

TEACHER EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - INDIAN SCENARIO

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Abstract: Human being is a social creature who needs complete social system to survive. There is a balance between nature and man by which every system of nature is maintained. If human being makes disturbance in this cyclic process then it effects on whole nature including man therefore the development should be sustainable so that future generation can survive easily. Sustainable means long lasting or long term process. Sustainable development is ultimate goal of future oriented society. Education plays a crucial role in the accomplishment of this goal. Education and sustainable development are interrelated with each other as they both deals with well managed livelihood, equity and equality in society, constant economical growth and many more issues related with social up gradation. As it is well known fact that teacher is a torch-bearer of the society. He guides people to follow rules and regulations of the society and helps in the preparation of responsible citizens so if a teacher educator sows the seeds of sustainable development among his/ her students then its roots will be deeply penetrate in the society. The present paper discusses the importance of teacher education in achieving the goal of Sustainable development. It also highlights that education for sustainable development is essential for students to achieve the goals of Sustainable development.

Key Words: Education, Teacher Education, Sustainable development, Education for sustainable development.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Education is a significant factor in progress and status of any nation. Human life cannot be completed without education. Even in the constitution of India, education is considered as a subject of union and state both therefore the quality of education is common responsibility of state as well as union government. Teacher acts as a pivot in education system. If a teacher is aware about his duties and responsibilities then he can transfer all these characters in future generations also. A well educated and well trained teacher can afford this responsibility easily. Teacher education is based on the theory that, “Teachers are made, not born” in contrary to assumption, “Teachers are born, not made.” Since teaching is considered as art and a science knowledge but also skills that are called “tricks of the trade.” Teacher serves education which is an effective instrument of man making. Education is the backbone of society. It is the only way to make advancements in areas including technology, business, economics, peace, social justice, and human rights. All of these require humans to be educated.

In present, Sustainable development is not a new concept. The concept of sustainable development states that use of resources should be balanced so that we can fulfill our present needs and can preserve them for future also. According to Brundtland (1987), the Norwegian Prime Minister and former Director of World Health Organization, Sustainable Development is “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. Sustainable means that something is viable and can be continued in the long term, in ways that do not harm people but benefit them equally. Development refers to the way in which the interaction between environment, economy and society progresses and changes. Sustainable development is about ensuring a better quality of life for everyone now and for the generations to come.

2. OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the study can be stated out as-

- To explore some theoretical concepts of teacher education towards Sustainable development.
- To suggest some possible recommendations to inculcate the approach of Sustainable development so that the goal of Sustainable development can be accomplished effectively.

3. IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION:

The need of education for present society can be understood by following points -

3.1 Propagation of knowledge :

Education is a medium for exchange of views and knowledge which is very essential for any progressive nation. Knowledgeable people make a good interactive, advanced and futuristic approached society.

3.2 Enrichment in social harmony :

Education inculcates social and moral values in people. Honesty, brotherhood, peace, respect of others and many other values can be taught to children through education.

3.3 source of self empowerment :

An educated person feels more confident himself. He dare to take challenges in life and has power to fulfill his all dreams. He has no dependency on others and by this self confidence, self empowerment and self dependency he can achieve everything which he wants. Education can develop skilled persons.

3.4 Source of gender equality

Education expands the mindset or thinking of any individual towards gender sensitization. Education helps people in formation of equitable society where man and woman have equal duties and rights functionally. It calls for women empowerment.

3.5 Promotion of democracy

Education creates a democratic environment. People are aware about their duties, responsibilities and rights. An educate person does not follow any dictatorship.

3.6 Key to success

An educated person is able to secure success because he knows to use resources for his individual and social benefit.

4. NEED OF TEACHER EDUCATION:

In India, teacher education is institutional based. It has separate internship program where pupil teachers teach in real classroom settings. Teacher education or teacher training program provides an opportunity to learn interactive and better ways of teaching. These programs refine our teaching quality. Our affinity in a particular subject is just because of teacher who had taught that subject to us. It indicates that an efficient teacher can influence a student and can also make the toughest subject interesting for a student. Teacher education comprises some features in pupil teachers as understand child within his social environment, creating conducive situation for learning in which each student can learn with his pace and style etc.

An efficient and successful teacher requires adequate content knowledge, pedagogy of subject, skills, attitude and interest towards teaching profession. In present time, teacher has to inculcate modern theories of philosophy, psychology and sociology and technology to accomplish the need of society therefore, teacher should be well prepared to face these circumstances hence, teacher education at pre-service and in-service level is mandatory in present scenario.

5. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

The term sustainable is derived from the latin word ‘sustinere’ means to keep in existence and imply performance or long term support. Sustainable development is meeting the needs of society in way that can continue indefinitely into the future without damaging or depleting natural recourses. In short, “Meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” In other words it can be said- Sustainable development is the use of renewable and nonrenewable in a manner that satisfies our current needs but does not compromise the future availability of resources.

Sustainable development works on following four dimensions-

- a) Protection and preservation of environment
- b) Sustainable economic growth based on the rational exploitation and conservation of natural resources.
- c) Poverty alleviation and construction of inclusive society.
- d) Strengthen mutual knowledge and cultural and spiritual understanding between groups and society.



These are the main areas in which Sustainable development deals. To reach the goal of long lasting society, some main goals of sustainable development have been decided by United Nations. Some of them are as follows –

- poverty reduction and no hunger
- Good health and well being, clean water and sanitation
- Quality education to all, decent work and economic growth
- Gender equality and no gender biasness

- Affordable and clean energy, limited use of energy resources
- Industry innovation and infrastructure
- Prevention of environment and climate change, save biodiversity
- Responsible consumption and production of resources.

Education promote competencies which are associated with sustainable development including critical thinking, imaging future scenarios and participatory teaching and learning.(Mauch, 2014)

6. ROLE OF TEACHER EDUCATION IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

Education is a basic component by which growth and development of any nation is assessed. Level of education decides the status or level of the country. Teacher education is an integral part of education system in India. It is not only an institutional based training program today, but it is source of social and national reconstruction and regeneration. High quality teacher education is urgent need of India. It is now widely acknowledged that most effective pathways to improve student's learning outcomes is quality of teaching, especially teachers' ability to motivate and facilitate such learning. Quality of teacher is directly associated with student's achievement so it is important that trained teachers should encourage students for effective learning. Teacher should be a role model for students so that cultivation of values in students may be enhanced. These values cultivation, social awareness, economical attention and tendency to protect the environment etc. are the basic components of Sustainable development. If a teacher is well aware about all these concerns then directly or indirectly he is concerning with Sustainable development. Therefore, one of the best ways to achieve goals of sustainable development, teacher education is a effective tool. The quality of teachers is determined by their training so teacher education program provide high quality teachers for the student centered and lifelong learning.

7. CONCLUSION:

Teachers help children learn how to problem solve, how to make decisions, and how to analyze and handle different situations. All of this accumulates to creating citizens who are able to make educated and well informed decisions about their lives and for their families.

W.H.Kilpetrick said that 'Teacher education encompasses teaching skills, sound pedagogical theories and professional skills.'

A proverb seems realistic regarding teacher education is - "If you educate a boy, you educate one individual. If you educate a girl, you educate the whole family and if you educate a teacher, you educate the whole community." National curriculum framework for teacher education- 2009 has declared some objectives of teacher education and one of them is- *To develop perspectives of equitable and Sustainable development*. It clearly states that teacher is a source that enriches values of equitable and sustainable development in all sections of the society so it is necessary that they should be educated through perspective of gender equality, peace, respect of rights of all etc.

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