

EDUCATION: MOTHER OF PLANET & PEOPLE**Th. Asha Sinha**

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Abstract

Education is an important and basic input required to improve the quality of human resources. Again education is the most important factor required to make labour, a productive factor. Labour without education and skill cannot be graded as human resources, sustainable development consists of essential elements like survival of human beings including all other life forms, satisfaction of basic human needs, economic efficiency & growth, preservation of environment, equity, social justice, promotion of values and ethics. Equity and distributive justice in the case of present generation ought to be considered as in-built system of the development process. Embarking upon the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) agenda requires all of us to reflect upon the ultimate purpose of learning throughout life. Education can influence individual and collective environmental behaviour through contemporary, traditional and lifelong approaches to learning. Hence it's necessary conditions for development, the improvement in the quality of human resources through education.

Keywords: *Education, Economics, Efficiency, Environment*

The 21st century society is the knowledge, information and education society. Higher education is called upon to make a key contribution for opening up of a highlighting new pathways to a better future for the society, to the individuals and to give better shape and direction to the future. Since education can be considered as mother of planet & people. In modern society, education is an indicator as well as tool of economic development. Environmental education encourages sustainable lifestyles, waste reduction, improved energy use, increased public transport use, support for pro-environment policies, and environmental activism. Higher education is being looked at from a wider perspective. It represents a most important input in human resource development. Curriculum development and renewal is a continuous process. It is not a linear but a cyclic process in which evaluation and impact studies, oral feedback and findings of new researches are constantly referred to in order to refine curriculum and curriculum materials. We now come to the link between education and productivity.

The paper explores the relationship between educations and the new United Nations 2030 agenda for SDG in India in general and Manipur state in particular. India has made significant progress towards implementing the scheme of Education for All. Several key programmes and policies have been initiated to provide free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right. Initiatives such as Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Right to Education (RTE) have given the desired impetus to education system in India. Though it has significantly improved the enrolment rates across the country in primary education, challenges remain to be addressed. And to focused towards a safer, greener and fairer planet for all.

Economic efficiency & Growth

Education supplies the economy with human resources with the requisite qualification, knowledge, training skills meet the demand for economic development. Economics of education argued that a major effect of more education is to improve labour's capacity to produce. They should be easier to train to do more complex tasks.

Further, they should have better work habits, particularly, a greater awareness of time and more internalized norms that would make them more dependable. Economists had shown that on average, countries that have sustained high levels of economic growth are also those who have higher levels of literacy and have invested steadily in raising the education of their labour force. In 1984 survey of growth accounting studies covering 29 developing countries found estimates of education’s contribution to economic growth ranging from less than 1% in Mexico to as high as 23% in Ghana(2010). There is demand of skilled person like engineers, researchers, scientists it may be understood that there is demand of economic education. The form of society has completely changed. It has been skill oriented. Things are rapidly changing equipment’s, skill or labour which, if are not capable to borne out capital or activate economy they became subject to replacement. Thus education brings for the skill and the skill improves economy. In India the great philosophers like Tagore, Aurobindo and Mahatma Gandhi all of whom developed their theories of education and tried to put their practices on the basis of human development.

Education and lifelong learning contribute to long-term economic growth. Educated people are likely to be more productive and hence better-off, they contribute more economic growth to the country.

Table 1 - Global Innovation Index of some select economies

	Global Innovation Index 2017		Human capital and research		Research and development (R&D)		Researchers		Gross expenditure on R&D (GERD)	
	(Rank)	(Score)	(Rank)	(Score)	(Rank)	(Score)	(Rank)	(Score)	(Rank)	(Score)
Brazil	69	33.1	50	35.9	29	37.2	55	8.3	32	26.9
China	22	52.5	25	49.2	17	58.5	45	14.1	17	48.5
India	60	35.5	64	32.3	32	35.9	81	1.8	43	19.1
South Korea	11	57.7	2	66.2	1	88.2	3	85.8	2	98.4
Russia	45	38.8	23	50	25	41.5	29	37.8	34	26.1
South Africa	57	35.8	60	32.8	39	27.1	65	5.2	48	16.6
UK	5	60.9	6	63.3	10	69.5	18	54.1	21	39.5
USA	4	61.4	13	57.2	4	78.8	20	51.2	10	65

Source: Global Innovation Index 2017

Research and Development

As per the CSO’s new method, there is no separate head for Research and Development (R&D), which is now a part of the professional scientific & technical activities. These services grew by 17.5 per cent and 41.1 per cent in 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively. India-based R&D services companies, which account for almost 22 per cent of the global market, grew at 12.7 per cent. However, India’s gross expenditure on R&D has been low at around 1 per cent of GDP. India currently ranks 60th out of 127 on the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2017, though this ranking has improved from 66th rank in 2016. Among the BRICS countries only South Africa is behind India in R & D expenditure ranking.

Environmental Education & Protection

The challenges of the planet in the twenty-first century continues to be a resource and environmental crisis as was in the past century, no doubt the magnitude has increased. The world has recognized the urgent need for the balance and harmony between humanity and the environment due to the increasing deterioration of the environment. Environment education with its aims of promoting an awareness of and

responsibility for the environment should be a lifelong process in order to improve and protect the environment now and in future. It is essential that environment education should reach all sections of the population through the use of both formal and non-formal techniques. Education is important in developing awareness of the marine environment and building proactive consensus regarding wise and sustainable use. (Goals 14 United Nations 2030 agenda for SDG) Education and training increase skills and capacity to underpin sustainable livelihoods and to conserve natural resources and biodiversity, particularly in threatened environments. (Goal 15 United Nations 2030 agenda for SDG). Thus environmental education encourages sustainable lifestyles, waste reduction, improved energy use, increased public transport use, support for pro-environment policies, and environmental activism.

Table 2 - Revenue collected from various forest product in Manipur

Year Revenue	Collected (Rs. Lakhs)
	(2)
2009-10	202.65
2010-11	198.36
2011-12	324.29
2014-15	383.19

Source: Annual Administrative report, Department of Forest

In view of right measures to check the environmental pollution and for maintaining and preserving ecological balance in the state by implementing various programmes, the Ecology & Environment office, under Forest and Environment Deptt., has been doing a foreman service. It launches various awareness programmes among the people. For a meaningful enforcement of the Acts and Rules laid down by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India, the Department is implementing 5 (five) Schemes viz. Environmental education/Awareness Programme; Environmental Research and Monitoring; Eco. Development Programme; Prevention and control of population and Direction and Administration.

During the Ninth Plan, the financial assistance has been given to about 400, NGOS/Clubs, Academic Institutions, Organisations for organizing environmental education and Awareness programmes to promote the local environment conscious citizens. The Department also took up various environmental monitoring works of some major rivers viz. Imphal, Nambul, Iril etc. and wetlands like Lotak Lake, Phumlenpat, Ikkopat etc. Besides, the real quality of Kangla is also being monitored. The State Botanical Garden has been set up at Khonghampat. The Department is also providing grant-in-aid to the Manipur Pollution Control Board which is playing a major role in preventing air and water pollution in the state. During the Tenth Plan (2002-07), the department proposes improvement of seven ecological parks in seven districts.

Literacy Rate: Manipur has a population of 2,721,756. of this aggregate, 58.9% live in the valley and the other 41.1% in the hilly locales. Population of Manipur In 2018: According to 2011 census, Sept. 6th 2017.

Table 3 - Literacy Rate

State	Year	Literacy Rate	Male	Female
Manipur	2001	68.87	77.87	59.70
	2011	76.94	83.58	70.26

Source: Census of India, 2011.

The extent of literacy reflects the qualitative aspect of the population. Higher literacy emancipates economic and social backwardness. The literacy rate had shown an increase from 59.9 percent in 1991 to 76.94 percent in 2011 as evident from Table No. 3.

Way forward: Education has a key role to play in addressing environmental challenges. Education, especially of girls and women, are the most effective means of curtailing population growth, increasing women's autonomy over fertility-related decisions and the timing of pregnancies. Education can improve livelihoods by increasing earnings, and skilled people are essential to the transformation of economies and food systems. Education can influence individual and collective environmental behaviour through contemporary, traditional and lifelong approaches to learning. Lifelong learning builds capacity to understand and promote sustainable development policies and practices (Goal 7 United Nations 2030 agenda for SDG). Literacy and agricultural extension programme can help farmers increase productivity by up to 12%. Education for 2030. Every goal in the 2030 Agenda requires education to empower people with the skills, knowledge and values to live in dignity. People should build their lives and contribute to their societies. Education is a human right and a force for sustainable development, peace, greener and safer life all people and planet.

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