Chapter 1
Sustainable Education Curriculum Development

Geetali Tilak
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1933-6159
Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, India

Jay Prakash Verma
https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4004-5513
NSHM Business School, India

Shalini Shivram
https://orcid.org/0009-0004-0207-5652
Sri Balaji University, Pune, India

Jaya Saxena
https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5365-046X
Indira University, Pune, India

P. Selvakumar
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3650-4548
Department of Science and Humanities, Nehru Institute of Technology, Coimbatore, India

ABSTRACT

In an era marked by unprecedented environmental challenges, sustainable education has emerged as a crucial pillar for shaping a resilient, equitable, and ecologically balanced future. Climate change, biodiversity loss, resource depletion, pollution, and environmental injustice are no longer distant threats but present realities affecting every region of the globe. As these issues continue to intensify, the need for a transformative approach to education becomes increasingly urgent. Sustainable

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3373-4357-0.ch001

education—or Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)—is an integrative learning process that equips individuals with the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes necessary to address environmental challenges, make informed decisions, and take responsible actions for the well-being of the planet and society, both now and in the future. It transcends traditional environmental education by embedding sustainability principles across disciplines and promoting critical thinking, global citizenship, and long-term responsibility.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION: PREPARING FOR A GREENER FUTURE

In an era marked by unprecedented environmental challenges, sustainable education has emerged as a crucial pillar for shaping a resilient, equitable, and ecologically balanced future. Climate change, biodiversity loss, resource depletion, pollution, and environmental injustice are no longer distant threats but present realities affecting every region of the globe. As these issues continue to intensify, the need for a transformative approach to education becomes increasingly urgent. Sustainable education—or Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)—is an integrative learning process that equips individuals with the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes necessary to address environmental challenges, make informed decisions, and take responsible actions for the well-being of the planet and society, both now and in the future. It transcends traditional environmental education by embedding sustainability principles across disciplines and promoting critical thinking, global citizenship, and long-term responsibility. Sustainable education recognizes that the challenges we face are complex and interconnected, requiring interdisciplinary approaches and systemic thinking. This educational paradigm does not focus solely on environmental science or conservation; instead, it integrates ecological literacy with social, economic, and cultural perspectives. For example, sustainable education explores how consumption patterns, financial systems, social inequalities, and cultural behaviors intersect with environmental outcomes.

It encourages learners to understand how their local actions contribute to global impacts and to develop the agency to create positive change within their communities and beyond. In doing so, it aims to nurture a generation that is not only scientifically literate but also ethically driven and socially conscious. Another key component of sustainable education is its emphasis on lifelong learning. Sustainability is not a static goal but a dynamic, evolving process. Therefore, individuals must be prepared to adapt to changing circumstances, learn continuously, and remain open to new ideas and technologies. This is particularly important in a world where climate science, policy frameworks, and sustainability technologies are rapidly evolving. Sustain-

Strategic Competency Development in Indian Tourism: Harnessing Digital Transformation, Sustainability, and Human Capital

Hemanth Kumar S., Dinesh Nilkant, K. R. Gayathri, Subramanya Iyer K. N. Ananthaand Prabha Kiran (2025). *Empowering Sustainable Performance and Competitive Advantage in Tourism (pp. 127-168).*
www.irma-international.org/chapter/strategic-competency-development-in-indian-tourism/382742