



GLOBAL COLLABORATIONS FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND EDUCATION

Shweta Gupta

RESEARCH ARTICLE



Author Details:

Assistant Professor,
Department of Management,
Moradabad Institute of Technology,
Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, India

Corresponding Author:

Shweta Gupta

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Abstract

Interdisciplinary collaboration is essential to permaculture education because it brings together multiple disciplines to solve complex environmental problems and promote sustainability. Through community engagement, social inclusion, and global partnerships, students can apply their knowledge and build global awareness. This section discusses ways to measure the impact of these collaborative projects and emphasizes the importance of innovation, knowledge sharing and global collaboration to build a sustainable future. Continuous learning also includes social justice, career development, and continuing professional development. However, challenges such as internal problems, cultural differences, and resource constraints can hinder these efforts. Collaborative efforts play an important role in shaping the next generation's understanding of our world. Approximately 71% of India's population comes from rural areas. The Government of India has schemes for rural livelihoods. These services focus on poor and often remote areas of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal, where communities live, and target women and tribals (Adivasis and Dalits). The UK Department for International Development (DFID) has played a major role in rural development in India. Most rural people depend on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods. The programs supported by DIFD help them achieve sustainable water, land and forest management. The government has also implemented various measures for rural education. The number of schools in rural areas has increased, enrolment has increased and students have been sent back to schools with better facilities. India has made significant progress in achieving the Education for All goals. Today, government data shows that the enrolment rate of rural children between the ages of 6 and 14 is close to 96%. When it comes to rural education, most of today's campaigns are motivated by providing attractive products that attract children to school or parents to send their children to school, such as half-day meals, clean facilities, uniforms, playgrounds and free books.

Keywords: *Interdisciplinary Collaboration, Global Partnerships, Innovation, Rural Development, Government Schemes*

Introduction

Global collaborations in education and sustainability have got attention nowadays in the times of new global challenges such as climate change, social inequality and economic development. These collaborations include partnership with government, international organizations, industries, financial institutions, universities, NGOs and the private sector to achieve sustainability through education. Sustainable Development is development to survive in the present without sacrificing the resources of future generations to meet their needs. Development means the economic development which equally distributes the results and protecting the environment which increases opportunities for people. People centered development, focuses on preservation of nature, employment, women's and youth's empowerment.

Theoretical framework and Global policies

i. Education for sustainable development (ESD)

The concept of education for sustainable development (ESD) is important for global collaborations in education and sustainability. According to UNESCO (2017) Education for Sustainable Development aims to provide learners with the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes necessary for sustainable development. According to my study, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) are playing a leading role in promoting ESD through programs such as:

- **Education for Sustainable Development in United Nations (2005–2014)**
Made people aware and developed so many policies at national level integrating sustainability into education (UNESCO, 2014).

- **Global Action Program (GAP) on ESD (2015–2019)**

Encouraged cooperation from all the stakeholders in ESD (Tilbury, 2019).

- **ESD for 2030 (2020–Present)**

Focuses on integrating policies, changing environments for learning, and engaging youth (UNESCO, 2021). ESD aligns with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.7, which is meant for integrating global citizenship, human rights, and sustainability into education (UN, 2015).

ii. The Role of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The sustainable development goal adopted in 2015 is focused on partnerships for education and sustainable development. SDG 4 (high quality education) is trying to ensure quality education for each person and everyone. SDG 17 (Partnership for Purpose) emphasizes the need for global cooperation. Studies by Leicht et al. (2018) and Wals & Benavot (2017) suggest that partnerships between various stakeholders enhance the impact of sustainability education across national and cultural contexts.

Challenges in Global Collaborations on Education and Sustainability

Despite progress, several challenges hinder effective global collaborations:

- a. **Funding and Resource inequality**

Developing nations often lack the financial resources to implement sustainable education programs.

- b. **Policy Inconsistencies**

Differences in national education policies can slow down international collaborations.

- c. **Limited Access to Technology**

Digital education for sustainability is often inaccessible in backward regions.

- d. **Cultural and Language Barriers**

Global collaborations require adaptations to different cultural and linguistic contexts.

- e. **Political Instability**

Conflicts and unstable governments can disrupt sustainability education initiatives.

Key Global Collaborations and Initiatives

i. United Nations and UNESCO Initiatives

UNESCO has been a leading force in global collaborations:

- UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC)

Helps cities in integrating learning and sustainability for lifetime.

- UNESCO Chairs Programme

This programme is meant for encouraging universities to collaborate on sustainability research.

- Greening Education Partnership (2022)

Involving climate education into school curriculum worldwide. (UNESCO, 2022)

ii. Regional and Intergovernmental Partnerships

Many organizations at regional level support sustainability education:

- Erasmus+ (European Union) – Provide funds to transnational education projects on sustainability (European Commission, 2021).

- Asia-Pacific ESD Network – Coordinates sustainability education efforts at regional level (UNESCO Bangkok, 2019).

- African Union's Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) – Promotes sustainability in African education systems (African Union, 2016).

iii. University and Academic Networks

Higher education institutions play a crucial role in sustainability collaborations:

- Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI) – Facilitates knowledge exchange on sustainability in higher education (GUNI, 2020).

- Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) – Engages universities worldwide in SDG-related education and research (Sachs et al., 2020).

- Times Higher Education Impact Rankings – Measures university contributions to sustainability through teaching and research (THE, 2023).

iv. NGO and Private Sector Contributions

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private companies support sustainability education through funding, technology and capacity-building:

- World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Oxfam – Develop sustainability curricula for schools (WWF, 2020).

- Microsoft and Google – Provide digital tools for sustainability education (Microsoft, 2022).

- Youth-Led Movements – Organizations like Fridays for Future promote youth engagement in climate education (Martiskainen et al., 2021).

Examples of international cooperation for sustainable development:

- a. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**
United Nations sustainable development goals to remove poverty from and promote education for all and many other social issues.
- b. Paris Agreement**
A global agreement to limit global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- c. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**
An international agreement to conserve biodiversity and promote the sustainable use of biological resources.
- d. Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)**
A global organization that supports countries in their transition to green economic growth.

Why is international cooperation important for sustainable development?

Innovation means bringing new ideas in organization and for new ideas international cooperation is required as our country does not have efficient resources and for getting information regarding international tie-ups is needed. Foreign collaboration can lead to faster development and expansion of advance technologies.

Development can be done through collective efforts and cooperation among different countries. By working together, different organizations can create a greater impact than they could individually do.

Sustainable development of rural areas: is defined in the Russian Federation as stable socio-economic development of rural areas, optimizing agricultural and fisheries production, increasing the effectiveness of agriculture and fisheries industry, the achievement of full employment of the rural population and improve his life, as well as rational use of land (RF). The European Union defines it as long-term, cost-effective development of rural communities while preserving the natural foundations of life and ensuring social protection of all segments of the population.

Around 71% population in India is from rural areas of which around 21% of the rural population is below the poverty line. Government has developed so many programmes for rural livelihood in India. These programmes focus on some of the poorest and most remote districts in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal where tribal communities are located targeting women and tribal groups (adivasi and dalits). The Department for International Development (DIFD) has given a vast contribution in improving rural livelihoods in India. Most rural people depend on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods. DIFD supported programmes help them in sustainable management of water, land and forests.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Targets, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Interventions

- i.** The schemes adopted by the government to end poverty in all areas are National Urban Livelihood Mission, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), National Land Record Management Programme (NLRMP) and interventions for the same like Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana (APY).
- ii.** The schemes adopted to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture are National Food Security Mission, Mission for integrated Development of Horticulture, National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture, National Oil seed and Oil Palm Mission, National Mission on Agriculture Extension and Technology, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and interventions for the same are Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), National Nutrition Mission (NNM), National Food Security Act (NFSA), passed in 2013 and Mid-Day Meal Scheme.
- iii.** The schemes adopted by the government for better health and well-being are National Health Mission including NRHM, Human Resource in Health and Medical Education, National Mission on Ayush including Mission on Medical Plant, National AIDS & STD Control Programme) Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) and government interventions for the same are Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (2006).
- iv.** The schemes adopted by the government for quality education are Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, National Programme Nutritional Support to Primary Education (MDM), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), Support for Educational Development including Teachers Training & Adult Education, Scheme for providing education to Madrasas, Minorities and Disabled, Rashtriya Uchhtar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) and government interventions are Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat.
- v.** The schemes for gender equality are National Mission for Empowerment of Women including Indira Gandhi Matritav Sahyog Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (SABLA) and government interventions for the same are Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (Girl Child Prosperity Scheme), Support to Training And Employment Programme for Women (STEP) 2014, Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), SWADHAR 2011 (A scheme for women in difficult circumstances), Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV).

- vi. The schemes for clean water are National Rural Drinking Water Programme, Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, National River Conservation Programme (NRCP), some of the government interventions are Namami Gange - Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission and Inter-linking of rivers.
- vii. The government interventions for affordable and clean energy are Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, National Solar Mission – providing continuous power supply to rural India 3) India Energy Policy, Power (2015) – Electrification of the remaining 20,000 villages including off – grid Solar Power by 2020, five new Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4000 MW each to be installed.
- viii. The government schemes for decent work and economic growth are National Service Scheme (NSS), Skill Development Mission, Social Security for Unorganised Workers including Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana and interventions for the same are Deendayal Upadhyaya Antodaya Yojana, National Urban Development Mission.
- ix. The government schemes for building resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation are Border Area Development Programme, National Handloom Development Programme, Catalytic Development Programme under Sericulture, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and government interventions for the same are Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Shramev Jayate Karyakram ,Minimum Government Maximum Governance Make in India, Start Up India ,Ease of doing business initiative and FDI Policy.
- x. The government schemes for reducing inequality within and among country are Multi Sectoral Development Programme for Minorities, Backward Regions Grant Fund Scheme for Development of Scheduled Castes Scheme for Development of Other Backward Classes and Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Tribes Scheme for development of Economically Backward Classes, Umbrella scheme for Education of ST students, Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) and government interventions for the same are Grants from Central Pool of Resources for North Eastern Region and Sikkim ,Udaan Scheme for youth of Jammu & Kashmir, PAHAL- Direct Benefit Transfer for LPG(DBTL) consumers scheme ,Give it Up Campaign (for LPG subsidy), Mudra Yojana.
- xi. The government schemes for making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable are Rajiv Awas Yojana Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY), National Programme for Persons with Disabilities, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and interventions in this way are Smart Cities Mission, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Housing for All-2022), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY).
- xii. There are no such government schemes to Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns but some of the government interventions are National Policy on bio-fuels, National Clean India Fund (NCEF) National Clean Energy Fund Renewable Energy, Soil Health Card Scheme.
- xiii. There are no government schemes to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts as of now but some of the government interventions are National Action Plan on Climate Change, National Mission for a Green India, National Solar Mission, National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency, National Mission for Sustainable Habitat, National Water Mission, National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture and National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change.
- xiv. The government schemes to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development are Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystems and government interventions for the same are National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystem Sagarmala Project (Blue Revolution).
- xv. The government schemes to Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss are National Afforestation Programme (National Mission for a Green India), Integrated Development of Wild Life Habitats and interventions for the same are Project Tiger Project Elephant, National Environmental Policy 2006 ,National Agro forestry Policy (2014), National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (2001).
- xvi. The government schemes to Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels are Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA), Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary including Gram Nyayalayas and interventions for the same are Digital India, Pragati Platform (Public Grievance Redressal System, RTI (Right to Information Act).
- xvii. The government schemes to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development are Support for Statistical Strengthening and interventions for the same are South-South Cooperation, India Africa Summit, SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization), BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), NDB (New Development Bank – BRICS) SAARC Satellite (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation).

Future Directions and Possibilities

To strengthen global cooperation on education and sustainable development, researchers and policymakers suggest:

- Increase funding for developing countries: Increase investment from international organizations and private sector partners.
- Stronger policy integration: Align national education policies with global sustainable development frameworks.
- Knowledge of using new technologies: Expand access to sustainable development education using AI, virtual reality, and online platforms.
- Engaging communities and youth: Engaging communities and youth in sustainable development education projects.
- Strengthening public-private partnerships: Encourage collaboration between governments, businesses, and NGOs to scale up successful education initiatives.

Case Studies on Global Collaborations for Education and Sustainability

Global collaborations in education and sustainability play an important role in facing climate change, environmental protection, and equal development of all. These partnerships bring together governments, educational institutions, businesses, society and non-profit organization to promote sustainable learning and practices. Below are some notable case studies showcasing successful global collaborations in education and Sustainability.

i. UNESCO's Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Overview

The Global Action Programme (GAP) was launched by UNESCO IN 2014, which focused to integrate Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into policies, curriculum, and training teachers all over the world. It built on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014). The collaborating partners for the same were UNESCO, UNEP, UNICEF and World Bank, National governments and universities in over 100 countries and NGOs and private-sector partners.

Key Result

- Over 70 countries started adopting ESD into their new education policies.
- Established the framework for ESD, whose continuous efforts were to integrate sustainability into global education.
- It created the Global Schools Program for providing knowledge to students on climate change and sustainability.

Impact

The program has strengthened the global education system to ensure that the principles of sustainability are taught in other fields. It also supports initiatives to build the potential for teachers to encourage education to integrate the concept of sustainable development into education.

ii. The Green School Initiative (Bali, Indonesia & Global Expansion)

Overview

- The Green School is an innovative, sustainable education model founded in 2008 in Bali which combines academic knowledge with the responsibility of an environment. This initiative was a great success which led to the development of a global network of Green Schools. The collaborating partners for the same were Green School International, UNESCO, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Corporations such as IKEA Foundation, Google, Local communities and many other groups.

Key Result

- More Green Schools developed in New Zealand, South Africa, and Mexico.
- Introduction of sustainability-focused curriculum that emphasize on nature-based learning.
- Developing Green Educator Course, in which training is provided to teachers all over the world for sustainability-based learning.

Impact

The Green School model has promoted sustainable education in the world, developing new teaching methods that emphasize on environmental awareness, renewable energy, and circular economy framework.

iii. The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and Climate Education

Overview

- The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is an initiative of different stakeholders for improving education in developing countries. Recently, GPE has focused on including climate education into national curriculum. The collaborating partners for the same are World Bank, UNICEF, and UNESCO, over 70 developing countries, Private-sector partners such as Microsoft, Google, and LEGO Foundation and many other NGOs like Save the Children and Plan International

Key Result

- In education system over \$5 billion invested worldwide for including sustainability education.
- Integration of climate education in over 40 countries, specially focusing on Africa and South Asia.
- Development of online learning resources on sustainability and climate change.

Impact

By including sustainability into national education policy, GPE has empowered students with knowledge and skills to cope with challenges like climate change, especially in vulnerable areas.

iv. The Eco-Schools Program (International)

Overview

- The Eco-Schools Program was launched in 1994 by the foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), which aims at promoting sustainability education in primary and secondary schools worldwide. Schools that meet the objective of sustainability receive a Green Flag certification. The collaborating partners for the same are FEE, UNESCO, and UNEP, over 70 countries including India, UK, Kenya, and Brazil, local governments, teachers' unions, and companies like Toyota and Samsung.

Key Result

- More than 59,000 schools are involved, in reaching 19 million students globally.
- Promoting sustainability through projects like school gardens, energy-saving projects, and recycling programs.
- Conducting training programs for teachers to incorporate sustainability into everyday learning.

Impact

Eco-Schools have changed the learning environments, encouraging students to take practical actions for sustainability and promoting environmental responsibility in their communities.

v. The Youth Climate Leaders (YCL) Global Network

Overview

- The Youth Climate Leaders (YCL) is a global initiative that provides young people with education, networking, and career opportunities in sustainability and climate action. The Collaborating Partners for the same are United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Universities such as Harvard University, University of San Polo, and Oxford University, Corporate sponsors and some startups, Global NGOs like 350.org and Climate Reality Project.

Key Result

- More than 2,000 young leaders trained in climate policy, green finance, and environmental advocacy.
- Establishment of YCL Hubs in Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Asia.
- Internships and career-oriented programs created in sustainability industries.

Impact

YCL has empowered the youth to become climate leaders all over the world and motivate the citizens to adopt policies and sustainability initiatives in their local and global communities.

Conclusion

These case studies show the power of global collaborations in education and sustainability. By bringing together governments, international organizations, private companies, and local communities, these initiatives create lasting positive impacts. As the need of climate change and environmental challenges grows, strengthening such collaborations will be essential in shaping a more sustainable future for the next generations. Global collaborations on education and sustainability play an important role in facing environmental and social challenges. UNESCO has made a significant progress through various initiatives and partnerships with national and regional organizations, universities, and the private sector. In the future efforts should be taken focusing on technological changes and must be for all without any discrimination and policy-driven approaches to ensure that education for sustainability reaches all communities worldwide.

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