

Education for Sustainable development: Environmental Education

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ABSTRACT

While environment education is a compulsory subject in schools, Children are just mugging another subject — environment studies. For example the prescribed curriculum won't help a student in getting a mound of rubbish outside a house or school cleared. Students are being taught mere facts and figures. We have to make our children to realise that they are part of the problem, and therefore they have to be part of the solution Awareness about the following issues are needed:-

- Unique definition for sustainable development.
- Environmental sustainability.
- Difference between sustainable development and environmental sustainability.

Keywords:-sustainable development, environmental education, environmental sustainability etc.

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development: - “Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs.”

Role of education for sustainable development: An indicator is needed for comparing the relative progress made by different countries towards sustainable development at a given time or for measuring progress made by a given country or region over time. Operational definition must be based on the reduction in consumption of goods and services by the affluent within and between nations. The production and consumption must be curbed to achieve even a modest degree of sustainable development and determined efforts must be made to reduce consumption through formal education.

Role of science and technology in delivering environmental sustainability: sustainable development and global environmental sustainability achieved not only with the application of science and technology alone. Example: USA. Progress towards sustainable development is Dependent up on a fundamental change in society attitude etonature and the environment to bring about this change of attitude is education in moral and ethical philosophy. In the young minds it is essential to reinforce the environment-respecting moral values.

Need for environmental education: - All major natural resources in the country are in grave danger of irreparable damage. A society cannot survive if its natural resources are rendered unfit for use by its people. The only hope of salvaging this grave situation is by making the young aware that they need to proactively begin to protect the environment they will inherit. Science and Technology can help in a limited way but cannot deliver it. The moral and ethical education are for changing people's attitude. To protect children living in polluted regions, environmental education represents a relevant means of prevention. It is need for the hour to propose the environmental education with the essential elements of moral philosophy and for conceptual change.

Essential components of the environ mental education for sustainable development

- Alerting the public to the need to achieve global sustainable development and the likely consequences of failing to do so.
- Focusing the educational curricula for global sustainable development by incorporating know – how and skills and also the moral imperatives.

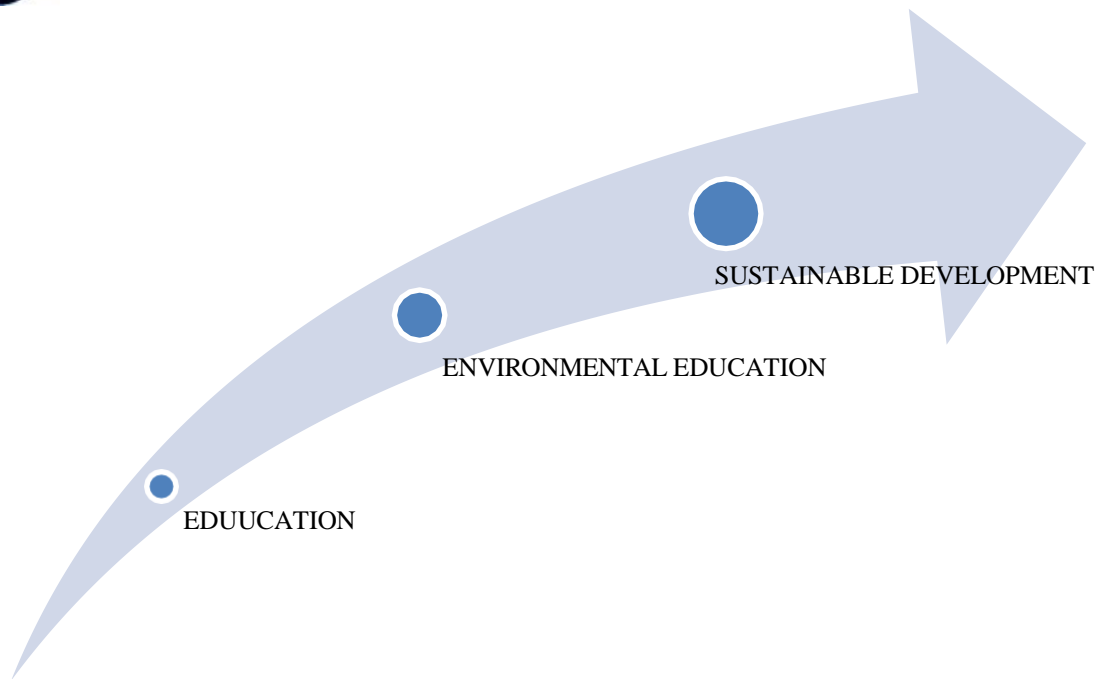


Fig.1: Flow chart to show sustainable development by education.

Development in curriculum for sustainable development

Reasons:-As future planners, designers, builders and decision makers, students shoulder special responsibility in protecting the integrity of nature and then atural environment. Human beings are rational creatures who have an innate need to rationalize all their actions and thoughts. Moral philosophy provides this rationale and by doing so gives us our humanity. Albert Einstein’s statement “Science without philosophy is just mechanics.”

Criteria: - the focus must be on reducing consumption with a view to achieving sustainability. The content should be holistic, covering all essential aspects. The content should comprise two strategic elements:

- The end-of-pipe element based on science and technology to deal with pollution already produced.
- The before the pipe element concerned with pollution prevention and reduction.

CONCLUSION

Effective policy must be implemented to curb consumption by the affluent. We need moral education to instill genuinely environment respecting moral values in the young student society. Conventional educational methodology is no longer adequate for the real needs of tomorrow. Though there are definitional and implementation flaws, environment NGOs and activists need to be given credit and accolades for creating a nation-wide awareness of the crisis of environment deterioration. Future student generation must acquire knowledge and skills in technologies and keep pace with rapid advances in practically in all areas. The communication perspective opens the door to another kind of tools that environmental educators can use in order to improve the educational practice. Minds on experience are also needed with Hands on experience. The resource base is not inexhaustible. Sustainable development is economic development. Without environmental sustainability it is impossible to achieve sustainable development.

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