

# “ROLE OF QUALITY EDUCATION IN TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD – A LEAD TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL”

Dr. V. SHEELA MARY, Professor - MBA

Institution – Aarupadai Veedu Institute of Technology, Paiyanoor

Mr. S. GOWTHAM, Assistant Professor – MBA (Research Scholar)

Institution – Aarupadai Veedu Institute of Technology, Paiyanoor

## ABSTRACT

Education is not a privilege. It is a human right. Human rights are inherent to all human beings. They cannot be given or taken away. It is the foundation for freedom, justice and peace in the world. Quality is at the heart of education. It influences what students learn, how they learn and what benefits they draw from their education. Quality Education evolves with time and is subject to social, economic and environmental conditions. Education results in better learned individuals but quality education makes better educated individuals.

Quality education is the better class of education. It means bringing education to a higher level. It is education for life. The educational quality of a nation describes and affects the success of the respective nation. Education is an essential means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills and self confidence necessary to fully participate in the development process. Sustainable development is only possible when women and men enjoy equal opportunities to reach their potential.

This paper explains about quality education as it is such an important goal. And it is because of this education which is most powerful proven methods for achieving sustainable development. It also indicates that quality education is the foundation of sustainable development, and therefore of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Keywords: Quality education, Education, Sustainable development, Sustainable development goals**

## INTRODUCTION

**Quality** is at the heart of education. It influences what students learn, how they learn and what benefits they draw from their education. Quality Education evolves with time and is subject to social, economic and environmental conditions. The right to education is not only the right to access education but also the right to receive an education of good quality. Education must be available and accessible but also acceptable and adaptable.

Education results in better learned individuals but quality education makes better educated individuals. Quality education is the better class of education. It means bringing education to a higher level. It is education for life. The educational quality of a nation describes and affects the success of the respective nation.

The research objective of the study is to find out importance of quality education and how quality education transforms the world and thereby leads to sustainable development goals.

1. To study the role of quality education for sustainable development
2. To identify the dimensions of quality education

### 3. To study the role of quality education in transforming the world

The methodology of the study is descriptive study as it involves the description about quality education and how it leads to sustainable development goals.

## RATIONALE BEHIND QUALITY EDUCATION

Education is not a privilege. It is a human right. Human rights are inherent to all human beings. They cannot be given or taken away. It is the foundation for freedom, justice and peace in the world. They are formally and universally recognized by all countries in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1948). First UN Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Katarina Tomasevski, developed 4A's. To be a meaningful right, education in all its forms and at all levels shall exhibit these interrelated and essential features: Available, Accessible, Acceptable and Adaptable. It is been adopted by the committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in its General Comment 13 on the right to education (1999)

According to VVOB Quality Education is defined as “A good quality education is one that provides all learners with capabilities they require to become economically productive, develop sustainable livelihoods, contribute to peaceful and democratic societies and enhance individual well-being. The learning outcomes that are required vary according to context but at the end of the basic education cycle must include threshold levels of literacy and numeracy, basic scientific knowledge and life skills including awareness and prevention of disease. Capacity development to improve the quality of teachers and other education stakeholders is crucial throughout this process”

## QUALITY EDUCATION – A LITERATURE SURVEY

According to the study done by Yvonne Hill, Laurie Lomas, Janet MacGregor on “Students perceptions of quality in higher education”, the study aims to ascertain student perceptions of a quality experience in higher education. It helped to find out that the quality of the lecturer and the student support systems are the most influential factors in the provision of quality education.

A study was done by Belinda Dello-lacovo on “Curriculum Reform and Quality Education in China: An overview”. It is about the overview of Chinese government attempt to promote a revised school of curriculum reflecting a more holistic approach to education under the banner of *sushi jiaoyu* (“quality education”), and positions the policies in the Chinese historical, educational, social and economic context.

According to the study by Gauravjeet Singh & Mehtab Singh, “Quality Education: Nature, Aspects and Implementation as a Flaw”, Quality education is the better class of education. It means bringing education to a higher level. The educational quality of a nation describes and affects the success of the respective nation. The study helps to find out the various aspects of Quality Education and to bring out the flaws in the same.

A study was done on “Learning outcomes in school education – at the core of building a knowledge economy”, it reflects on critical areas of the teaching and learning process that have a positive impact in the classroom. Careful learning needs to be placed on understanding the learning levels of a student and accordingly building up concepts in a directly purposeful, active learning method to enhance learning outcomes.

According to the study done by Louise Ellis, “Balancing approaches: Revisiting the educational psychology research on teaching students with learning difficulties”, it explains what contemporary research says about the often controversial subject of how best to teach basic skills to students with learning difficulties.

A study was done by Kuwi Hoi New, Mohamed Najib Abdul Ghafer on “The Role of Education in Transforming the Potential Social skills of College students”. This study finds that the process of education enables significant changes in students by contributing to the social skills that transform their identity and ultimately their society.

The study advances “transformation” as the role of education in changing individual lives, and offers it as central to a theoretical framework that enables one to understand college education and the development of students in institutions of higher learning. Education transforms both societies and people in a particular direction by shaping and reshaping their patterns of thoughts, means of problem solving and ways of life. This will contribute to further individual and social transformation.

## **DIMENSIONS OF QUALITY EDUCATION**

Education leads to empowerment. Empowerment refers to measures designed to increase the degree of autonomy and self determination in people and in communities in order to enable them to represent their interests in a responsible and self determined way, acting on their own authority. Education is an essential means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills and self confidence necessary to fully participate in the development process. Sustainable development is only possible when women and men enjoy equal opportunities to reach their potential.

Quality education is a crucial factor in combating poverty and inequality in society. According to VVOB, in quality education there are six dimension that all interventions of the organization need to meet.

### **1. Equity**

Equity in education is a measure of achievement, fairness and opportunity in education. Educational equity is a strong foundation of a society that is fair and thriving. Inequity in education is challenging to avoid, and can be broken down into inequity due to socioeconomic standing, race, gender or disability.

Equity in education means that personal or social circumstances such as gender, ethnic origin or family background are not obstacles to achieving potential (definition of fairness) and that all individuals reach at least a basic minimum level of skills (definition of inclusion). Educational equity depends on two main factors – fairness & inclusion.

### **2. Contextualisation and Relevance**

Contextualising can dramatically boost teaching and learning outcomes. Contextualised teaching and learning builds upon a similar concept of putting academic activities into perspective to achieve the best teaching and learning outcomes.

Contextualisation is defined as the verbal and conceptual bridge over which students cross to learn new information being presented (Lee, 1995). It is the act of creating relevance and meaning when linking students’ everyday experience with academic knowledge (Tharp & Gallimore, 1988). Solutions and adaptations of education systems must be based on the real needs of a country and or community.

### **3. Child friendly Teaching and Learning**

Quality education puts the child in the centre and helps it to reach his or her full potential. Quality education requires children’s active participation. Child friendly approach focuses on the total needs of the child as a learner so that student can develop his or her full potential. The goal is to promote child centred education with teachers who are trained accordingly, and supported by adequate resources and appropriate physical, emotional and social conditions for learning.

#### 4. Sustainability

Sustainability is the process of maintaining change in a balanced fashion, in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development and institutional change are all in harmony and enhance both current and future potential to meet human needs and aspirations.

Sustainability Education is often referred to as Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). "Education for Sustainable Development allows every human being to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future. Education for Sustainable Development means including key sustainable development issues into teaching and learning; for example, climate change, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, poverty reduction, and sustainable consumption.

It also requires participatory teaching and learning methods that motivate and empower learners to change their behaviour and take action for sustainable development. Education for Sustainable Development consequently promotes competencies like critical thinking, imagining future scenarios and making decisions in a collaborative way. Education for Sustainable Development requires far-reaching changes in the way education is often practised today." (UNESCO, 2014)

#### 5. Balanced Approach

Quality education aims at developing a balanced set of capabilities of children they require to become economically productive, develop sustainable livelihoods, contribute to peaceful and democratic societies and enhance individual well-being.

Teaching approaches must produce higher positive effects for students with learning difficulties, balanced approach will help the outcome of students as positive, need to have necessary theoretical and pedagogical knowledge and skills and attitude that all students can learn.

#### 6. Learning outcomes

After completing a certain level of education, children must have developed a minimum standard of skills. Quality education requires a result oriented approach. Improving learning outcomes is crucial for inclusive growth, and therefore, major focus should be on measuring and improving learning outcomes for all children, with a clear recognition that only increasing inputs will not be enough to ensure quality education for all.

## QUALITY EDUCATION IN TRANSFORMING THE WORLD

### 1. QUALITY EDUCATION FOR TRANSFORMING INDIVIDUAL

Quality Education brings about transformation of body, mind, heart and spirit. Aim must be not just education for all, but quality education for all. For this our educational institutions need to be freed from bureaucratic rules and regulations, and make a radical shift of educational goal from learning to memorize content to becoming competent to deal with the realities of life and conditions through development of higher order learning skills. Effective measures to provide quality education to be implemented.

### 2. QUALITY EDUCATION TRANSFORMS SOCIETY

Social change always takes place when human need change in society. Education always initiates to bring permanent changes in personality of human being. It can bring social changes in outlook and attitude of humans. It can initiate a change in the pattern of social relationships.

Societal change always comes from the collective transformation of people of society. Francis J. Brown remarks that "education is a process which brings about changes in the behaviour of society". It is a process which enables every individual to effectively participate in the activities of society and to make positive contribution to the progress of society.

### 3. QUALITY EDUCATION TRANSFORMS DEVELOPMENT

Education has unrivalled power to reduce extreme poverty and boost wider development goals. Investment in education, especially for girls, alleviates extreme poverty through securing substantial benefits for health and productivity, as well as democratic participation and women's empowerment. New analysis by UNESCO proves that

- a. Education empowers women
- b. Education promotes tolerance
- c. Education equality improves job opportunities and increases economic growth.
- d. Education saves mother's lives
- e. Education saves children's lives
- f. Education fights hunger
- g. Education is part of the solution to environmental problems

### 4. QUALITY EDUCATION POWERS A BETTER WORLD

Education is a process of continuous learning which can be acquired anywhere at any time and any age. It can be used for the upliftment of society since it helps elevate the social and economic conditions in the marginalized sections of society. Education is a tool to enhance progress and make the world a better place.

- a. Education spreads awareness
- b. It helps us to stand up against wrong and for the right
- c. It helps progress
- d. It gives us a healthier lifestyle
- e. Helps us to be more productive
- f. It helps us connect across borders
- g. It gives empowerment

## FINDINGS

Quality education is the foundation to improving lives and development towards equality. Education is one of the most powerful proven methods for achieving sustainable development. Quality education transforms individual. Societal change always comes from the collective transformation of people of society. It helps to elevate the social and economic conditions in the marginalized sections of society. It also helps in development. A quality education is the foundation of sustainable development, and therefore of the Sustainable Development Goals.

## CONCLUSION

Quality Education is such an important goal. Education is the foundation of societies and without educating our citizens, we cannot make progress or change. Quality education is the foundation to improving lives and development towards equality. There is a clear separation and divide between countries and between rural and urban areas and the cause for this lack of trained teachers and poor conditions of schools.

United Nations goals by 2030 are to provide free, equitable and quality education, access to affordable and quality further education, eliminate gender disparities. This is because of education is one of the most powerful proven methods for achieving sustainable development.

A quality education is the foundation of sustainable development, and therefore of the Sustainable Development Goals. As a policy intervention, education is a force multiplier which enables self-reliance, boosts economic growth by enhancing skills, and improves people's lives by opening up opportunities for better livelihoods. The Sustainable Development targets for 2030 call for ensuring the completion of primary and secondary education by all boys and girls, and guaranteeing equal access to opportunities for access to quality technical and vocational education for everyone. Policy interventions will require

improving access and improving quality, as well addressing relevant obstacles which include gender inequalities, food insecurity, and armed conflict.

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