



Review Article

## Role of Education for Sustainable Development in India

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Abstract	Manuscript Information
<p>In every field, sustainable development (SD) is an imperative necessity. Innovation and research in education for sustainable development are becoming vital components of the educational system. Education is a crucial component of SD that can help build a means of accomplishing its intended purpose. SD is not a brand-new idea in society. They've undergone extensive discussions in almost every academic setting about understanding the definition and idea of SD in a non-academic environment. The educational approach known as Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) places a strong emphasis on the development of the values, beliefs, skills, and understanding required to build a sustainable future. ESD aims to provide students with the independence to act and adopt thoughtful choices that will advance sustainability and address urgent global issues and constraints, including social inequity, biodiversity loss, and climate change. Elements related to sustainability are incorporated into ESD from a variety of backgrounds and educational stages, ranging from early childhood schooling to higher education and more. It seeks to assist lifelong learning, to develop critical thinking, creativity, innovation, and participation in society. The foundation of ESD is the knowledge that education may significantly influence how people behave both individually and collectively, as well as promote a sustainable society. Education for the Development of Sustainability offers people the chance to acquire the values, attitudes, skills, and information needed to create a sustainable future. In conclusion, this paper highlights the role and significance of education for sustainable development in practices related to education in India. Educational institutions have the opportunity to lead the way in promoting sustainability and equipping students for a sustainable future by tackling issues and suggesting ways to incorporate sustainable development into all disciplines of education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>ISSN No:</b> 2583-7397</li> <li>▪ <b>Received:</b> 03-10-2023</li> <li>▪ <b>Accepted:</b> 20-11-2023</li> <li>▪ <b>Published:</b> 23-11-2023</li> <li>▪ <b>IJCRM:</b>2(6);2023:27-32</li> <li>▪ <b>©2023, All rights reserved</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Plagiarism Checked:</b> Yes</li> <li>▪ <b>Peer Review Process:</b> Yes</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>How to Cite this Manuscript</b></p> <p>Amritpal Kaur. <b>Role of Education for Sustainable Development in India.</b> International Journal of Contemporary Research in Multidisciplinary. 2023; 2(6):27-32.</p>

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### 1. Introduction:

Literacy and education are fundamental markers of any culture and are important for the overall socioeconomic advancement of the nation. "Meeting the needs of today's society without compromising the capability of future generations to fulfill their own requirements" is the meaning of sustainable development, which was first established in 1987 by the Brundtland

Commission, which was formerly known as the World Commission on Environment and Development. Every person may establish a progressive future by obtaining the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values that education enables them to develop. Education may enhance women's status, slow down population growth, protect the environment, increase

productivity in agriculture, and raise living standards. While raising the level of basic literacy won't help create a sustainable society, primary education plays a big role in a country's growth and sustainability goals. The key objective of the paper is to illustrate the role of education in sustainable development. The goal of fulfilling today's requirements without compromising the capability of the next generation to adequately meet their own needs has been referred to as sustainable development, which has drawn a lot of attention worldwide in recent decades. This idea has gained more significance as the globe deals with historically unrecognized challenges like social injustice, environmental degradation, and climate change. According to the Sustainable Development Education Panel (1998), "ESD enables people to develop the knowledge, values, and skills to participate in decisions about the way we do things individually and collectively, both locally and globally, that will improve the quality of life now without damaging the planet for future generations." The goal of education for sustainable development, or ESD, is to provide people with the knowledge and skills necessary to make responsible decisions and take appropriate action for the social, economic, and environmental sustainability of their communities and the environment. This approach is comprehensive in nature, taking into account the interdependencies of economic, social, and environmental elements. The United Nations introduced the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, and nations from all over the world committed to endorse and take part in these global objectives. ESD efforts have multiplied at all societal levels during the past ten years. Curriculum approaches to innovation and the introduction of sustainability competencies have been constructed by educators and academics, and governments have introduced the topic in policy briefings (Lambrechts and Hindson, 2015). Teachers' ought to include the idea of ESD into their lessons. Training to think about and aspire towards a livable world—both now and in the future, for us and for others, both here on Earth and elsewhere.

## 2. Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to evaluate such difficulties in relation to a modern perspective by reflected light on the historical timeline of the Indian educational system, which has maintained basic education—which is considered to be vital for nation-building—at its foundation. To explore the role that education serves in sustainable development in India, the relationship between education and sustainable development as well as certain aspects of education towards sustainable development.

## 3. Significance of the Study

The sustainable growth of any economy has been significantly influenced by education. Education may support skilled labor, a sustainable lifestyle, and the struggle against poverty in the context of sustainable development. The key to enhancing education regarding the significance of sustainable development is resourcefulness and government initiative. A growing variety of academic disciplines have amended their educational programs to focus on sustainable development, not just those

given as sustainability courses, because it has emerged as a crucial concern in modern society. In order to build a more sustainable future for all people, education is crucial, as stated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (2020). In order to ensure that students recognize the interconnected nature of environmental, social, and economic systems, it is crucial to integrate sustainability throughout all curricular subjects. (Gamage, 2022) Education is required to provide learners with the information, abilities, and moral principles necessary to comprehend the problems the world faces and to respond to them responsibly. Despite all of this, there is still a lack of widespread adoption of sustainable development in educational methods. In higher education, sustainable development is rarely evident in practices or study materials, according to a study published in the *Journal of Cleaner Production*. Teaching professionals must thus be more proactive in integrating sustainable development throughout all subject areas.

## 4. Method and Materials

The information collected from secondary sources has formed the basis of the analytical process used to accomplish the objectives of the present investigation. Drawing from qualitative analysis, this research is primarily descriptive in nature. The secondary data have been obtained from previous research and through suggestions that have been published in reliable books and periodicals on 21st-century Indian education and sustainable development. This research is exclusively theoretical in nature. The documents that are available constitute the basis of the content analysis. In addition, the researcher gathered information from a number of sources, including books, primary census data, abstracts, journals, well-known authors' publications, academic websites, and research papers.

### Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

These are particularly those that address quality education that is inclusive and equitable as well as fosters opportunities for lifelong learning for every individual (UNDP, sustainable development/education). The following are some of the main areas of focus:

- **Equal access to technical, vocational and higher education:** By 2030, to ensure equitable access to high quality, reasonably priced education, including higher education, vocational, and technical education, is made accessible to all men and women.
- **Education for sustainable development and global citizenship:** by 2030, everyone must have received an education with the aim of obtaining the understanding and skills necessary for promoting sustainable development, which includes sustainable lifestyles, global rights for human beings, citizenship, gender equality, the advancement of a peaceful culture, peacemaking, appreciation of cultural variety, and the role that a culture plays in sustainable growth.
- **Training for teachers and educators:** by 2030, Through collaborative efforts among nations that provide teacher

training in emerging and impoverished countries, there should be a substantial increase in the number of qualified educators accessible worldwide.

A sustainable future can be achieved through education. In order to empower people to achieve sustainability, education for sustainable development eventually aims to raise awareness of the knowledge, values, attitudes, and skills that are necessary. Curriculum and instructional materials must be continuously reviewed and updated in accordance with current knowledge in order to provide high-quality higher education for sustainable development. The way it is implemented must address the issues facing society and create avenues for a sustainable future.

### Role of Education for Sustainable Development

We need to offer high-quality instruction at all educational levels that is focused on the principles and competencies of sustainability if we are moving education in the direction of sustainable development. For sustainable development, education can play a critical role that can be three main areas were noted (Source: Jaiswal and Gupta, referenced in Lee, 2008) More learning, task of conducting sustainable development research relies on organizations, particularly colleges together with the essential abilities and knowledge, as well as social norms. Education involving sustainability ought to be given to students with the objective to develop professionals in the field of sustainable development. Students in education should be more equipped with a deeper comprehension of many aspects of the problems and a sense of fulfilment from improving the social and environmental context. Instead, then just using text books, students should engage in real-world activities where they deal with actual people and circumstances, guaranteeing relevance encounters with education. Every child should be able to share their construct and improve leadership skills, problem-solving in groups, cooperative learning, and the ability to make decisions and work as a team on social and environmental challenges.

However, the main objective of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is to raise students' awareness of the necessity of changing the structure in order to attain sustainability and to provide them with a thorough understanding of the subject. Now, A distinctive curriculum with dedicated time and space to address the Sustainability. Since this kind of cultural heritage, peace and human rights may be integrated into the particular programme on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), development is both reasonable and recommended. Basic education course is crucial in raising awareness of the need to protect the planet's finite resources and the lives of its ethnic groups (Sarabhai, 2006). Courses of education pertaining to the environment, development, and Based on this viewpoint and perspective, the current state of higher education should be examined and seriously questioned to determine the extent to which our universities are accountable for and addressing the Goals of Sustainable Development and Innovative Approaches to Higher Education in to fulfil the requirements of sustainable development (Jaiswal, Yadav, & Gupta, 2010).

### The relationship between education and sustainability

A future that is sustainable is dependent on the level and quality of education that supports sustainable development. Education and sustainability are closely related concepts. With its ability to increase awareness, encourage responsible and analytical behavior, and develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, education is essential to building a more sustainable world. Here are a few connections between sustainability and education:

- **Education encourages sustainability literacy:** Through education, students can acquire the information, abilities, and mindsets needed to comprehend how social, economic, and environmental systems are interrelated. People can better grasp the intricate the difficulties that our planet faces and gives them the resources to deal with these difficulties Sustainable.
- **Sustainable behavior is encouraged by education:** Education has the power to mould the views and beliefs of individuals, which in turn affects how they live. It enables people to take decisions that promote sustainability by assisting them in understanding how their actions influence the environment, society, and economy.
- **Education promotes sustainable development:** Sustainable development involves a multifaceted strategy, and education is crucial to developing a labour force capable of finding sustainable solutions to challenging issues. Sustainable development requires people to have knowledge and abilities in fields like sustainable agriculture, green technology, and renewable energy. These can be acquired through education.
- **Education fosters environmental stewardship:** Education may foster environmental stewardship through teaching responsible resource use, raising knowledge of environmental challenges, and encouraging conservation efforts. People can be empowered to take charge of preserving the environment and building a more sustainable future through education.

To put it briefly, education plays a crucial role in attaining sustainability by encouraging responsibility for the environment, sustainable behavior, sustainability literacy, and sustainable development.

### National Education Policy 2020 and Sustainable Development in Education

India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 acknowledges the necessity of integrating sustainability principles into education at all levels and highlights the significance of schooling for sustainable development. The NEP contains many provisions to support sustainable development within education and recognizes it as an essential priority area for education.

NEP 2020 encourages sustainable development in education in the following ways:

- **Integration of environmental education:** The NEP puts a strong emphasis on the importance of integrating environmental education into all educational

programmes, from primary to higher education level. This entails bringing environmental challenges to light, encouraging sustainable behaviour and cultivating the abilities required for sustainable development.

- **Training teachers regarding sustainability:** The NEP acknowledges that educators play a vital role in encouraging sustainable development in education and highlights the necessity should integrate sustainability into courses for aspiring teachers.
- **Supporting experiential learning:** The NEP encourages learning through hands-on experiences, which incorporates experiential learning in a real-world setting to build attitudes and skills essential for the growth of sustainability.
- **Emphasis on Technical Education:** The NEP promotes technical education and skill programmes for development that are appropriate for the local environment and support sustainable incomes.
- **Technology usage for sustainability:** The NEP supports the use of technology in education to raise awareness and encourage sustainable behavior. It acknowledges the potential of technology to support sustainable development. India's National Education Policy 2020 acknowledges the significance of contains provisions to support environmental conservation and education for sustainable development. Instruction, hands-on learning, career education, teacher preparation, and the application of sustainability through technology. By incorporating sustainable practices into all tiers of the NEP seeks to provide a more inclusive and sustainable educational system that gives students the abilities, information, and mindset required for sustaining evolution.

### Challenges to Education for Sustainable in India

The attainment of sustainable development objectives is hampered by a number of obstacles to sustainable development education in India. These are a few of the main obstacles:

- **Lack of information:** People are not well-informed about sustainable development and its values among the broader public, which includes instructors, parents, and students. That makes it challenging to advance sustainable development education.
- **Inadequate infrastructure:** A large number of Indian schools and other educational establishments lack the tools and resources need to effectively educate sustainable development. That consists of subpar labs, libraries, and teaching spaces.
- **Inadequate funding:** A substantial amount of money is needed for sustainable development education to create and carry out initiatives, yet India's education system lacks sufficient funding. This makes implementing programmes for sustainable development in education difficult.
- **Lack of adequate instruction for teachers:** Teachers are essential in advancing sustainable education has advanced,

but many educators lack the knowledge and abilities needed to effectively teach about sustainable development.

- **Socioeconomic Disparities:** India has considerable socioeconomic differences can obstruct the availability of education for sustainable development. It is challenging to receive high-quality education and resources in many underprivileged places encourage the sustained growth of these sectors.
- **Emphasis on traditional education:** A major component of India's educational system is conventional disciplines, such science, math, and language, with minimal focus on sustainable growth. Because of this, integrating sustainable development is difficult concepts into the educational programme.
- **Resistance to change:** People who are used to established educational institutions and are wary of novel ideas, such as legislators, teachers, and parents, are among the stakeholders who are resistant to change.

In conclusion, a lack of knowledge, poor infrastructure, a lack of financing, inadequate teacher preparation, socioeconomic gaps, a concentration on conventional education, and opposition to change are the main obstacles to education for sustainable development in India. To break through these obstacles and build a more sustainable future, a multifaceted strategy including public awareness campaigns, reforming education, community involvement, and government support is needed.

### Some recommendations for conquering challenges and successfully implementing education for sustainable development (ESD) in India

Here are some recommendations for overcoming the obstacles and ensuring that Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) be implemented in India effectively:

- **Strengthen public awareness:** Public awareness initiatives can aid in bringing attention to the concepts of sustainable development and generate a need for education for sustainable growth.
- **Promote teacher training programmes:** Teachers are essential in advancing sustainable progress in education, thus it's critical to give them the instruction they require and abilities to successfully instruct sustainable development.
- **Provide enough funding:** Sustainable development education needs a large funds to create and carry out programmes, hence it's critical to allot enough funding for educational projects promoting sustainable development.
- **Incorporate sustainable development education within the curriculum:** Every field of study and levels of education should include sustainable development principles into their curricula, with an emphasis on project-based and hands-on learning.
- **Support the infrastructure:** Enough facilities, such as classrooms, libraries and laboratories to assist education for sustainable development, should be available.

- **Promote stakeholder involvement:** To guarantee widespread support and successful implementation, policymakers, educators, parents, and community members should be involved in the creation and execution of sustainable development programmes in education.
- **Encourage partnerships:** Collaborations between public and commercial sectors can help to pool resources and knowledge to enhance sustainable education.
- **Encouraging community participation:** The effective execution of ESD programmes depends on community involvement and engagement. Involving parents, neighborhood leaders, and other interested parties in the development and execution of ESD programmes is part of this.
- **Concentrating on underprivileged communities:** To guarantee that they have access to high-quality education and ESD resources, underprivileged communities—including rural and marginalized communities should receive extra attention.
- **Promoting research:** In order to discover successful methods and models for implementation, research and development should be promoted in order to investigate novel ways to education for sustainable development.

#### **The emergence of education in sustainable development (ESD):**

In order to create sustainable development plans and environmental policies, education for sustainable development, or ESD, is currently crucial. At numerous international conferences on environmental issues, the 1970s are being integrated such as the 1972 Stockholm Man and Environment conference and the UNESCOUNEP Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and the 1997 conference on environmental education held in Tbilisi the year 1992. Agenda 21's Chapter 36 emphasizes the critical role that education plays in advancing. In addition to sustainable development, skill development for individuals with concerns with developmental and Environmental issues. The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (UN, 2002), which was announced at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, suggested and supported the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) (2005–2014). Several governments, from both the North and the South, have called for the inclusion of ESD along with SD-related, referred to as "adjectival" education in formal and non-formal education. These involve citizenship, environmental, health, medical care, development, and education about climate change and harmony.

#### **5. Discussion**

Education faces numerous obstacles, such as inadequate finance, a lack of professional vision, resistance from stakeholders, and the pandemic's effects. Furthermore, the methods and subject matter of higher education frequently fail to include sustainable development. In order to tackle this, a multidisciplinary strategy is required to guarantee that sustainable practices are incorporated into all academic disciplines. One way to help achieve this is for higher education institutions to prioritize

sustainable development practices in their policies, procedures, and curricula. Achieving higher education goals, tackling global sustainability issues, and encouraging critical thinking are all possible with the integration of sustainable development into higher education. Moreover, the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into pedagogical approaches might function as a mechanism for fostering critical thinking and tackling intricate matters associated with sustainability. To guarantee that students are prepared to take on sustainability difficulties in their future employment, it is imperative that educational agendas be in line with theoretical and practical advancements in sustainable development practices.

All things considered, legislators, educators, and other stakeholders must work together to address these issues and integrate sustainable development into higher education practices. When it involves putting sustainable development principles into practice, educational institutions are essential. Sustainable development is greatly aided by education, and the higher education sector bears a particular obligation to advance sustainability. Higher education institutions need to lead the way in promoting sustainable development practices in order to effectively address the sustainability crisis. Universities are essential in ensuring that we have the information, expertise, and technology needed to address sustainability concerns, according to the Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability. In all subject areas, educational institutions must give top priority to sustainable practises in their policies, procedures, and curricula. They can contribute to the accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals and successfully train students to handle challenging sustainability issues by doing this. To achieve the objectives of sustainable development, research and innovation are equally vital. Universities and research institutes can play a role in providing youth with the education and awareness they need on issues pertaining to sustainable development. In order to raise students' awareness, Educational Institutes (EIs) are very crucial and the local population to change how they behave in society through study, instruction, and the creation and facilitation of ideas. As an adherent to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, India is obligated to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under its Vision 2030 plan, which includes the North Eastern States. NITI Aayog maintains the SDG India Index. Several states in the Northeast were ranked first. The states and NITI Aayog will collaborate in the upcoming days to bolster their commitment to the SDGs. Numerous Indian states have already made significant progress in integrating its developmental planning and vision documents use the agenda 2030 framework. In order to guarantee the successful use of education for sustainable development surroundings that support sustainable living and learning.

#### **6. Conclusion**

In conclusion, education for sustainable development (ESD) is very essential to building a sustainable future for India. ESD is important, and the National Education Policy 2020 has included provisions for integrating it into the educational system. Nevertheless, there are still a number of obstacles preventing

ESD from being promoted in India, such as insufficient awareness, infrastructure, inadequate financing, inadequate preparation for teachers, differences in socioeconomic status, an emphasize the importance of traditional schooling and the opposition to change. To get past these obstacles and encourage the successful application of ESD, a multifaceted strategy is required incorporating public funding, community involvement, school reform and raising awareness initiatives. Collaboration and involvement from all stakeholders, including the government, educators, parents, and the general public, are necessary to promote ESD in India. India can build a sustainable, just and egalitarian future by advancing ESD. Thus, at the end, we can say that education for sustainable development for a nation has the potential to foster a more socially and environmentally conscientious, a community that is more prepared to face the problems of the future. Thus, it is imperative that to guarantee a sustainable and successful future for everyone, the school system should give priority to education for sustainable development.

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