

**ROLE OF EDUCATION IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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**Abstract**

Sustainable Development is concerned with meeting the needs of the present generation without overusing or abusing the natural resources as well as with the aim of allowing the next generation to use these resources. At the same time, sustainable development aims to strike a balance between meeting the needs of the present without neglecting the needs of future generations and acknowledging the needs of nature with the human goal of working towards the development of various aspects of the world. It also aims to use resources efficiently while meticulously planning to meet immediate as well as long-term goals for future generations.

The need for sustainable development in present times is not only for survival of mankind but also for future protection. Also education has great power and its use contributes not only to national development but also to sustainable development. Education is the key to development and is essential for social, economic, political or environmental development. For this, education is an important tool for achieving Sustainable Development (SD) as it promotes the development of knowledge and skills. It promotes economic welfare, social equity, democratic values and more.

Education is seen as a great strength and it not only contributes to national development but also to sustainable development. It promotes social, economic, political or environmental development. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) empowers people and teaches citizens how to conserve the Earth's limited resources. Education for Sustainable Development aims to empower the present and the future.

**Key words:** Education, Higher Education, Sustainable Development, ESD, DESD

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**Introduction:**

In present times, humans have made tremendous technological progress for further development and increased consumption of various resources and luxury goods. In such a situation, in the name of development and progress, the resources are being exploited indiscriminately, causing damage to the environment, and due to this, problems such as global warming, depletion of the ozone layer, environmental pollution, climate change, etc. to go therefore, in this era of development, sustainable development is the most important need of the present time. Education is an

important tool for this sustainable development.

"Education for sustainable development allows every human being to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary for a sustainable future. Education for sustainable development is the integration of key issues of sustainable development into teaching and learning; for example, climate change, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, poverty reduction doing and consuming sustainably. It equips students of all ages with the knowledge, skills, values and skills to address interconnected global challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss,

unsustainable use of resources and inequality. It equips students of all ages to make informed decisions and to transform society and care for the planet are empowered to take individual and collective action. Education for Sustainable Development consequently works to promote competencies such as critical thinking, envisioning future scenarios and collaborative decision-making.

#### Objectives:

- To study the concept of sustainable development.
- To discuss the meaning and importance of education in a sustainable context.
- To study the role of education in achieving sustainable development.
- To study the relationship between education, development and environment.

#### Research Methodology:

Secondary material has been used for the present study and in this a detailed study has been done by studying bibliography, research, magazines and internet.

#### Subject Description:

##### Sustainable Development:

Sustainable development is defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The term "sustainable development" became widely popular in the international scientific community after the publication of the famous report "Our Common Future" by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987.

The concept was first used in the 1980 World Conservation Plan. World Summit Currently the growing environmental problem has attracted the attention of many countries towards sustainable development. It was decided to hold the Vasundhara Summit every year to create awareness and discussion on this topic among all the nations of the world. Accordingly, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was formed in 1988. The committee

has given suggestions to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions. Recently, due to many reasons, the temperature of the world is continuously increasing. No single country can be held responsible for this. In this, the share of greenhouse gases (Green house gases) in increasing the temperature is increasing daily. Therefore, the United Nations has set 17 goals and 169 goals for sustainable development in 2015 to protect and balance the environment. These include eradicating poverty, ending hunger, providing food security, providing nutritious food, prioritizing sustainable agriculture, creating healthy lives and achieving the well-being of citizens, providing inclusive and quality education, gender equality and empowering women and girls, water and sanitation, providing low-cost, sustainable and modern energy sources, providing inclusive economic growth and productive employment, building infrastructure, inclusive and sustainable industrialization, eliminating disparities between different nations, making cities and settlements safe and Sustainable production and consumption patterns, measures to prevent climate change and its effects, conservation of oceans and oceans and sustainable use of related resources, sustainable use of ecosystems, sustainable management of forests, prevention of desertification, prevention of soil degradation, conservation of biodiversity, peaceful and promoting inclusive social systems, setting the course for sustainable development, building effective institutions at various levels to ensure justice for all, and providing implementation tools for global partnerships for sustainable development. Such objectives include: A focus of 2015 to 2030 has been set to achieve this goal.

- The World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) report clearly states, "The concept of sustainable development implies limits—not absolute limits but limits imposed by the biosphere's capacity to absorb the effects of

technology and social institutions and human activities on environmental resources. But technology and social Institutions can both be managed and reformed to pave the way for a new era of economic growth" (Ekins, (1993) : 91).

### **There are three main principles of sustainable development**

- **Economic Development:** Economic development is essential for sustainable development. Economic development gives people a better standard of living and helps them meet their needs.
- **Social Development:** Sustainable development also requires social development. Social development gives people equal opportunities and protects their rights.
- **Environmental protection:** Environmental protection is also essential for sustainable development. Environmental protection conserves natural resources and ensures environmental sustainability for future generations.

### **Education for Sustainable Development:**

Education is the process of developing personality and creativity. Individuals so that they can help promote a healthy society. Education is actually a process, which is influenced by individual ability, social environment, economic development, moral environment and most importantly cultural adaptation. Principles, methods and guidelines for education are expected to evolve. Use of knowledge that can benefit society. It is also expected to do. Knowledge and skills must be imparted to solve development problems.

Education is an essential tool that provides human beings with any possible knowledge and allows everyone to acquire the necessary knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to shape the future in a more sustainable way. The main objective here is to educate the younger generation by developing a sense of responsibility towards the environment. As youth are the heart of future sustainable development, it is all up

to them to achieve it. Education for sustainable development is capable of developing the mindset of the youth by inculcating the concept of living a sustainable lifestyle. This not only helps children to promote a sustainable lifestyle but also allows them to become more socially concerned about the environment. Education is an essential factor in achieving sustainability. Around the world, societies are beginning to recognize that current development trends are unsustainable and that public awareness through education and training is an important factor in moving our increasingly globalized society towards achieving sustainability. Education is recognized as the highest long-term return on investment of all development goals. For this, sustainable development education has been implemented as an important strategy.

A report on education for sustainable development was presented by the United Nations in 1998. In this, education for sustainable development is about the education needed to maintain and improve our quality of life and the quality of life of future generations. It enables people to develop the knowledge, values and skills to participate in decisions about the way we do things and the way we do things. Collectively, at the local and global levels, that will improve the quality of life now without harming the planet for the future. This was emphasized at the United Nations World Summit in Johannesburg in 2002, where restructuring current education systems was the key to sustainable development. was explained. Education for sustainable development (ESD) promotes the development of knowledge, skills, understanding, values and actions necessary to create a sustainable world, which ensures environmental protection and conservation, promotes social equity and promotes economic sustainability. The concept of ESD has largely evolved from environmental education, which seeks to develop knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and behaviors in

people to care for their environment. ESD aims to empower people to make decisions and take action to improve the quality of our lives without compromising the principle. It also aims to integrate the values inherent in sustainable development into all aspects and levels of education.

Also the world is facing various problems arising from human development activities such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, resource depletion and expansion of poverty. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) includes education and educational activities aimed at developing alternative values and transformative actions leading to problem solving and realizing a sustainable society by taking the initiative to accept these problems of modern society as our own and confronting the problems of our immediate environment so that A strategy is designed to secure abundant life for future generations of humans.

Developing knowledge about the environment is the goal of education for sustainable development and the process of developing environment through education. It seeks to develop knowledge, skills, values and behaviour. It plans to make people pay more attention to environmental protection and to empower people to make decisions and take action.

Courses in Education for Sustainable Development

Education for sustainable development involves key issues of sustainable development in teaching and learning. For example, climate change, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, poverty reduction and sustainable consumption. It also requires participatory teaching and learning methods that motivate and empower students to change their behavior and take action for sustainable development. Education for sustainable development consequently promotes competencies such as critical thinking, envisioning future scenarios and collaborative decision-making.

While pursuing education for sustainable development, the curriculum should have the following components:

- (1) Freedom, equality, justice, fraternity are democratic values.
- (2) Environmental education should be compulsory in courses from primary to higher education.
- (3) The curriculum should include the rights, duties and responsibilities of every citizen.

This teaching and learning approach incorporates an interdisciplinary and holistic approach to the curriculum, allowing for a whole-of-institution approach to policy making. Also share the values and principles that underpin sustainable development. At the same time, the goals of education for sustainable development are met by encouraging critical thinking, problem solving and action, instilling confidence to face the challenges of sustainable development, using different educational methods such as literature, art, drama and debate.

The following action programs should be taken for Education for Sustainable Development

- Seeking to garner widespread support and public support for education to support sustainable development.
- Community input into curriculum development for sustainable development by reflecting people's knowledge, skills, perspectives and priorities.
- Encouraging institutions responsible for education to formulate national education policies and necessary policies towards education for sustainable development.
- To create organizations and institutions, non-governmental organizations, private sector and media to help achieve the goals of partnership and establish networks between countries and ensure mutual compatibility.
- Formulate and implement plans for comprehensive resource allocation and education reform and investment priorities for education.
- The education system should be made capable of adapting to contemporary, continuous changes,

knowledge and technology. (Çakmak, (2008) : 39-40)

Education for Sustainable Development implements the following activities in the pedagogy:

- To develop a tendency to solve problems
- Getting information about the subject through group discussions, debates, storytelling

- To make students to do narration, project, dramatization

- Environmental film, interviewing

- Collaborative, cooperative learning method

In this way, by creating awareness of sustainable development by teachers implementing action programs in the study method should be given

### ACTION PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF PRIMARY LEVEL STUDENTS

Sr.No.	Class	Action Plan
1	1 <sup>st</sup>	Informs children of the surrounding area to give them hands-on experience. This includes giving information about water, land, trees etc. in a language that they can understand.
2	2 <sup>nd</sup>	To tell the importance of the surrounding area while giving information, and also to tell the importance of the environment by telling stories.
3	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Telling them about the importance of environmental drama and asking them to take care of the environment near their home
4	4 <sup>th</sup>	To implement action programs while informing about why environment is essential to human life. This includes planting trees, avoiding wastage of water in daily life etc.
5	5 <sup>th</sup>	Enlightenment through environmental films, dramas'

#### Conclusion:

At the beginning of the 21st century, the international community has become increasingly aware of the value of education for sustainable development. Quality education is considered important for sustainable development. Education is one of the most important factors in achieving rapid economic growth. This facilitates technological advancement and value-based social order, imparting freedom, social justice and equal opportunity education to citizens. Efforts to inculcate human life through education were formulated at international, national and local levels. Education plays an important role in changing our lifestyle and behaviour. Through the process of education, a person develops decision-making

capacity. Education for sustainable development (ESD) has been adopted by governments all over the world as a tool to equip students of all ages with the knowledge, skills, values and capabilities to address interrelated global challenges including climate change, biodiversity loss, unsustainable use of resources and inequality. Through this, each country is trying to convey the importance of sustainable development and its protection policy to the people along with inculcating the value of its preservation.

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**Cite This Article:**

**Mrs. Pradhan A.V. & Dr. Indalkar N.D. (2024).** *Role of Education in Sustainable Development. In Aarhat Multidisciplinary International Education Research Journal: Vol. XIII (Number I, pp.24–29). AMIERJ.* <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10911503>