

# Does the sustainable development through education? – Review

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**Abstract** - Education is the key, universal, fundamental rights and powerful tools for sustainable development and more than that it preaches the life of the individual pinnacle. Sustainable development through education is fundamental values with respect to economic, environment, society, habits, language, traits, culture, habits, relationship harmony, resources utilization, respect to generations, etc. As per UNESCO, 2002, “Education for sustainable development is a dynamic concept that encompasses a new vision of education to empower people to assume responsibility for creating a sustainable future”. There are 17 sustained development goals. There are few vital components of sustained development goals effects through education such as society, free from poverty, women empowerment, peace and security, economic sustainability, and health promotion were discussed in this article.

In the Global context, it's important to understand the values of humankind, rights of human, peace and security and economic growth without compromising the environment. There are possible weaknesses discussed here in order to bring the attention at making the plan, policy and bring into action level to promote the sustained development. They are such as the lack of Integration and communication info, lack of Sustained capacity building synergy, lack of global cluster on higher education, lack of utilization of resources etc. There is wide range of opportunities available to achieve the sustained development in education. Let us not forget this is the decade of action, we have to do proactive measure for sustained development through education. The change and challenge is movable, transferable and timely evolution of the human society. To identify, prioritize, analyze and implement of any change is required to human society could be mirror imagined with the right kind of education needed before it will be too late. **Conclusion:** The overall aim of this article is to bring the light on the importance of sustained development through education is to prepare, product, prevent, promote and empower citizen to live a full life, act for positive environment, social change through

**participatory approach without compromising basic entity.**

**Index Terms** - Education, essential sustained development, goals, society, environment, health, life, empowerment, peace and security, SWOT analysis.

## INTRODUCTION

Education is the key, universal, fundamental rights and powerful tools for sustainable development to open the mind of the learner and it is not a simple way of gaining information or awareness, more than that it preaches the life of the individual pinnacle.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”- nelson Mandela

As per Aristotle quotation, “Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all”.

Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man. – swami Vivekananda.

Education system should not insist the children to more swallow the information before the examination and more vomits on the examination, the better. Education is not about marks, assignments or memory; it means to develop you from within. Sustainable development through education is fundamental values with respect to economic, environment, society, habits, language, traits, culture, habits, relationship harmony, resources utilization, respect to generations, etc to enable us to understand in a wider and deeper perspective in a durable manner. The overall aim of sustained development is to prepare, product, prevent, promote and empower citizen to live a full life, act for positive environment, social change through participatory approach without compromising basic entity.

## CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABILITY OF EDUCATION

Sustainable development as a concept, is a key element of quality education, kind of pragmatic approach and as a crucial enabler to acquire the knowledge, attitudes and values and skill to achieve the social transformation, increase environmental awareness, economic growth, reduce poverty, peace and justice and to shape the sustainable future. (Bob Offei, Mantoaw 2020; Leicht A 2018). We must know some of the concept of sustainable development From 1987 to 2002, "it meets the needs of present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs" (the world commission on Environment and Development, UN- Gro Harlem Brundlandt report, 1987). It contains two key concepts: the concept of "needs", in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs." The National Town Meeting on Sustainability (May 1999) in Detroit, Michigan, established that the term "sustainable development," although frequently used, is not well understood. Thereafter, the term of "sustainable development" became an important concept in the vocabulary of politicians, practitioners, and planners. As per UNESCO, 2002, "Education for sustainable development is a dynamic concept that encompasses a new vision of education to empower people to assume responsibility for creating a sustainable future".

"I don't know why people have divided the whole world into two groups. West and East education is neither eastern nor western. Education is education and it's the right of every human being". – Malala Yousafzai.

## COMPONENTS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Components of sustainable development are as follows: there are 17 sustained development goals. There are few vital components of sustained development goals effects through education discussed below:

Society and Education: Covid-19 have placed additional burden on society, economic and

environment in addition to ongoing health threats, natural disaster, economic imbalance causing damage to fundamental determinants of long-term growth perspectives, living standards and quality of life. Sustainable development begins with education. Sustainable means that the flow of expenses is less than the flow of income, resources and manpower. This means systematically substituting certain persistent and unnatural components with one's that are normally abundant or break down more easily in nature, drawing resources only from well managed eco-system and also using substances that's produced by society very efficiently. The wellbeing of the society states that the measuring parameters of health, happiness and comfort. It differs from people to people and this is considered as one of the inherited challenges. To meet these challenges the weapon of education is required.

Free from Poverty and role of education for sustainable development:

Can we escape from the poverty? Or what is way to find out of poverty?

Yes, education is the one of best ways to get out of poverty. Studies say that, "171 million people could be lifted out from poverty in the world, if they are educated". To recognize the signs and symptoms of disease and early prevention, it required education. Infant mortality rate, maternal mortality and morbidity rate would be reduced with proper education. By raising the level of education, promoting safety and security, unemployment, women empowerment, avoiding child marriage, income equity when these things change, poverty shrinks. Let's not forget that poverty is about having less money or no money. It's really means that more than that money in managing the resources like water management, forest and agriculture management, efficient land usage can increase the productivity, improves the quality of life. Better education can increases in productivity and manage the recourses results in decreases in poverty and it is a key to ending up the problems.

Women empowerment through education: "The education and empowerment of women throughout the world cannot fail to result in more caring, tolerant, just and peaceful life for all". – Aung San Suu Kyi. If you educate a man, you educate an individual. But if you educate a woman, you educate a nation. As we

explored the matter further, many studies suggests that, If all women are educated with primary education, maternal mortality rate may be decreased. Can we stand up for women education without proper information to them, early marriage and early pregnancy? Surely, Education ensure the access to education, reduce the biases against women, and need for gender equality (both economic opportunities for women and protection from gender-based violence issues), job opportunities, and small scale business for home maker and literacy to empower the women.

Peace and security Vs Education: Peace and security are fundamentals to human dignity and development. All countries strive to make the ultimate aim of humanity to keep secured and maintain peace. The sustainable development of any culture is always endangered by a situation of insecurity and conflict. One must not forget, this is the decade of action and participatory movement is required at gross root level in order to protect the society.

Environment and Education: Environment is the part and parcel of our life and education had been deeply rooted in one's life and connected through culture, society, nature, climate, learning, linguistics, education, food, artistic with the wider perspectives. (Altekar A.S, 1934). "The environmental pillar refers to the laws, regulations, and other policy mechanisms concerning air and water pollution, solid waste management, ecosystem management, maintenance of biodiversity, as well as the protection of natural resources, wildlife, and endangered species"(EU forum). It is not a instant fix, meet the needs of present through education long term ways achieved to make societal transformation and increase environmental awareness. Teaching is essential to everyone to make peace with nature, respect the environment and to understand their responsibility with immediate surroundings. Hence, the teaching universities and institutions take initiatives to facilitate the core of education consists of environment curriculum for sustainable development.

Economy sustainability linked with education is paradox or promise? : Education is most important sector in any economy. It is a great challenge how to achieve target economic growth without harming the physical environment and society. Education is linked

both to resource production and resource consumption. Economic growth can be produced through education as per global education first initiative report, if one year of schooling increases 10% in wage earnings. Thus, achieving sustainable development will require balancing environmental, societal, and economic considerations in the pursuit of development and to improve quality of life. Economic growth must ensure the job, youth employment, mobilization of work, women empowerment, gender equality, tourism, industrial development, specialization job, create courses in university parallel with their job, promote small scale business and reduce unemployment to foster the sustained development, education is the utmost important. In above context, the readers could understand the sustainable development through education is promise.

Health Promotion and Education: As per World Health Organization (1947) defined Health as "A state of well being and not merely the absence of diseases and infirmity". The parameters to measure the well-being of human are free from diseases, health services, free education, housing employment, comfort and happiness, etc. Education must ensure that individuals do have access to social services, access and affordable health services, knowledge of their rights, and exercise a responsible influence on the development of social policies and services, to promote the health of individual both locally and nationally. "A sound mind in a sound body", it reminds us that both mind and body are important, it can be achieved through proper education. Universal access to health can be achieved through education for all.

SWOT Analysis (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats) for sustained development through education

Sustained development is such a deep kind of revolutionizing approach and lateral thinking is required and to be ready to opening up research and to be able to respond to challenges. It is need to assess the strength of the Globe, weakness, opportunities and threats in sustainable development through education. The following SWOT analysis is considered as important in order to attain the sustained development through education.

#### Strengths in Global level

Top notch focus of world is to realize the sense of urgency and needs it could be visualized through education system only. We must move ahead and adopt the changes required in the society. In the Global context, it's important to understand the values of human kind, rights of human, peace and security and economic growth without compromising the environment. There are some inner existing strengths in the Global level are listed such as 1. Top quality and education provided by Global University 2. Available of wide and broader range of courses, 3. Sustained curriculum, 4. Advanced Technology, 5. Globalized Education, 6. Academic freedom, 7. Human resources, 8. Human rights, 9. Welfare organization in Global level for health, rights, education, environment, peace and justice. 10. Inclusive environment, 11. Integrity and social values. 12. Model and renewable energy, modern technology and machines. All the countries have to realize the values of core strength of existence and utilize the resources at most level.

#### Weakness

Universities and Institutions are having a common dilemma between existing present comfort position and behavior that required for the future change. A common thought that people would say sometimes there is a wish and will, but not finding a way to change. It is a crucial period for empowering ourselves as a society and preserving the nature. There are possible weaknesses discussed here in order to bring the attention at making the plan, policy and bring into action level to promote the sustained development. They are such as the lack of Integration and communication info, lack of Sustained capacity building synergy, lack of global cluster on higher education, lack of utilization of resources, lack of independent research on sustained development, inadequate awareness on sustained development at local, national and international level, capacity leadership, weak social safety net, existing common strategies plan and policies and so on.

To overcome the weakness, the report by Peter Glavič, 2020 identified that there are 12 key issues proposed such as, the scope of Essential Sustained Development (ESD), policy, intergenerational co-operation, environmental, social, economical, ESD envisioning methodology, building capacity,

transformative approach, ESD metrics, ESD documenting and reporting, ESD regulatory bodies.

Opportunities: there is wide range of opportunities available to achieve the sustained development in education. Let us not forget this is the decade of action, we have to do proactive measure for sustained development through education. The available opportunities are Lifelong learning opportunities , Technology, Mobilize the local community/ stakeholders, Local government, Advance Policies, Linking the facilitator, Transforming and training, building facilitator capacity , Empower and mobilize the youth, Accelerate the local solutions, activities, meetings and on.

#### Threats / Challenges

The change and challenge is movable, transferable and timely evolution of the human society. To identify, prioritize, analyze and implement of any change is required to human society could be mirror imagined with the right kind of education needed before it will be too late. The following are some of the challenges or threats influences in the delay of sustainable development of society, economic and equity components.

- Poverty
- Biases against women, gender inequality
- Illiteracy
- Population explosion
- Burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases( hypertension, diabetes, cardiac diseases, stroke, mental disorders, neurological disorders, cancer etc)
- Nutritional deficiencies( blindness, scurvy, marasmus – protein energy malnutrition)
- Climate change and Disaster ( floods, famines, earth quacks, slides, man- made accidents, biological disasters, diseases outbreaks( corona, flu, SARS, Malaria, cholera, etc)) and Global warming
- Vulnerable able population ( geriatric, under five aged children, pregnancy)
- Health – age related and lifestyle related issues etc ( smoking, alcohol)
- Labour jobs, insecurity, income inequality, religion and region issues etc. (EU Policy Forum on Development).

- Pollution- air, water, soil, noise etc.

Steps to improve the sustainable development through education:

Education is an essential tool for achieving sustainability. Education at all levels can shape the world of tomorrow, equipping individuals and societies with the skills, perspectives, knowledge and values to live and work in a sustainable manner. An educated citizenry is vital to implementing informal and sustainable development. Nations with high illiteracy rates and unskilled workforces have fewer development options. An educated workforce is the key to moving beyond an extractive and agricultural economy. Education improves the economy status of the family, quality of life, lowers the infant mortality & morbidity rate and improves the educational attainment of the next generation.

1. Collect information, identify needs, collaborate the teachers/ facilitators, stakeholders, policy makers, leaders and politician, apply interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary mixed curriculum in terms of teaching, learning and research.
2. Training and transformation: Being an Educator promotes environmental education, participatory approaches to teaching-learning citizenship education, research and exchange of experience internationally. Sustained development through education is an inclusive and diverse approach which is required to meet the challenges of economic, environment and society. Many of us educated in mono-disciplinary background and we cannot digest by imaging magic turn off situation to multi-disciplinary background. Hence, it may be the refusal, ignorance, intolerance in common. To overcome these teachers, educators and researchers have to unlearn to learn themselves, train, retrain and re-invent themselves in a way to achieve the sustained development.
3. Encourage the Interdisciplinary and holistic learning rather than subject based learning. Values-based learning; critical thinking rather than memorizing; multi-method approaches: word, art, drama, debates, etc. develop and design sustainability offices for students and teachers to include the students voice in a innovative way to reach the goals. Education and training are

essential in addressing rural poverty and ensuring sustainable development. Promoting teaching which respects indigenous and traditional knowledge, and encourages the use of indigenous language in education, the integration of worldviews and perspectives on sustainability into education programs at all levels. Schools should act not only as centers for academic learning, but also as supportive venues for the provision of essential health services, in collaboration with parents and the community.

4. Develop local plan and participatory decision-making at local level rather than national. Good community based decisions—which will affect social, economic, and environmental well-being—also depend on educated citizens.

Suggestions to plan and achieve the sustainable development through education:

In view of above context and wider analysis of the all the aspects of sustainable development through education, the common suggestions are pointed below:

- Insists the mantra of “Education for all”. Ensure the attainment of minimum basic education of the community.
- Be ensure the human activities always focus on environment, society and economic benefits
- Develop the goals at their community/ region/ nation/ and International level to promote the sustainable development.
- Ensure the policy makers, administrators, stakeholders, politician and educators understand the concept of sustainability and the role of education about sustainable development.
- Promote value based learning in the core learning of education. It will be helpful to preserve the generations with inherited culture, linguistics, philosophy, habits, customs, significance of region and society as a whole.
- Link the universities all around the world and make the common sustainable development goals on higher education.
- Advancement of science based knowledge towards achieving through collaboration and integrating with interdisciplinary approach. Research based advancing knowledge is better for sustaining development.

- Create the sustainability display courses like environmental integration with education, study of nature and its importance to society, economic equity and education, women empowerment through education, health promotion Vs education, peace and education and so on in the university and institutional level.
- Acquire to develop critical thinking and self-reflection, work together, looking for link and synergies, decision making, and empowering people through education be able to imagine a better future.
- Community-based learning. The schools act as a social agent, as part of the community and involving the community as a resource and participant in decision-making processes. Community based courses; curriculum in their course content initiatives can achieve the purposes of sustainable development.
- Sustained development is an emerging science, fundamentally holistic to balance between competing goals economy, education and equity; multiple perspectives are required to serve the “whole”.
- Create productive jobs, specializing job in their profession, public-private partnership, using advanced technology info link from productivity to utility wing.
- Promote the awareness campaigns on health and employment, educational activities; build a school, donating, volunteering job on sustainable development for better future.

### CONCLUSION

In a broader sense, the challenges of the world to the human society to serve as benefit to humanity and to contribute the sustainability. One may wonder whether fostering sustained development through education does it possible. Is it lived reality? We may good at making a great plan and good strategies with innovative and creative manner but reality often stays behind. Through education system it could possible to understand the complexity of challenges and to foster the sustained development and its values in a broader sense. Education system must create the force to assume the responsibility at individual level, to built at local level policies, integrating and collaborating

network platform at global level, bring the global voice in coordination with organization, political force, and leadership support in order to bring the sustained development in general. Sustainable development is not just a matter of paper or glossy picture it required a multilayered change and response from the students, teachers, academician, researcher, policy maker, political and legal level and at global entity. Education system is a way to make the world safer, ensure the environmental, economic, education, employment viability (EEEE), free from poverty and hunger, health for all, promote gender equality and to promote peace and justice to foster the sustained and sustainable development. (Rosalyn McKeown, 2002). At the end to summarize this article, education as a tool, power, hope, success, magnetic force , gate keeper and the only solution to achieve the sustainable development of environment, society and economy. The kind of change required for global community is possible only by community commitment, community participation in which we are living, start being sustainable ourselves, empower and assumes the individual responsibility, good harmony with nature and gross roots involvement to achieve more sustainable futures. At the end one must understand the fundamental principle of universe act on the individual, individual act upon the universe.

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