Education: An Essential tool for Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present generations without compromising the ability of the future generations, and Education is an essential tool for the achievement of the sustainable development. It is the key to moving society towards sustainability. Driving nations towards sustainable development, education plays an important role of driver. Education at all levels can shape the world of tomorrow, equipping individuals and societies with the skills, perspective knowledge and values to live and work in a sustainable manner. It promotes competencies like critical thinking, imagining future scenario and making dimension in a collaborative way. Good quality education is an essential tool for achieving a more sustainable world. Since 1987 when UN General Assembly endorsed sustainable development firstly, education as a parallel concept to support sustainable development has also been explored. The Rio Summit in 1992 produced international agreement (Agenda 21) which developed a strategy for addressing sustainable development throughout the world by calling for increase community contribution in addressing environmental, social, and economic concerns that would affect their community. The United Nations World Summit (2005) affirmed the concept of three pillars of sustainability – the economic, social and environment factors that need to be taken into consideration. This paper highlights some of the important issues related to education and sustainable development. Study is descriptive in nature. Since there was much debate about approaches for sustainable development, there was not that much universal support for the need to provide better educational opportunities for students that will allow them to develop helpful life skills such as communication, sustainable lifestyles and critical thinking. Sustainable development cannot be achieved by political regulations and financial instruments alone; there is a need to think about education that is essential for sustainable development.