

Education - A Link Between Development And Sustainability

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Abstract

“Development and Sustainability” - can these two things can go hand in hand? Of course not, because where there is development, we don't think of sustainability. This is what we have been seeing from the inception of the modern era. If we compare our past (ancient era) and the present (modern era), it is evident that development and sustainability hasn't been hand in hand. Though it is hard to define yet 'Development' is a systematic way or a process of adding improvements to an existing situation or thing and hence, it is a slow and a gradual process whereas if we talk about 'Sustainability', it is an endurance of systems and processes. Thus, these two- DEVELOPMENT and SUSTAINABILITY, forms the basic components of innovation. But then it is important to maintain a balance between these two components otherwise an imbalance can lead to an adverse effect.

Talking about developing countries like INDIA, *development* is one of the major issues in such countries. People are more focused towards development than sustaining their resources. This leads to a situation where development reaches on the highest plank of a see-saw and sustainability being on the lower side. Thus, there arise a need for creating a balance between the two planks, development and sustainability. Apart from trying to come up with huge bulgy ideas for building a balance, people should start thinking for easy and effective solution. There can be several solutions to come up with but I will keep my focus on EDUCATION. I have an elementary reason for keeping my focus to education, because education is one thing that helps to nurture any raw mind. There is a link between education and development. Some countries progress while some decline because education can be an aid in development as well as in sustainability. In case of India, the progress has faltered here because we have not been able to remove illiteracy even after 68 years of independence. So, my following paper will discuss about education being an important link between development and sustainability.

➤ WHY EDUCATION?

Education is the most important basic necessity for an individual. With education we do not mean just the bookish knowledge, school grades or the degrees. Education is the process of facilitating learning,

knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits of a group of people which are transferred to other people, through storytelling, discussion, teaching, training or research. Any experience that has a formative effect on the way one thinks, feels, or acts may be considered educational. The importance of Education in our country is evident from our Constitution which expressly states various provisions for education, such as:

- Equality before law (Article 14)
- The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine. (Article 21 A)
- The State shall endeavour to provide, within a period of ten years from the commencement of this Constitution, for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years. (Article 45)
- The State to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and to protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation (Article 46)

The Power of Education is one such power which gives you all the powers of the world. For Instance, falling of an Apple on the head of Isaac Newton educated the Human with the term “Gravitation” thus the application of such other principles played a part of education and thus by educating men to build arms and ammunition to fight. Not only education help us gain new powers like all these modern warfare but it also enhances the strength we already had by helping us use in a more judicious way like Mixed Martial Arts for fighting, painting with paints on paper rather scribbling on rocks. Therefore, it can be inferred that Education is one of the greatest weapon of mankind which can be used to change the world, so it has been rightly said by Mr. Nelson Mandela:-

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”

Thus, no innovation or development or sustainability is possible without education.

➤ **WHAT IS INNOVATION?**

No development is possible without an innovation and hence, education is one such link between innovation and development. Every link has a start and an end. In this context, the start is the “innovation”. Innovation is the first step which leads to development. Thus, **Innovation** is a new idea, more effective device or process. It can be viewed as the application of better solutions that meet new requirements, unarticulated needs or existing market needs. This is accomplished through more effective products, processes, services, technologies or ideas that are readily available to markets, governments and society. The term innovation

can be defined as something original and more effective and, as a consequence, new, that "breaks into" the market or society.

For instance, the introduction of telephone by Alexander Graham Bell has been one remarkable invention. Further, many innovations has been made to this invention such as the telephones were replaced by cordless then the biggest innovation in the field of communication being, the introduction of mobile phones. This innovation has been one of the greatest innovations so far and is even proceeding for more better results. However, here again education plays a key role since every innovation involves various processes and techniques and hence these processes and techniques are derived from various studies and researches.

➤ EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The second step which follows is "Development". Every innovation leads to a development. Here again, Education forms the fundamental of development and growth. The human mind makes possible all development achievements, from health advances and agricultural innovations to efficient public administration and private sector growth. For countries to reap these benefits fully, they need to unleash the potential of the human mind. And there is no better tool for doing so than education.

According to WORLD BANK (Elizabeth King, 2011)¹, Twenty years ago, government officials and development partners met to affirm the importance of education in development on economic development and broadly on improving people's lives and together declared "Education for All" as a goal. While enrolments have risen in promising fashion around the world, learning levels have remained disappointingly and many remain left behind. Because growth, development and poverty reduction depend on the knowledge and skills that people acquire, not the number of years that they sit in a classroom, we must transform our call to action from Education for All to Learning for All. The World Bank's forthcoming educational strategy emphasizes on several core ideas: **INVEST EARLY. INVEST SMARTLY. INVEST IN LEARNING OF ALL.**

Achieving learning for all will be challenging, but it is the right agenda for the next decade. It is the knowledge and skills that children and youth acquire today not simply their school attendance that will drive their employability, productivity, health and well-being in the decades to come, and that will help ensure that their communities and nations thrive. However, it cannot be connoted that education favours development

¹ Elizabeth King. (2011, January 28). "Education is Fundamental to Development and Growth". Retrieved from <http://blogs.worldbank.org/education/education-is-fundamental-to-development-and-growth>

only in specific or restrictive areas. Education means literacy and literacy is what is needed in every sphere of development and hence, one such field is law.

❖ EDUCATION-LAW-DEVELOPMENT

Like in every other field, Development can be traced in the field of law as well. Though it is often considered that law is precedent from its customs yet with changing times, a change is mandatory in this field too. There have been numerous acts and legislations which had been amended for the development of the people and the country. But out of these, the two have created an exceptional effect on the people. They are- RIGHT EDUCATION ACT 2009 AND THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT 2005.

Firstly, let's talk about the Right To Education Act 2009. It is assumed that, the chief aim of education must have been just to fit one to earn a living. It is called "Bread and Butter" system of education, as well. With the above situation and concept in mind, on April 1, 2010, India has reached a historic milestone in country's struggle for Children's Right to Education.(MHRD 2013)² The Constitution (86th Amendment) Act 2002 making elementary education a Fundamental Right and its consequential legislation, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act 2009, comes into force. The enforcement of this right represents a momentous step forward in 100 – year struggle for universalizing elementary education.

- The Salient Features of the RTE Act are:
 - i. School and social mapping;
 - ii. Catching those out of school;
 - iii. Re-deployment of teachers;
 - iv. Filling vacancies;
 - v. Grievance redressal;
 - vi. The funding.

Inevitably, this will take care of the 'threefold educational object'. It would also result in bridging the access and enrolment gaps, to a large extent. Under the RTE Act, it is envisaged that, the teaching-learning process would be stress-free and a massive programme for curricular reform would be initiated to provide for a child friendly learning system that is at once relevant and empowering. Similarly, the Teacher accountability systems and processes would ensure that the children are learning and that their right to learn in a child friendly environment is safeguarded. Thus, RTE is an advantage as learning now will result in development later. The immense relevance of inclusive education, particularly of disadvantaged groups, demands vibrant partnerships with the departments and organizations concerned with children of the Scheduled Castes, the

² Government of India - Ministry of Human Resource and Development, Department of School Education & literacy. (2013). "Right to Education". Retrieved from <http://mhrd.gov.in/rte>

Scheduled Tribes and educationally backward minorities. Government will have to set up systems for equal opportunity for children with special needs. The Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Departments would need to accelerate poverty reduction programmes so that children are freed from domestic chores and wage earning responsibilities. State Governments would simultaneously ensure that the Panchayati Raj institutions get appropriately involved so that 'local authorities' can discharge their functions under the RTE Act. There is a need for close cooperation amongst departments concerned to ensure that so far the deprived children get their rights to education. Thus, the enforcement of the Fundamental Right to Education would provide us a unique opportunity to mount a mission encompassing all the discourses to fulfil our goal of universal elementary education. The right to education goes beyond free and compulsory education to include quality education for all. With the introduction of RTE Act, in the years to come, there would be a notable achievement in the 'literacy rate' in our country leading for more and better development. Is it not the 'dream' and 'prime motto' of our leaders?

Secondly, The **Right To Information Act 2005** is another important addition to the list of legislations. Right to information is derived from our fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression under Article 19 (1) (a) subjected to the restrictions mentioned under Article 19 (2) of the Constitution. Research by Dheeraj (2015)³ says that If we do not have information on how our Government and Public Institutions function, we cannot express any informed opinion on it. Democracy revolves around the basic idea of citizens being at the centre of governance. And the freedom of the press is an essential element for a democracy to function. It is thus obvious that the reason for a free press is to ensure that the citizens are informed. Thus, it clearly flows from this, that the citizen's right to know is paramount. It has taken 82 years of India to transit from an opaque system of governance, legitimized by the colonial official secret acts, to one where people can demand the right to information. The enactment of RTI Act marks a significant shift for Indian democracy. The Act and its rules define the format for requisitioning information, a time period within which information must be provided, a method of giving the information, some changes for applying and some exemptions of information which will not be given.

The RIGHT TO INFORMATION has been recognised as the FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT by the Supreme Court. The nature of this right and the relevant restrictions thereto, has been discussed by the Supreme Court in a number of cases:

³ Mani Dheeraj (2015). "Right To Information Act- An Overview". Legal Service India. Retrieved from http://www.legalserviceindia.com/articles/rti_dh.htm

1. In BENNETT COLEMAN's case (*Bennett Coleman & Co. & Ors v. Union Of India & Ors, 1973*)⁴, the right to information was held to be included within the right to freedom of speech and expression guaranteed by Art. 19(1)(a).
2. In RAJ NARAIN's case (*State of UP v. Raj Narain & Ors, 1975*)⁵, the Court explicitly stated that it is not in the interest of the public to 'cover with a veil of secrecy, the common routine business-the responsibility of officials to explain and to justify their acts is the chief safeguard against oppression and corruption.'
3. In S.P.GUPTA's case (*S.P.Gupta v Union Of India,1982*)⁶, the right of the people to know about every public act and the details of every public transaction undertaken by public functionaries was described.

If we see the impact of this new law, it has been tremendous. In a system reeking with corruption and becoming increasingly insensitive to the problems of the disadvantaged citizenry, the Right To Information has shown promise of empowering citizens to get accountability and act as an enforcer of good governance. Thus, it can be concluded that being educated or literate is one such power which aids to develop yourself and thereby adding to the development of the country because it is through education wherein an individual is aware of different opportunities around. Though development is a big step yet what is more important is to sustain such development. It is hard to develop things but it is even harder to sustain them. The best and the most successful principle solution for this is "sustainable development"

➤ EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In race for more and more development and acquiring the title of "Developed Country", we ignore the harms caused by such developments and this is the situation where the development definitely rises but by comprising the needs of the future. Thereby, sustainability lacks and development flourish. This is what is a biggest problem because we know that the resources we use in the development is limited in nature and thus, create a compromising situation for the generations to come. For this, we need an effective solution so that no further injustice is done to the future generations. And one such solution is "SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT". Though this term is made up of two distinct words which gives birth to this world wide problem i.e. development and its sustainability because everything is not permanent in nature yet the

⁴ Bennett Coleman & Co. & Ors v. Union Of India & Ors, SCR (2) 757 (1973). Retrieved from <http://indiankanoon.org/doc/125596/>

⁵ State of UP v. Raj Narain & Ors, SCR (3) 333 (1975). Retrieved from <http://indiankanoon.org/doc/438670/>

⁶ S.P.GUPTA v. Union Of India. SC 149 (1982). Retrieved from <http://indiankanoon.org/doc/1294854/>

solution itself is hidden under these two distinct words i.e. Sustainable Development. The best method to communicate this solution is by Education. (Anonymous,2012)⁷ Education encompasses teaching and learning specific skills, imparting of knowledge, positive judgment and well developed wisdom. It has one of its fundamental aspects of imparting culture from generation to generation. It is an application of pedagogy, a body of theoretical and applied research related to teaching and learning. The basic aim of the education system for sustainable development is 'education of a new man', 'a man of a sustainable type of thinking' a man of Cosmo-planetary consciousness with a holistic world outlook, who has a culture of sustainability, high socio-cultural needs and deep moral ethical values, who is capable to solve global tasks facing by the mankind and to promote the forming of sustainable society. Education in its contemporary development should be aimed at the future, should "foresee" and form in a certain way and satisfy needs of future generations. That means that education should be anticipatory to social, economic and cultural life, it should form desirable sustainable future. But such ideas could not be realized in old organizational forms of education system. We need new organizational forms and educational institutions, mobile, synergetic, creative, future-oriented, which could provide the implementation of new objectives and new historical functions of education. For that it is necessary that all spheres of life of society be incorporated whenever possible upon the principles of sustainable development.

➤ CONCLUSION

Thus it can be inferred that Education plays a very important role in innovation, development and sustainability. On one side we think that only educated people contribute to the development whereas on the other side, we ignore this basic necessity to be given to all. When it comes for education or learning of all, there come the barriers like gender inequality, poverty, gender discrimination, etc and thus, education is then limit to only a strata of the society. Hence, it is high time and we should realize that every development and its sustainability is only possible if the people around are educated. In such a case, these people cannot be just an aid but also a link between development and sustainability. Lastly, I would like to quote Mr. Kofi Anan-

⁷ Anonymous. 2012. "Education for Sustainable Development". Retrieved from http://wikieducator.org/Education_for_Sustainable_Development

“EDUCATION IS A HUMAN RIGHT WITH IMMENSE POWER TO TRANSFORM. ON ITS FOUNDATION REST THE CORNERSTONES OF FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT”