way of life as a common standard by which the conduct of all individuals, organizations, businesses, governments and transitional institutions to be guided and assessed.

1. Respect Earth and care for the community of life.

- (a) Respect Earth and life in all its diversity.
- (b) Care for the community of life with understanding, compassion and love.
- (c) Build democratic societies that are just.
- (d) Secure Earth bounty and beauty for present and future generations.

ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

1. Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and natural process that sustain life.
2. Prevent harm as the best method of environmental protection and when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach.
3. Adopt- patterns of production, consumption, and reproduction that safeguard, Earths

regenerative capacities, human rights and community well being.

4. Advance the study of ecological sustainable and promote the open exchange and wide application of the knowledge acquired.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

1. Eradicate poverty as an ethical, social and environmental imperative.
2. Ensure that economic activities and institutions at all levels promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner.
3. Affirm gender equality and equity as prerequisites to sustainable development and ensure universal access to education, health care, economic opportunity.
4. Uphold the right of all, without discrimination to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily health and spiritual well being, with special attention to the rights of indigenous principle and minorities.

DEMOCRACY NON-VIOLENC AND PEACE

Strengthen democratic institutions at all level, provide transparency and accountability in governance, inclusive participation in decision making and access to justice.

Integrate into formal education and lifelong learning, the knowledge, values and skills needed for a sustainable way of life.

Treat all living being with respect and consideration

Promotes a culture of tolerance, non-violence and peace.

STRENGTH MODEL

To implement the strength model, it is necessary that educators and administrators understand the concept of sustainability and are familiar with its principles. It is not possible to introduce Education For Sustainable Development through one subject but it requires contributions from many disciplines.

1. Mathematics helps students understand the numbers and its application can help to interpret pollution data.
2. Geography teaches the concept of global change and factors affecting the environment.
3. Social studies helps students to understand racism, gender inequality, ethnocentrism.

Each discipline has associated pedagogical technologies. The combined technologies and strategy of all the fields contribute and develops in students the ability of critical thinking, analysis and logical reasoning, which help and support to form sustainable society.

CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS TO EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

INCREASING AWARENESS

1. The first step to launch an Educational For Sustainable Development programme is to develop awareness in the educational community that is reorienting education system is necessary for sustainable development.
2. Each nation must decide on a method of implementation whether to add or create on subject (e.g. Sustainable Development, Environmental Education or population Education) or reorient entire education programs and practices to address sustainable development.

3. EDUCATIONAL REFORM AND ECONOMIC VIABILITY

To be successful, Educational For Sustainable Development will need to catch the wave of educational reform. If all the benefits are recognized then the time will come when education of girls may yield highest return investment. So some nations are removing barriers to girls attending schools and are promoting campaigns regarding female education.

4. FACING THE COMPLEXITY OF CONCEPT:

The Concept of sustainable development is not very simple to understand and many scholars and practitioner have spent years on it that is how to achieve it at national and local levels. Because the concept itself is difficult to understand so its implementation is also not very easy.

5. DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAMME WITH SOCIAL PARTICIPATION:

Because the sustainable development programme take into consideration the local, environmental and social conditions so the programmes relating to it must consider same conditions. As a result each region must formulate its own Educational Sustainable Development programme. So a universal programme of Educational Sustainable Development can not be developed, it can only be developed seeing the regional conditions.

6. SHARING THE RESPONSIBILITY:

Every sector of the government, every ministry and department can play role in Educational Sustainable Development and the reorienting process. At the UN meeting of the commission on sustainable Development, ministries of environment have taken initiative stating that education, awareness and training are essential tools in bringing about sustainable development.

7. BUILDING HUMAN CAPACITY:

There are two methods in human resource development that is in service training and pre service training. In service training the professionals are provided with additional training they re shape the existing programmes by adding new knowledge. In pre-service training, concepts, principles and methods are provided during initial training.

8. DEVELOPING FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL RESOURCES:

Reorienting education to address sustainability will require additional financial resources. This is one of the basic fact that at national, and local govt. have spent little on Educational Sustainable Development beyond improving basic education. At the national level financial resources must fund curriculum, administration and teacher education and at the local level resources must finance Curriculum development and accompanying materials as well as teacher training.

DEVELOPING POLICES

Administrators at the top level must create polices so that their implementation is also possible. The administrators, teachers and community leaders at the local level should think together what should be the actual structure of policy.

1. PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY IN CULTURE:

One thing should always be promoted that rates of use of renewable resources should not exceed their rates of regeneration.

2. BACK UP DECISION WITH A RATIONALE:

After a school adopts a new trend, the administration must announce the decision internally and externally, the announcement should be easy to convey and understand.

3. PREPARING A COMMUNICATING STRATEGY:

The plan should address a variety of audiences and how to make them reach to various types of audiences and what type of frame work is adopted for taking the reactions of various person, depending on their interest and needs, audiences respond better to some parts of sustainability than to others. The diversity of audiences and best message for each type of audience and the best method to contact the various audiences should be considered.

4. MAKING THE DECISION TO ACT:

It is very important that the policies are decided and after decision their implementation is all the more important The policy should have at least following few criteria so as to make implementation easier.

1. The policy or new trend is of interest to them. Student
2. It should make a difference in the programme it should have positive impact in their achievement, attitude or behavior of the students.
3. It makes the job easier.

5- PREPARE GOALS:

After new plan is revealed the work between the administration and teaching staff should begin. Faculty and administrators must work together to figure out how to implement the overall goal within setting of individual school.

6- REVIEW AND REVISE GOALS:

An opportunity for programme revision should be built into a new programme from the beginning because there is always possibility of changes occurring, depending on the effectiveness of programme. Designing a new programme is based both on professional. Experience and imagination.

7- REWARDS AND CELEBRATIONS:

Rewards and Celebrations also give a very out standing out puts. If the institution knows that the positive out puts will be rewarded by

authorities the programme will may effectively and efficiently adopted by the school.

1. ESD must be locally relevant and culturally appropriate, indicating the environmental, economic and social conditions of the community on which it is implemented.
2. It must be through public participation in which stake holders across the whole community should be included.
3. Each discipline, teacher, and administrator can contribute either after in service training or pre-service training.
4. Community and School systems should work together to achieve community sustainability goals.

Education is a great hope for sustainable future.

KEYS FOR ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ENVIRONMENT:

Use of Renewable resources should not exceed their rates of regeneration.

Non- renewable sources do not exceed the rate at which sustainable substitutes are developed.

Rate of pollution should not go beyond the limit that it disturbs the adjusting capacity of the environment.

ECONOMY:

1. Resource distribution should be fair and efficient while meeting human needs.
2. Money should be circulated as long as possible within the community.
3. A living wage should be paid to all employees.
4. Market should maximize efficiency

SOCIETY:

Cities should grow within limitation.

Adequate, food, housing and medical care should be available to every family.

Every boy and girl should receive education. that teaches the knowledge, perspective , values , issues and skills for sustainable development..

The present generation should ensure that next generation inherits a community at least as healthy, diverse and productive as today. Communications should insist upon planned longevity

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