Sustainable Development in Education with Global change – An Indian Perspective

Dr. Arumugam madakkannu, MBA- Head of the Department (HOD/Director), India

Introduction

Globalisation is taking place everywhere throughout the globe, which is increasing the gap between the rich and poor. Global sustainability will be the driving force changing the way we work and live in the 21st Century. Globalisation revolutions in information and communication Technology, environment and awareness on eco friendly systems are driving corporate and political leaders and citizens to address the future in different ways.

Companies, Government and non-Governmental organisations are looking to new concepts and innovative methods to operate. The environmental, social, cultural, Economic and technological, corporate social responsibility and corporate Governance all provide a systematic approach to begin to unravel just how we might work in the 21st Century.

What is Sustainable Development?

From the 1987 Brundtland commission, the most common definition of sustainable development is, “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. In 2003 Dr. Rolf Jucken further illuminated his idea, “Sustainability is achieved when all people on Earth can live well without compromising the quality of life of future generations.

The vision of sustainable human society resides in the simultaneous and synergistic creation of economic growth and equity, conservation of natural resources and the natural environment and social Justice. It is often visually represented as follows:

In an increasingly globalizing economic, developing countries like India for want of the necessary skills are often at a disadvantages in negotiating and operating multilateral bade agreements with industrialized countries. Regional co-operations like, SAARC for capacity building is therefore necessary to ensure their effective participation in all forms of multilateral trades and agreements.

This paper discusses, the impact of sustainable development in education with global change in India in the following perspectives and approaches towards attaining the same.

1. The role of Higher Education

There is enormous potential within India Higher Education.

- There are more than 350 universities.
- More than 50,000 collages offering Higher education.
- 25 Million students
- More than 6% of the countries GDP in spent for education.

Higher education can change the operational and curricular, co-curricular and many policy norms of a country. Especially where countries like India all students can be taught and practice to be environmentally, socially, economically responsible and act as active citizens in a global economy. The goal of engage students as effective change agents in all the challenges of sustainability students need to know that their daily decisions affect the quality of life of the people around the globe.

2. Poverty Education and Sustainable livelihood

It is estimated that around 25% of population in India are below poverty like. Poverty magnifies the problem of hunger and malnutrition.

History has led to vast inepathalities. Leaving almost three fourth of the world’s people below the poverty line. Poverty and a degraded environment are closely inter-related, especially where people depend for their livelihoods primarily on the natural resource base of their immediate environment. The survival needs of the poor force them to continue to degrade and already degraded environment. According to some estimates about 60% of the population is not integrated into the market economy. Ensuring the security of their livelihoods is an imperative for sustainable development.

3. Health and sustainable development

The strong relationship between health and the state of the environment in developing countries is becoming increasingly evident. Citizens of developing countries continue to be vulnerable to a double burden of diseases. Traditional diseases such as cholera, malaria caused b unsafe drinking water and lack of hygiene have not yet been controlled. In addition people are now falling as prey to a number of modern diseases like cancer, HIV (AIDS), Heart and stress related disorders.

Basic health and educational facilities in developing countries need to be strengthened. The role of public health services must give preventive health care as curative health care. People should be empowered through education and awareness to participate in managing preventive health care relating to environment sanitation and hygiene, Developing Countries should also strengthen their...
basic health services and to reduce environment – related health risks by sharing of health awareness and medical expertise globally.

4. Changing of unsustainable patterns of production and consumption

Several traditional practices are sustainable and environmental friendly in most of the developing countries. These need to be encouraged rather than replaced by more modern but unsustainable practices / technologies. Development of decisions regarding technology and infrastructure are a major determinant of consumption patterns. In several areas, desirable limits and standards for consumption need to be established and applied through proper mechanisms including education, incentives and legislation. It is therefore important to evaluate and make development decisions which structurally lead to a more sustainable society. with in creating purchase power of the people, wasteful consumption linked to market driven consumerism is stressing the resource base of developing countries further. It is therefore important to counter act through public awareness and education similarly all the pricing mechanisms must be evaluated from a sustainable development point a view.

5. Managing and protecting the natural resources for economic & social Development

To ensure the sustainability of the natural resource base, the recognition of the stakeholders in it and their roles in its protection and management in essential. The integration of agriculture with land and water management and with ecosystem conservation is essential for both the sustainability of environment and agricultural production. Water governance should protect ecosystems & Natural water bodies. As healthy eco systems provide better livelihoods, traditional approaches to natural resource management such as sacred ponds and groves water harvesting and educational management systems should be revived by creating proper institutional mechanisms.

6. Strengthening of governance for sustainable development at different levels

Effective management of resource, requires participation by all the stakeholders at the local, national and international at the local level, strengthening democratic institutions generally leads to better and more sustained management of natural resources. All members of society are the stakeholders of sustainable development. Women make up half of this group. Affirmative action to ensure representation and power to women in local governance and appropriate capacity building are necessary to make them effective and equal partners in the development process. Similarly children are a valuable asset of every society. Children should be made to realize their potential through governance at the local level. At the national level areas lacking policies should be identified and adequate policies compatible with the imperatives of sustainable development framed, taking into account successful examples, of policies and initiatives in similar areas. In the international level, efforts must be made, especially by developing countries to work towards synergizing experiences and raising shared regional concerns as a strong united front in international forms. currently there is a multiplicity of institutions with fragmented responsibilities. A better governance regime is required to ensure co-operation and compliance.

Means of implementation:

Finance:

The commitments made by industrialized countries at the earth summit at Rio, a decade ago remain correct largely Overseas assistance (ODA) in declining. This is a cause for concern which has been voiced by several developing countries. Industrialized countries must honor their ODA commitments. Developing countries must explore some new ways to finance their sustainable development such as, ecological taxations.

Trade:

WTO (World Trade Organization) should not to put trade barriers against developing countries. Imperatives of trade relating to environment, equity and social justice should be dealt with independently. Mechanisms to resolve issues between ‘TRIPS’ (Trade Related Intellectual Property Right and CBD Convention on Biological Diversity) to be set up.

Technology:

Developing countries need not follow conventional path instead they can use the ‘cutting edge’ or can put the modern technology in use, at reasonable cast through suitable mechanisms. Technology transfer, upgrading local technologies should be encouraged.

Science and Education:

Mainstream education must be realized to promote attitudes, awareness, knowledge and skills which will lead to sustainable development. Basic education must be made available to each and every child as a fundamental right without any discrimination. The empowerment of women and girls to be supported by access to higher education, training and development.

For science and technology refer capacity building should be made through collaboration between research institutions, scientists, private sector NGO’s state and central governments and also with all the stake holders to improve its application in various fields.

Population:

Population is not just counting the heads (numbers) but bothering about the health and quality of life of people especially women in particular. Key population issues should be discussed at various levels such as the central, state legislatures l local government bodies to achieve the long term objectives or a sustainable development of the country.

Concluding remarks:-

This paper at hand thus concludes that there is an urgent need for Indian higher education to advocate for sustainable development. The extant to which, the citizens of a country adopt and follow the principles of sustainable development may determine the Quality of life that all the human beings enjoy in the coming decades ahead. Time and again it is proved that the ecosystems are degrading we are exceeding the carrying capacity of the mother planet, ‘The earth’. As 25% of the world’s population consume 80% of the world’s resources, the earth simply cannot tolerate billion of people following the same path. Now as
responsible citizens, we can economically reduce human sufferings, environ by educating our students to ensure a future with a healthy environment, social justice and strong economies. Finally, we must demonstrate innovative paths to economic prosperity of the people of the our country without compromising our future.

References
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7. Campus climate challenge(www.Climatechallenge.org)
8. Campus ecology (WWW.nwf.org)
9. U.S. Fair Trade (WWW.transfair usa.org)

Annexure

Fig. 1
TABLE-1

![Graph showing percentage of population below poverty line](image)

TABLE-2

![Bar chart showing selected health indicators](image)