

The Case For Education For Sustainable Development: A Matter Of Urgency

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Abstract

Being human being we always attempt to achieve the quality in our lives. For this we opt the path of development. While maintaining the quality of life we try to remove the problems which are barriers to achieving this. In the process of removal of one problem the other problems have created due to the opting mean as development. So, we should opt the path of development as mean to achieve the quality of life but this path or mean should be sustainable only then the created problems can be minimized. No doubt we have achieved much more through developmental process, but we have also lost our resources (generally) too. Not only our consumer behavior is much more responsible for such type of accident but also the technology and institutions have encouraged us. The problem has become so intractable that now the path of development adopted does not seem appropriate. The alarm bell has rung. Now this is time of urgency to opt the path of sustainable development. UN has established 17 development goals (SDGs) and has asked and encouraging the countries to achieve these goals through policy making. Also, UN has recognized the Education as a powerful mean through which the countries can achieve these sustainable development goals (SDGs). Chapter 36 of Agenda 21 (adopted by UN in Rio Summit, 1992) describes how education can contribute for sustainable development. Later the concept of ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) was emerged and UN directed to UNESCO to take responsibility for implementing the concept of ESD for the betterment of Quality of Life.

Keywords: Quality of life, development, sustainable development, education for sustainable development.

Research Paper

What may be urgent for we human being? Perhaps the removal of great problems which we are facing day to day life, and which is affecting our quality of life. Now the day the side effects of developmental process, which we have opted for the progress and sometimes as we assume for human well-being, are creating the great problems, who is responsible for these great problems? No doubt the human being and their models of development. As the famous poet of Hindi Shree Ramdhari Singh Dinkar has quoted-

"Raat yon kahnelagamujhsegagankachaand,
Aadmibhikyaanokhajevehotahai!
Uljhanenapnibanakaraap hi fansta,
Aurphirbechain ho jagta, nasotahai."

Of course, we are responsible for creation of problems. It's nature of we human being to. We should try to find out the sustainable solutions because of only sustainable solution stable and lifelong and can sustain our quality of life for lifelong. It was a time when human being was struggling to maintain their quality of life. I always try to do new innovations and inventions to resolve the problems of our daily lives. The history is witness how we invent the fire. Although it was accidental, but it was true.

event in the life of human being because it enlarges the choices (the matter of taste) of human being and the event which enlarges the choices is recognized as 'Development'. That this development 'saves our lives but totally changed our lifestyle. We started to eat cooked food and thus our digestive systems adopt the situation day by day. Today can't imagine eating the raw pieces of meat? And if we try to do so will be categorized as uncultured. Of course, development makes us civilized. And sometimes we pay for the solution of problems but these solutions create other problems. So, what we civilized? Remember, if there are any other species on earth that uses the cooked food? I assume how many fuels we human being consume per day to cook our food? And from where thus fuel comes from? As I know we generally utilize 'fire' (not energy) to cook our food. As I think 'energy' is 'natural' and 'fire' is 'artificial' ('unnatural'). So, when we live 'energy' our innovation was natural and when we invent 'fire' our innovation "natural". In Vedas fire is remembered always as a 'destructive thing' but 'energy' is always constructive. So, we should always try to invent 'natural' things ('development') and such type of invention ('development') is really the 'true development' (sustainable development). So, I think invention of 'fire' was an 'accident' and invention of energy was an incident. Maybe your perspective differs. Perhaps, but this perspective matters. We always encourage 'development' (invention) as it fulfills the needs of human being. The famous quote is "Necessity is the mother of invention". This 'necessity' has different meanings, and we define it according to our 'perspectives'. Invention of mobile phones was a great incident as it fulfilled our needs to talk about anyone, anytime but it created great disturbances in the life of human being. Encourages unnecessary talk and invention of 3G, 4G, 5G networks and changing features of mobile phones? If we really needed such type of features, then mobile companies launched it or first they launched it and then it's become our need? Second one seems much more appropriate. Now my 'perspective' is-"Invention is the mother of necessity". If not so that's your 'perspective'. The invention of 3G, 4G, 5G networks turn mobile phones into junk in minutes and side effects of radiation of such types of 'developments' (needs)?

This 'perspective' matters more when our policy makers and leaders opt this. Generally, we follow our leaders. Our leaders have been continuously creating new definitions of 'development' according to their politics. Our leaders always talk about "development", and it always exists in their election agendas. Mobile companies and leaders always work upon our 'perspectives' (human being psychology). All developments (sustainable / unsustainable) looking around us are the creation of our 'perspectives' (psychology-needs). Actually our 'needs' depends on our 'perspectives' or 'psychology or mentality'. Accordingly, inventions or innovations occur. Mobile companies, our leaders and others exploit this mentality of ours. If we critically analyze the above-mentioned things, we will find basically three factors for such type of (un) sustainable development: Behaviour, Technology, and Institutions (Ossewaarde, 2018). In our daily life we utilize resources according to our choices and these choices are mostly motivated by our comfort, convenience, and status.

Please try to analyze the above equation (relationship). We define our needs according to our comfort, convenience, and status. These may be natural or unnatural. So, inventions occur to soothe us, to provide us convenience and to uplift our status. While doing journey in Shatabdi Express the waiter distributes refreshments in packets (in raw form). For making a single cup of tea at least we left three packets of wastage—one for tea, one for milk and one for sugar. Now do the need analysis—From waiter 'perspectives'—Comfort - things in packets are long lasting (in preserve form) and not stress for spoiling. People behave mostly according to their comfort, convenience, and status. Market is ready to fulfil these with its technology and institutions support it. In Shatabdi Express customer (traveler) reflects such type of behaviour, caterer (market) fulfills their needs (such type) and institution (railway-

government) support it. So, for sustainable development we need to redefine (refine) our needs (these should be natural near to nature) and concept of 'development' (such type of development does not degrade the nature and ultimately society). Do think you will be surprised a single compartment of Shatabdi Express generates a big sackful of wastage in its single journey. Are we able to realize the heavy price we are paying for this one cup of tea from ShatabdiExpress? We people can realize it and I think there is no need for referencing This comes from the experiences - known as experiential learning

There is no need to paint a terrible picture here as to what kind of development we need now. This time here we need only such type of development through which we can fulfil our needs. We should opt the sustainable path of development as it's a matter of urgency How it can occur the Brundtland Commission (World Commission on Environment and Development) in the report Our Common Future highlighted- development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the possibilities of future generations to meet their needs."

Here the needs of present generations are dependent upon the needs of future generations. Needs of present generations are defined by the needs of future generations. To fulfil our needs, we generally utilize the resources (mostly natural resources) which may be renewable or non-renewable. Now the challenge is while fulfilling our need we should aware that these resources will be available for the future generations as same as available for us ie in quantity and quality the both Brundtland Commission defines our needs as essential need the needs which a poor person of the world have Now 'a cup of tea of Shat Now we would like to focus on the scenario of the effects of present development Express is really an essential need? path. This will realize us the case for sustainable development as a matter of urgency We live on a single planet (have no option to quit if we have created a great problem for ourselves) that we called earth. The earth fulfils all our needs through her resources (natural) and thus provide us a chance also for our development Actually, in a real sense we always try do "development for enhance our quality of life (QoL) Our planet provides us clothing shelter (roti, kapda, aumakan) and general well-being Look now we search for us food better or variety in food quality or variety in clothing and the same for shelter So, we try to do inventions and innovations and thus a developmental process starts Assume if we accept the foods, cloths, and shelter etc. as it is as our nature (planet) provides it to us, we think to problems may be for living. So, we think problems starts when 'development' starts. So, we should opt only that type of development which create 'no problems' (that may be development a development near to nature) and such type of development is recognized naturally

"Sustainable Development In the past half century, we can see enormous social and economic changes, which have made great impact on the natural world (environment) of our planet In the next half century, we will be witness much more of it. This will be the age of megacities having much more problems of living in it. Our behavior sometimes depends on our living conditions When we are surviving (struggling) for our living conditions, how we can think about our country welfare of human being welfare? Sometimes we struggle for only our living, and we never think about our future generation (bhokhebhajannahohinGopala) to whom we love so much (son or daughter etc). On our earth over 1.6 billion people do not have access to the modern energy services like that over 26 billion people do not have access to improved sanitation facilities and 11 billion people have no proper access to safe drinking water Actually, we have polluted the air and water resources in our developmental process or due to our lifestyles. Now climate change has become a great problem and resulting as drought and flooding Several countries are suffering from environmental damage (UNEP, 2011).

It has seen that in the last half century, there has been more global change than in any other phase to human history. The result is that about 60% of the ecosystems services have been degraded After 1950 more land was converted to cropland for cultivation from forests, pastures, or other land. Such amount of land was not converted between 1700 to 1850. This shows the rapid change Forest land converted into cropland was a great loss to natural wealth (eco wealth) and it directly affected to the lives of poor people, basically the lives of tribals It also affected to the cycle of monsoon. It invites the drought and floods. Due to the interference of human being species (plant and animal) die out 1,000 times faster than the natural speed The biodiversity of Sundarbans is under threat. This alarm bell can be felt (UNESCO, 1997)

Now the days the whole world is facing the major global trends (problems) have emerged the major issues. We are facing the problem of population growth. This is emerging the issue of hunger (food), safe water and sanitation, quality education etc.

Realizing the urgency to resolve the above-mentioned issues the UN adopted new pattern of development (sustainable development) and fixed the 17 developmental goals (SDGs) (UN, 2015). Now these goals are guidelines for countries for their development. Now they should consider these goals while making or drafting the developmental policies for their country Actually, these goals provide insights to the countries drafting their developmental policies or agendas. These goals have different targets to which most of the countries have to achieve till 2030 in a planned manner But to achieve these goals is not so easy. For this we need to identify the roots of unsustainable development Structural approaches are needed to change the behaviour, institutions, and technology as part of overall transition to Sustainable Development We should not only try to control the population growth (the strong factor for unsustainable development) but should opt such type of policy where we can utilize the population as resource We must change our consumerism behaviour and also should avoid overconsumption. We need to opt strong policies for resource conservation, we should opt only appropriate technology that is ecofriendly. There is a need for enabling and motivating people to act. We should move from global concern to local action But how we can motivate to people

Through education we can do it. Now there is a great need to reorient the education for sustainable development So, the institutions should have to opt the concept of ESD ESD basically focuses on four thrust areas - Improving Basic Education, Reorienting Education for SD, Creating Awareness for SD and Organizing Training Programmes regarding SD Basic Education generally creates habit formation and awareness about quality life. It can change our 'perspectives which we needed for sustainable development. Education modifies our behaviour So, a reoriented SD curriculum can modify our behaviour for this we need trainings. So, finally an education system should have to opt the ESD So, there is an urgent need for this

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