

**Perspectives of Education for  
Sustainable Development in 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Education plays an important role in the development of Society. Education has a significant importance to change the world and to make world a small family. Education should not address only issues related to present but also focus on future. To protect the world for the future generation education is focused in such a way that sustainable development may occur. This theme paper will throw light on Perspective of Education for Sustainable Development in 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

## **KEY WORDS**

### **Perspective**

A particular way of viewing things, depending on experiences and personality.

### **Sustainable Development**

Development that meet the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations, to meet their own needs.

It means that one of the aim of education is to fulfill and meet the needs of today and when we care for sustainable development it means that education does not address only the need of today but also protects the future.

To identify needs of today we can divide the needs in broad ways as under:

1. Social Needs include services, house hold needs, industrial and agriculture growth and efficient use of man power
2. Economical needs will include equity for all, participation of all empowerment to all and cultural and religion preservation.
3. Environmental needs will include bio diversity, natural resource, carrying capacity, eco system integrity, clean air and water.

To fulfill the needs and to protect the future we need to observe the present and think about the future. Considering it, what should be taught to the coming generation is important.

We need to include and make students realize about it.

### **- Global realities**

The student must understand the realities of future. The student should know what he and his coming generation will face in future. The curriculum should not show only the good side of future, but also focus on global realities.

- **Future Challenges**

Student should be aware of future challenges. If our past generation would have taken care of protecting the climate by saving the forests, it might have been possible that today's generation would not have faced the issue of climate change. Similarly this generation needs to develop in a way that they realize the future challenge of having no oil, less cultivatable land, fresh and clean air etc...

- **Importance of Citizenship**

The present generation should be aware that we have to create such atmosphere that what so ever person in any country would be considered very near and dear to him. He should understand the importance of every citizen all over the world.

- **Importance of Health**

Today's generation must develop in such a way that they may protect the health of this generation as well as the health of coming generations. The development should not have any impact which becomes hazardous for coming generations.

- **Diversity of culture and religion**

In this vast world, it is obvious that there will be diversity in culture and religion. The present generation needs to protect and respect this diversity of culture and religion.

- **Indigenous knowledge**

In the diversified society each and every small group will have their own culture. They will be having their own specific centralized knowledge. The generation needs to understand the indigenous knowledge and should protect it.

- **Understand the role of each and every individual of any gender**

There is always an important role to play for each and every individual no matter what so ever gender he / she belongs. One has to respect the role of the other. In this way one has to understand how his role is different from the other. How all of us can to gather make development in such a way that the future is protected.

- **Understand agriculture and climate change**

One of the important issues for today's generation is agriculture. The average rate of life has increased a lot. The future generation will require higher volume of food grains to sustain. This generation needs to understand the importance of agriculture. Our generation is facing big issue of global warming and climate change. It is the need of today that the present generation understands importance of climate change and develops in such a way that has no adverse effect on future.

To face such challenges of preparing the students we need to make students learn and see that they can learn themselves. This can be achieved by

- Experimental Learning
- Learning from history
- Making inquiry learning in practice
- Making students to visualize the future problem
- Making the students to understand the philosophy of different religions
- Making the students to value each other and each and every human on earth

To make the perspective education for sustainable development one of the method can be learning outside the class room.

### **OBJECTIVES OF LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM**

Learning outside the classroom can be teacher-centered and expository, or it can be more enquiry-based and student-centered.

A great range of objectives can be achieved through learning outside the classroom, including:

1. Social Needs
2. Economical Needs
3. Environmental Needs
4. Service to the society
5. Industrial growth
6. Agriculture growth
7. Importance of human power
8. Participation of all
9. Empowerment to all
10. Cultural and religion diversity
11. Bio diversity
12. Usage of natural resources
13. Understanding eco system integrity
14. Clean air and water requirement
15. The formation of attitudes and the development of an aesthetic awareness
16. The development of understanding and knowledge
17. The development of skills.

Although the teacher holds the ultimate responsibility for what happens in any lesson, the experience of learning outside the classroom can help students develop a greater sense of their own responsibilities towards each other and the tasks on which they are working.

When planning learning outside the classroom it is necessary to match the activities selected with the objectives and purposes of the fieldwork. The selection of objectives will depend to some extent upon the timing of the fieldwork within the sequence of learning activities:

### **APPROACHES TO LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM**

Two common approaches are (i) Field Teaching and (ii) Field Research.

#### **(i) Field Teaching**

This is the traditional approach to teaching and learning outside the classroom. It involves taking students to a field location and delivering a mini-lecture from which students are expected to take notes. Little opportunity exists for student input and reaction.

When done well, this approach can involve students in the careful observation and description of a scene or activity and in suggesting possible explanations based on previously acquired information.

This approach is useful if students are inexperienced in making their own observations or if they lack confidence in their ability to solve problems. This approach provides a structured way for them to find their own examples as an integral part of the learning experience.

#### **(ii) Field Research**

- Identification of a problem as the result of direct observations; or from class work; or from special interests of students.
- Formulation of an hypothesis as a result of reading, discussion, thinking.
- Field activities to collect data to test hypothesis.
- Discussing and writing up of possible ways to solve the originally identified problem using information gathered in the field.

This approach represents an inductive approach to learning. It involves observation, description and explanation with a problem solving focus. Students often use techniques similar to those used in historical enquiry, geographical research or scientific explanation.

This is the inductive approach to fieldwork.

Generally there are three stages to effective learning outside the classroom

- Preparation in class (pre-field stage);
- The fieldwork itself, (field stage); and
- Follow-up in class (post-field stage).

The key step in planning effective learning outside the classroom is identifying the tasks to be completed at these three stages of the learning process.

The teacher having a clear mind, about what to make student understand is an important aspect in this type of outside classroom teaching.

To create the environment of sustainable development with the help of education this can be one of the effective ways to achieve the goal.

## **CONCLUSION**

To make the student understand about sustainable development, the teacher has to play a vital role. Teacher needs to understand present and thinking of past he should focus on future. Teacher should be clear about the future generation. Teacher needs to make the student understand the role of sustainable development. Teacher needs to make the students understand the philosophy of Gita stating "*Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam*"

## **REFERENCE**

ESD, UNESCO

World Commission on Environment and Development's (the Brundtland Commission) report Our Common Future (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987).