

**Education For Sustainable Development - Need of Hour**

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**Abstract**

Sustainable development is the development that is everlasting. Its show us path of meeting the need of present generation without destroying the resources like food, clean water, fresh air, fertile soil etc. all these resources are found in ecosystem of which our economy and society is an integrated part. Therefore, sustainability is grounded in ecosystems, society and economy.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) takes a realistic approach to learning by linking ecological, social and economic aspects of our daily lives. Thus ESD constitutes an important part in ensuring that human beings acquire knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values necessary to shape a sustainable future and the ability to participate in democratic systems and to take responsibility for the well-being of our planet. The essence of introducing education for sustainable development is to dissolve the artificial boundaries between the environment, economy, and society.

To make the concept of EDS effective and successful we have strong need to educate our youth about sustainable development and this motive can only be achieved by making sustainable development an integral part of curriculum at every level of education. The paper depict the concept of sustainable development, role of Education in attaining Sustainable development and what necessary steps have to be taken to make it an integral part of curriculum.

**Keyword:** - Sustainable Development, Education, Curriculum, Integration.

**INTRODUCTION**

In present scenario, the world population is more than 7 billion and our natural resources are limited so as an individual, we need to learn to live together sustainably. We have to take action responsibly based on the understanding that what we do today can have impact on the lives of people and the planet in future. To make people understand this responsibility it's necessary to educate them about conservation of resources. This can only be done by Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). In attaining sustainable development, education has a critical role to play. ESD empowers people to change the way they think and work towards a sustainable future. The seeds of education for sustainable development were laid at the 1977 Tbilisi Conference on Environmental Education. At this intergovernmental conference, organised by the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), delegates from 68 countries unanimously agreed on "the important role of environmental education in the preservation

and improvement of the world's environment, as well as in the sound and balanced development of the world's communities."

Educating people to a higher and more advanced level is simply not enough to give rise to sustainable societies. A more difficult task at hand is to provide an education for citizens that will help instil values that encourage sustainable practices, and will enable learners to make decisions and choices that promote sustainable development. ESD aims to improve access to quality education on sustainable development at all levels and in all social contexts, to transform society by reorienting education and help people develop knowledge, skills, values and behaviours needed for sustainable development. It is about including sustainable development issues, such as climate change and biodiversity into teaching and learning. Individuals are encouraged to be responsible actors who resolve challenges, respect cultural diversity and contribute to creating a more sustainable world. There is growing international recognition of ESD as an integral element of quality education and a key enabler for sustainable development.

### **WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?**

In 1987 the United Nations release the Brundtland Report which first coined the term "sustainable development". This report is also known as the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) report "Our Common Future" which depicts Sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

According to the same report, the above definition contains within its two key concepts:-

- The concept of "needs" in a particulate the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given.
- The idea of limitation imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future need.

Sustainability development has worked upon three components: - 1) Environment 2) Society 3) Economy. If we consider the three components to be overlapping circles of the same size, the area of overlap in the centre is human well-being. As the environment, society, and economy become more aligned, the area of overlap increases, and so does human well-being.

Basically SD involves environmental protection with social equity and economic growth by implying greater fairness in distributing the gains from growth among people and countries.



## GOALS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SD sets specific goals for all entities related to all three components:-

1. **For people**- SD ensure healthy lives, knowledge and inclusion of women and children.
2. **For Planet** –SD aims to manage natural resources to protect our ecosystem for all societies and our children’s.



## UNESCO Goals of SD

**Justice**- Its basic goal of sustainable development to encourage safe and peaceful living and strong society.

3. **Promote economic equality**- SD aims to end poverty completely from the globe.
4. **Ensure healthy life**: - SD aims to ensure healthy lives by providing food security and Good Nutrition.

## EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD)

Education for sustainable development (ESD) is the use of education as a tool to achieve sustainability. Simply put, ESD is a way to make the world a safer, healthier, and more liveable place for us and future generations (Mc Keown, 2002, pgs 7-9).

“Education is critical for promoting sustainable development and improving the capacity of people to address environment and development issue. It is critical for achieving environmental and ethical awareness, values and attitudes, skills and behaviour consistent with sustainable development and for effective public participation in decision making”

### **How ESD works?**

Education encompasses teaching and learning specific skills, imparting of knowledge, positive judgment and well developed wisdom. It has one of its fundamental aspects of imparting culture from generation to generation. Following are some ways by which ESD can successfully implemented in education:-

- ESD should be in the curriculum in an inter-disciplinary manner, allowing for a whole institution approach to policy making.
- Share the values & principals that underpin sustainable development.
- Promote critical thinking, problem solving & action, all of which develop confidence in addressing the challenge to sustainable development.
- Address local as well as global issues.
- Allow learner and educators to participate in decision making about the content & design of educational programs.

Education for Sustainable Development incorporates key environmental challenges like climate change into core subjects like math, science and art, and involves modifying the teaching-learning process to a more all-encompassing approach. Students are thus able to relate what they learn in the classroom to their real life actions, and will increasingly be in a better position to take the lead in changing behaviours and adopting sustainable lifestyles; the more this type of education is adopted.

### **OBJECTIVES OF ESD**

The core objectives of ESD are:-

- To promote and improve basic education including, literacy and lifelong learning for sustainable livelihoods with emphasis on access, opportunity and quality for all children and youth, in and out of school.
- To reorient existing education programmes at all levels focussing on content and methodology, including the different dimensions of sustainability namely: social, economic, ecological, cultural, knowledge, skills, ethics, values and perspectives.
- To create public awareness and understanding of the principles of sustainable development drawing on the capacities and comparative strengths of the media and civil society.
- To develop training programmes for building skills and capacities that promote sustainable practices
- To develop strategies for the enhancement of the required capacities for the attainment of sustainable development.

### **ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

ESD Promoting and practicing ESD are no easy tasks. Some of the major hurdles that have been encountered include:

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• **Lack of awareness and understanding** of the sustainability problem the urgency of sustainable development has not been sufficiently noted within the education community. In fact, many educators still are unaware of the link between education and a sustainable future. Moreover, the awareness and recognition of the importance of education to sustainability is mostly present only at the international and national levels. Local level (on-the-ground) policymakers and educators either have only a limited awareness of ESD, or none at all.

• **Lack of knowledge** about sustainable development Due to its nature as an evolving multi- and interdisciplinary concept, teaching for and about sustainable development is indeed a daunting challenge. The burden of transforming “sustainable development” into non-overwhelming and non-confusing messages relies heavily on the **conviction of educators to do so.**

• **Confusion over the proper implementation of ESD** Policies and strategies differ for implementing ESD in countries and in schools. A new class may be focused on ESD, the entire curriculum may be modified to integrate sustainability concepts and principles, while in some cases, the link between education and sustainability might not even be raised.

• **Fitting ESD within broader national development priorities** -Though the recognition of the ESD paradigm may vary across nations, educational reform aligned with overall national development is a widely recognized need. Positioning ESD within the national economic blueprint is important to build a stronger case for its implementation.

• **Involving multi-stakeholders in ESD-** ESD as a movement for change is not exclusive to government (ministries of education) and to school leaders and teachers. Ideally, community participation is a necessary element in the mix of stakeholders designing and implementing education for sustainability within countries, and specifically, within communities. The responsibility for sustainable development should be a shared responsibility, because ultimately, the benefits are to be shared as well.

• **Developing competencies for ESD** -Aptitudes In-service and pre-service teachers need the training to capacitate them as effective implementers of ESD. In addition to reorienting the overall education system to raise young people into future-conscious individuals, teacher-education itself needs a reorientation of how their professional skills are developed.

### **SUGGESSTIONS**

- Involvement of social media is necessary to spread knowledge and awareness among a mass population. For this TV, Radio, Internet should be used wisely.
- Increase conducting school community partnership programs to spread awareness.
- Teacher should inculcate the habits of conservation of resources in themselves first; only then student will start following principles.
- Organise workshops and seminars fir parents and teachers to teach the way which we can conserve our resources.
- Involvement of Multi - Stakeholder in ESD as a movement for change.  
E.g. - Ministers, Schools, Teachers, parents, Students leaders.

## **CONCLUSION**

Education for sustainable development is not for the classroom alone, but is an interactive and result oriented form of Environmental Education. For it to succeed, it is necessary to educate those who are in command, so that SD becomes the paradigm for present and future development. ESD, by educating each and every section of society, can involve and coordinate everybody in the task of initiating and monitoring SD. We all together by joining our hands can bring sustainable development in our society.

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