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SOUTH ASIAN CULTURE
LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

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Sustainable Social Progress Begins with Education

Nabanita Dutta*

Introduction

With a large population in South-East Asia and limited resources we as individuals and societies need to learn to live together sustainably. We need to take action responsibly based on the understanding that what we do today can have implications on the lives of people and the planet in future. UNESCO aims to improve access to quality education on sustainable development at all levels and in all social contexts, to transform society by reorienting education and help people develop knowledge, skills, values and behaviours needed for sustainable development. It is about including sustainable development issues, such as climate change and biodiversity into teaching and learning. Individuals are encouraged to be responsible actors who resolve challenges, respect cultural diversity and contribution to creating a more sustainable world.

Sustainable progress begins with education. In 21st Century the United Nations decade of 'Education for Sustainable Development' (UNDESD 2005-2014) significantly highlighted the vital role of education that can and must play in the universal journey towards sustainable development across the world and saving our planet. Education has been recognized as a fundamental widely acknowledged as a means for people to realize their capabilities and move towards social progress. Based on the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reiterated that education is not only an end in itself but also a means to achieving the world agenda. The arena of societal sustainable development and social progress is only possible through comprehensive cross-sector efforts that begin with education. The systematic educational

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