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Education for Sustainable Development: A thematic paper

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Introduction:

We have been living in dynamic world which were never existence before in the history of human life. We are passing through the great transition period of the human history. There is transition from a one level of civilization to end of another level of the civilization. A human has faced critical situation like immorality, corruption, various types of environmental problems and pollution, various types of violence etc at one side while other side there is vast development in human life through science and technology. There has been explosion of knowledge and technology for betterment of human life. Role of knowledge and technology becomes stronger but civility and humanity goes at lower level day today. Role of education is the most important in the terrible period but conventional knowledge based education, traditional teacher and teaching strategies can not change the situation. We need to think about education for sustainable development in the era.

The term 'Education for Sustainable development':

Sustainable Development, a term commonly defined as "economic and social development that meets the needs of the current generation without undermining the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". This almost universally quoted definition was produced in 1987 by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED).

Since the mid 1970s, sustainable development has emerged as the preferred way of dealing with the rapid degradation of the natural environment. The term, use in the paper 'Education for sustainable development' means continuous and comprehensive efforts to bring out excellence for betterment for human life and its environment. Education is the process from birth to end of human life doing formal and informal system. Sustain development consists continuous and comprehensive education for human life. The development of human depends upon social, cultural, economic and environmental through education. It is also interrelated. Education has become indispensable for the development of various spheres of society. Education means which society provides for the transmission or advancement of its culture, for without viable culture, there is no common life by which men are associated. A nation's political and educational systems are mutually reinforcing. Ben Morris holds the education is the fundament means by which man as a species is able to maintain and develop the achievements which differentiate him from of the animal kingdom. Plato viewed education as a positive means by which the ruler can shape human nature in the right direction to produce a harmonious state.

Essentials of ESD:

Mahatma Gandhi, the great leader of India wanted to play a predominant role in the social, cultural, political and economical life of the nation. According to Mahatma Gandhi, education should revive the economic and cultural life of India. A proper exercise and training of the bodily organs is a necessary for a true education of the intellect. By edu-

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cation Mahatma Gandhi meant an all around drawing out of the best in the child. In the Russia education ranked next in importance to defense and public health and was treated as overall programme of national growth.

In modern societies, education tends to become the master determinant of social mobility because it alone leads to higher occupational achievements. Education and economic development have had the effect of not only breaking down the traditional, social and cultural barriers which have kept racial groups apart but also throwing them together in a common labour market. Education effects wholly through what it does to increase abilities. Education earnings entirely through the ways it changes the people. It increases productive potential for every one. Urban education improves the educational opportunities of urban children related to rural ones. Formal education is part of the more general process of learning in a society where by manual or non – manual skills are developed, knowledge is built up and attitudes and expectations are created. The human skills and knowledge necessary for a modern economy are radically different from the traditional pattern. They can be developed only through formal education.

The educational system brings social classes together in a feeling of loyalty to the existing regime and in a sense of patriotism. Education is an essential aspect for the developmental process of any society.

Aims and Objectives of the ESD:

Sustainable development means achieving a quality of life that can be maintained for many generations.

Sustainable development aims to reverse these downward trends. There is a growing consensus that sustainable development means achieving a quality of life that can be maintained for many generations because it is:

1. Fulfilling human's physical, mental and emotional needs in equitable ways.
2. Fulfilling human's economic viability in equitable ways.
3. Fulfilling development of valuable personality and spiritual individuality in natural process.
4. Fulfilling natural, progressive and harmonious development of man's innate powers.
5. Fulfilling human resource development in equitable ways.
6. Fulfilling development of social and moral values through natural ways.
7. Fulfillment development of democratic life in equitable ways.
8. Fulfillment of international understanding and brotherhood in global perspective.
9. Fulfillment of human's cultural needs in equitable ways.
10. To develop environmental approach to learn natural events.

Importance of ESD:

Anthropologists say that a man is created by evolution process. A man is a social animal because he has developed brain to understand and act natural process. Knowledge and skills are used for his betterment of his life, so we live in age of science and technology. Knowledge is the truth which is accepted by intelligence. Skills are some habits of our daily working and behavior in our environment. A man made expert with the knowledge and skills. We gain knowledge and skills through education. We can produce experts who may not be an educated and good person. An expert has main field of his individual development and prosperity but he may not gain field of humanity and civility only through knowledge. There are knowledge based societies in emerging societies of the world but if they have not humanity and civility, many threats may be produced in our world. It is

most important to understand humanity and civility based knowledge in science and technology. We have to combine knowledge and wisdom with humanity and civility through education for sustainable development. Now it is not possible that we progress in one country or part of the country and the other countries or parts become poor because science teaches us that races of human are not separate but whole.

Structuring and placing in the curriculum of ESD:

There are five points comprise in principle of education in general practice of today. These points are: knowledge, skills, adjustment, social awareness and love and brotherhood.

Human skills in ESD: There are many types of skills which are distributed here in the five parts:

1.   Individual skills: Individual has some physical needs like food, sex, cleanness of body, shelter of body etc. These are basic skills for every human to start from his family, nature or pre primary school.

2.   Social skills: A man lives in the society and he has to develop himself for social activities. Some social skills like group work, leadership, political work etc. acquire in social environment in a school or his community.

3.   Classroom or subject skills: Some skills are direct related with school or formal education. There are reading or writing ability through language, logical thinking, observation skills etc.

4.   Professional skills: Every profession or occupation has some specific techniques to work with proper methods. These skills are developed though professional education from the institution or long experience.

5.   Moral and spiritual skills: These skills are related with religious, self realization or interaction of life. These skills are relative with affective domain of human behaviour. The acquiring of the skills is based on formal or informal education.

Adjustment:

Adjustment is a key factor to live human being on the earth. A man has some emotion which disturbance in his life. It is necessary to control over it. We should adjust with environment to face problem of life and nature. We can't live happy and suitable way without adjustment. A nature gives us intelligence to maintain adjustment with environment and with human beings. Education brings changes our thinking, behaviour, attitudes, actions, emotions etc. We understand how we adjust with our family, society and nature also.

Social awareness:

There is fast going life in modern age. We have no time to aware about our environmental threats and our social problems. There are poverty, population, terrariums, violence, starves, natural disaster etc. issues in the modern era. It is necessary to understand the problems and save our mankind. So this purpose, social awareness would be placed in the curriculum of ESD.

Love and Brotherhood:

Values of love and brotherhood would be placed in curriculum of education for sustainable development. It would be taught in global perspective. It is basic value for mankind to live in the world. Every religion existing on the world teaches us these fundamental values for our life. Our emerging educational curriculum is based on technological and industrial development, so we are not so much placed for love and brotherhood in the curriculum.

Lifetime Education:

A child should be achieved all the values and growth of the values should be continued through formal or informal education. A person should be related with the institutions which would work in field of ESD.

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We should be achieved goal of self realization and spiritual life.

Economic viability and Education:

Functions of productivity are depended on the science and technology in the modern world. People want to get service and profession through education. The people think that education should give for economic development only because it satisfies our basic needs. But only economic development is not important for human being. Every person should learn life skills and prepare him to earn for basic needs. Mahatma Gandhi gives us theory of basic education for the purpose of life skills.

Now it is accepted that production is growing through science and technology. But it is not true for all over world. There is imbalance in the world for the production. Development of agriculture is grown more through science and technology but it is not satisfactory that we want or it can be done through education. It can not be put effective way that all people could be gained from agriculture development. So it is necessary to prepare curriculum through new way for ESD.

Education given to our young boys and girls should provide then with the skills, knowledge and understanding needed for self employment. Education for self employment is a way eradicating poverty. Education and socio-economic status are closely related. Education of poverty is possible in the world of science and technology to increase self employment.

Role of Community and society:

Role of community plays important part in education for human being in various countries. Education depends on community needs and community develops through education, so they are interrelated. Physical and human resources are given by the community. One can not be applied his programme for education without participant of the community.

The role of social education is to be defined specifically and clearly. Social education aims at strengthening social harmony and solidarity among the people. Science and technology are changing the face of the world. Social education is one of the means by which the gap between the slow growth of rural areas and fast growth of urban areas could be bridged and transition made smooth.

Quality education:

Quality is most essential to education. Quality will now have to be measured in term of its capacity to create the new social order with the emphasis on equality, austerity, abolition of poverty, cooperation, self restrain, consideration for others and intensive pursuit of knowledge and excellence.

Education for peace:

In the preamble of the constitution of UNESCO it is stated "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed"

The education for peace is particularly based on conviction, objectiveness and the dialogue. Education for peace in school should be affected in four steps: (a) awareness of the issue of the world peace (b) exploration (c) proceeding and (d) syntheses.

Cultural effects on ESD:

Culture of the society effects on total social life and it tries to form society in its way. Education and culture related each other. Education expands culture in human life. It carries culture to one generation to other generation. It develops new cultural things for human begins and also improves unaccepted things of the culture for the society. Culture of the society is effected in the aims and objectives, curriculum, teaching methods, school, teacher and student etc. of education. So there should be placed cultural things of every society in related curriculum of ESD.

The culture of the any people is determined mostly by the environment in which

they are brought up. Living conditions, needs, interests, attitudes, vocations, socio-economic and socio-physical education onwards, the economic situations and the cultural background of people vary based on the physical environment in which the live and grow.

In a dynamic social system all individual citizens should be treated as equal and all of them should get equal opportunities for advancement. We require need based, life oriented environment education. While planning the education of the learner in harmony with his environment, the family and society, which offer the most vital social environment education can not be overlooked. Health education at school should be provided through the school curricular and co - curricular activities. Woman education, special education for exceptional and gifted children should be planned in ESD. There are new issues like development of Information technology, science and technology, policy of globalization and concept of human rights shaping modern world so we have to think education for sustainable development for our present and future generation.

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Content Analysis of the State Government Websites in India: an overview

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Abstract

Government websites have an important role for disseminating information to users. In the present situation government websites have prominent role into common man's life. With the emergence of internet and its latest development services, it has become more speedy, easy and also interactive with users within a limited time to know the information. The main objective of the paper is (a) to analyze the homepage features and contents, (b) to find out the graphics and multimedia features and (c) to analyze the web 2.0 features of the websites of state governments in India. Now government websites offer a lot of service for disseminating information. Therefore it is essential to make awareness among users about government websites.
Keywords: State Government Websites, Content Analysis, Web 2.0 Technologies