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Education for Sustainable Development Issues

Mr. Bhimappa Rangannavar*

ABSTRACT

Sustainable Development (SD) seeks to meet the needs of the present without compromising those of future generations. SD [therefore] is a vision of development that encompasses respect for all life-human and non-human-and natural resources, as well as integrating concerns such as poverty reduction, gender equality, human rights, education for all, health, human security and intercultural dialogue. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) aims to help people to develop the attitudes, skills, perspectives and knowledge to make informed decisions and act upon them for the benefit of themselves and others, now and in the future. The United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) 2005-2014 [in which UNESCO was designated as the leading agency in 2003] seeks to integrate the principles, values and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning, in order to address the social, economic, cultural and environmental issues we face in the 21st century.¹

Keywords: Sustainable development, Education, 21st Century, Environmental issues.

Introduction

While many nations around the world have embraced the need for education to achieve sustainability, only limited progress has been made on any level. This lack of progress stems from many sources. In some cases, a lack of vision or awareness has impeded progress. In others, it is a lack of policy or funding. According to Charles Hopkins, who has spoken with people at many levels of involvement in education (i.e., ministers of education, university professors, K - 12 teachers, and students), twelve major issues stymied the advance of ESD during the 1990s and new millennium. By addressing these critical impediments in the planning stage, governments can prevent or reduce delays or derailment of ESD efforts and, ultimately, the attainment of sustainability. In addition to these generic issues, governments at all levels will need to address issues that are specific to local conditions (e.g., the quality of the relationship between the school governors and the teacher union). In reality, education related to sustainable development will be implemented in a wide range, in both depth and breadth. In some communities, ESD will be

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