ABSTRACT

Can the Earth which looks like a beautiful place to live in sustain for another hundred years to live in the same way for our future generation? A volley of questions now arises in the mind of the thinkers to think about our future. The basic need of the human beings like water, food and shelter will be at stake by 2030. The growing population of the world may face a great challenge in the future to meet their own needs. The only apparent solution to the problem seems to be Education. It can train people to make them self-sufficient and equip themselves with the required skills to get the alternative sources. It can make people employable and find out the way to solve the upcoming hinderances. As education is the source of all knowledge, it can provide a better opportunity to our successors.

Keywords— Sustainable development, Climate Change, Population Explosion, Globalisation, Population Explosion, Educational Challenges.

I. INTRODUCTION

Human capital is the most powerful source of the world. Education seems to be the fundamental factor of development. No country can achieve sustainable economic development without investing in the human capital. According to the most trusted definition published by the Brundtland Report’ sustainable development is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own needs’. Former South African president Nelson Mandela once said ‘Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. It is very clear that Education can sustain our future. Some of the terms like SE(Sustainable education)EFS(Education for sustainable) ESD(Education for sustainable development) are used to practice for sustainability. It seeks to think people in making plans and programmes to meet the needs of the future without destroying the present resources.

II. SKILLS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Imagining and envisioning about the future world is the first step for sustainability. Without dream, a viable solution cannot be created. It is one of the skills to be acquired by the person. Next step is to think critically about it. Helps to predict the environmental, socio-cultural, and economic structures of the world in future. Proper planning is required to execute this programme. Besides it systematic thinking is necessary to find out a solution to the problem. In recognition to the importance of Education in shaping the world to make it a better place to live, UN declared (2005-2014) as the UN decade of education for sustainable development. It was declared to create awareness and to give importance to education for sustainable education. Its mission is to leverage the UN decade to foster education for sustainable development. Curriculum regarding sustainable future has already been formulated from school level to university level. Prizes are being given to the education programmes with an aim to achieve sustainability. Ministry of education in Germany has reached out a syllabus for the students at school level to promote activities for the sustainable future. It has already been proved in Canada where this programme has really made an eye catching progress in the economic development of the country as well as creating a long term environmental impacts.

If we go back to our history we can find that countries like south Africa, Middle East and Latin America who were earlier very poor in economy are now improving. Here Education has played a significant role in the development of the country. It has helped to change the guard in industry.
III. PREDICTION OF THE FUTURE WORLD

By 2035 the working age of population of Africa will be increased than India and China. To meet the growing demand of the market Right skills, training and job generation is required. Education must focus on employability. We can take the example of Singapore. It has turned out to be one of the emerging markets in the world right now only because of induction of training and technical education. The country has invested a lot on science, technology and mathematics. China and Japan are also developing because of technical education. Earlier they were not reading English, but catering to the needs of the system, they are now learning English. As it is a global language all the journals, Magazines relating to science and technology and symposiums are being conducted in English. It is presumed that private sector is going to create a sustainable economy in the near future. It will be very difficult on the part of the Third world countries to manage a relationship between the global buyer to smaller supplier. Traditional burial system will pose a threat to our environment. Green burials might be the alternative solution to it. Cultural sustainability may be a problem for the future generation. They will be suffering from cultural homogenization. Psychologists anticipate an increase in the behavioural health interventions for people in natural disaster zones as the frequency and severity of disasters increases due to climate change. In the near future meat eating and its production will be a great problem for the world. It will be utterly un sustainable. Corporate sectors will face the global pressure of women empowerment.

IV. ROLE OF EDUCATION

Education has a significant role to play for the sustainable development of the future. It can adopt a holistic approach to create a better world to live on the planet Earth. Education allows every child to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future. Education can cultivate in the mind of the youngsters to adopt the sustainable life style. Living sustainably means to change our attitudes in a way to transform our lives into something that does not impact on our current life. Sustainable development as a curriculum must be introduced at school level as per the UNO declaration. It has already become popular in UAE with students in large numbers are taking part in environmental education programme.

Education for sustainable development is not only about being environment friendly. It also involves developing life skills including leadership, communication and personality development. A child right at the time of school comes to know about the wastage of Energy and water. A child learns wise use of water and energy both at home and in the work place. Parental education can be a great help to reduce waste, recycle regularly and opt for public transport. It will show our children to know about the importance of sustainability. In Uganda it is working where global community programme aimed at equipping adolescent girls from deprived areas with skills to make them economically/financially empowered. An enlightened teacher can shape the future of Nation. Once Benjamin Franklin said ‘Tell me and i forget, teach me i may remember, involve me i learn’. It is the responsibility of a Teacher to reshape the future of the students by inculcating the knowledge of sustainability.

Education in every sense is one of the fundamental factors of development. It raises productivity and creativity of people. It also promotes Entrepreneurship and technological advances. It is the collective responsibility of all the people to think about the future of our planet Earth

V. STRATEGIES TO BE ADOPTED

After the UN declaration how much we have achieved is now a moot question. The recent UNESCO report shaping the Future in NAGAYA, JAPAN has identified four major areas in categorical advancements. It follows.

- Enabling sustainable development
- Galvanizing pedagogical innovation
- The response of political leadership
- The spread of education for sustainable development across all levels and areas of education.

ESD (Education for sustainable development) requires a systemic change in all kind of text books including science, math, Technology, social science and humanities. Education should form as an agent of transformation. Different sectors like Ethics, civics, peace, Education, critical thinking, skills for co-operation and global citizenship education-all contribute to educate people for a peaceful and more sustainable world. We must ensure broad participation and implementation of the policies. Govts must send bench marks to track progress towards the sustainable development for the society.

VI. CONCLUSION

History has proved that Education can save the world. Whenever there is a crisis, Education can bring about a great change in shaping the future of the world. Now the planet Earth is going to face a tough challenge in the near future for the sustainability. It is now the clarion of the Education to save the planet Earth. The beautiful Earth that we see today is going to be destroyed one day if we do not take the initiative now. The basic amenities of
life will be at stake after two to three decades. The Energy like thermal or hydrology will be exhausted one day. The food security will be a problem for the coming population. The shelter or houses to all may be a distant dream for many people. The potable water may be a problem in the near future. To get rid of all these problems we must adopt a proper Education to meet the crisis. Education can solve all the problems. The interrelated issues of climate change, environmental degradation, globalization and the global financial crisis, population explosion, growing intercultural and inter religious conflict and increasing social concerned inequities, confront education with many complex challenges. Education can bring out a solution all these challenges and can create again beautiful to earth to live in.

REFERENCES