

The Role of UNESCO in Global Education



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Abstract

Since its creation in 1945, UNESCO's mission has been to contribute to the building of peace, poverty eradication, lasting development and inter-cultural dialogue, with education as one of its principal activities to achieve this goal. The organization is committed to a holistic and humanistic vision of quality education world-wide, the realization of everyone's right to education and the belief that education plays a fundamental role in human, social and economic development.

UNESCO's educational objectives are to: Support the achievement of education for all. (EFA), Provide global and regional leadership in education. Strengthen education systems, world-wide from early childhood to the adult years and Respond to contemporary global challenges through education. UNESCO is the only United nation's agency with Amandate to cover all aspects of education. Its work encompasses educational development from pre-school through to higher education, including technical and vocational education and training, non-formal education and literacy. The organization focuses on increasing equity and access, improving quality and ensuring that education develops knowledge and skills in areas such as sustainable development, HIV and AIDS, Human Rights and Gender Equality. UNESCO works with governments and a wide range of partners to make education system more effective through policy change. It co-ordinates the Education For All movement, tracks education trends and raises the profile of educational needs on global development agendas.

Keywords: UNESCO, Education Systems, Human Rights.

Introduction

"This is the first time that a United Nation's Secretary General has made education a priority. It is an historic decision that recognizes the power of education to transform lives and build more sustainable, peaceful and prosperous societies. I am proud that the Secretary General turned to UNESCO to play a lead role in shaping this initiative and taking it forward." Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General

Global Education is a creative approach of bringing about change in our society. Global Education is an active learning process based on the universal values of tolerance, solidarity, equality, justice, inclusion, co-operation and non-violence.

Global Education is a complex idea that is taught to enhance ones meaning of the world. Global Education is typically taught within the curriculum. Teachers of Global Education will integrate multiple dimensions, perspectives and citizenships into the everyday lessons.

Education that opens people's eyes and minds to the realities of the globalized world and awakens them to bring about a world to greater justice, equity and human rights for all. Global Education is understood to encompass development education, human rights education, education for sustainable development, education for peace and conflict prevention and inter-cultural education; being the global dimension of education for citizenship.

Global Education promotes positive values and assists students to take responsibility for their actions and to see themselves as global citizens who can contribute to a more peaceful, just and sustainable world.

Global Education begins with raising awareness of global challenges such as poverty or the inequalities caused by the uneven distribution of resources, environmental degradation, violent conflicts or human rights, thus creating deeper understanding of the complexity of the underlying causes. It aims to change people's attitudes by them reflecting on their own roles in the world. Global Education motivates and empowers people to become active, responsible global citizens.

Global Education Is Based On Values

1. Tolerance, solidarity, fairness and justice, empathy, equality
2. Responsibility, co-operation, non-violence
3. Inclusion, diversity

Global Education applies methodological approaches that are;

1. Learner-centered
2. Participatory
3. Partnership based
4. Experience based
5. Activating
6. Empowering

Global Education is a process. Which:

1. Begins with raising awareness of certain problems
2. Then creates a deeper understanding of the complex underlying issues
3. Encourages people to reflect on their own role in the problem and therefore
4. Changes their attitudes and behavior
5. Motivates and empowers people to become active in a responsible way

Aim of the Study

The aim of the study is to know the concept of Global Education and the role of UNESCO in Global Education.

The Goal of Global Education

Global Education wants to develop global citizens through promotion of open mindedness and a willingness to take action for change, respecting, and valuing diversity and being active in the development of a peaceful, just and sustainable world.

Global Education has five perspectives**Interdependence and Globalization**

An understanding of the complex social, economic and political links between people and the impact that changes have on each other.

Identity and Cultural Diversity

An understanding of self and one's own culture, and being open to the culture of others.

Social Justice and Human Rights

An understanding of the impact of inequality and discrimination, the importance of standing up for our own rights and our responsibilities to respect the rights of others.

Peace-building and Conflict Resolution

An understanding of the importance of building and maintaining positive and trusting relationships and ways conflict can be presented or peacefully resolved.

Sustainable Futures

An understanding of the ways in which we can meet our current needs without diminishing the quality of the environment or reducing the capacity of future generations to meet their own needs.

Role of UNESCO

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) based in Paris. Its declared purpose is to contribute to peace and security by promoting international collaboration through educational, scientific, and cultural reforms in order to increase universal respect for justice, the rule

of law, and human rights along with fundamental freedom proclaimed in the United Nations Charter. It is the successor of the League of Nations' International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation. UNESCO has 195 member states and ten associate members. Most of its field offices are "cluster" offices covering three or more countries; national and regional offices also exist.

UNESCO pursues its objectives through five major programs: education, natural sciences, social/human sciences, culture and communication/information. Projects sponsored by UNESCO include literacy, technical, and teacher-training programs, international science programs, the promotion of independent media and freedom of the press, regional and cultural history projects, the promotion of cultural diversity, translations of world literature, international cooperation agreements on secure the world cultural and natural heritage and to preserve human rights, and attempts to bridge the worldwide digital divide. It is also a member of the United Nations Development Group.

Since its creation in 1945, UNESCO's mission has been to contribute to the building of peace, poverty eradication, lasting development and inter-cultural dialogue, with education as one of its principal activities to achieve this goal. The organization is committed to a holistic and humanistic vision of quality education world-wide, the realization of everyone's right to education and the belief that education plays a fundamental role in human, social and economic development.

UNESCO's Educational Objectives

1. Support the achievement of education for all.(EFA)
2. Provide global and regional leadership in education.
3. Strengthen education systems world-wide from early childhood to the adult years.
4. Respond to contemporary global challenges through education.

UNESCO is the only United Nations agency with a mandate to cover all aspects of education. Its work encompasses educational development from pre-school through to higher education, including technical and vocational education and training, non-formal education and literacy. The organization focuses on increasing equity and access, improving quality and ensuring that education develops knowledge and skills in areas such as sustainable development, HIV and AIDS, Human Rights and Gender Equality. UNESCO works with governments and a wide range of partners to make education systems more effective through policy change. It coordinates the Education For All movement, tracks education trends and raises the profile of educational needs on global development agendas.

For globalization of basic education, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has partnership with Educate A Child (EAC). As a strategic partner UNESCO work with EAC to advance the agenda of 'Out Of School Children' at an international level. In partnership with EAC, UNESCO also implements

projects in ten (10) countries to ensure that out of school children complete a full course of basic education. UNESCO works with EAC to increase access and participation in basic schools for out of school children, with a particular focus on the Arab Asia Pacific Regions. Launched in 2012 the new complete EAC and UNESCO Iraq project targeted the enrollments of 30000 out of school children over three years. In 2014 EAC and UNESCO Asia Pacific Bureau for education launched a project to strengthen education system and enroll 50000 out of school children in nine countries.

The UNESCO has played a lead role in GEFI also. Global Education First Initiative (GEFI) is a five year plan which launched by The United Nations Secretary General in September 2012, to accelerate progress towards the education for all goals and the education related millennium development goals.

GEFI Aims

1. Rally together a broad spectrum to actors for the final pose to 2015
2. Put quality, relevant transformative education at the heart of the social, political and development agendas.
3. Generate additional and sufficient funding for education through sustained global advocacy efforts.

GEFI's Three Priorities

1. Put every child in a school.
2. Improve the quality of learning.
3. Foster global citizenship.

Actually Global Education First Initiative (GEFI) is a reflection of UNESCO's vision that education is the most effective way to fight poverty, improve health and well being, generate growth and promote responsible citizenship. The importance of UNESCO in GEFI may be traced in the decision of selecting the Executive Secretary to the Director General of UNESCO Mr. Irina Bokova of this high level steering committee. This high level committee provides strategic direction and guidelines to the Secretary General to ensure visibility and success of the initiative. From the every beginning of its construction UNESCO is working for the betterment of the education in the world although the primary role of UNESCO is to enhance education but it got a very new role to provide Global Education. Global Education is a new concept by which the major problems of the world may be removed. The feeling of

equality, social justice, tolerance, solidarity, co-operation, non-violence, inclusion etc. may be improved.

UNESCO is working with EAC for along time and more 50000 students have been enrolled in nine countries who have never gone to the schools. It is a great number from the point of view of education. The countries where education may play a very vital role in their development have been selected. The process is going on and will not stop till it reaches its goal of eradication of non-enrolment of the children. United Nations' dream project GEFI launched in November 2012 is being leaders by UNESCO. It is a very important initiative to put every child in school to improve the quality if learning and foster global citizenship. UNESCO is working as the predecessor in this program. From the point of view of global education a number of initiatives have been taken and UNESCO is a front runner till now. But the challenges are very big to go forward. It is necessary to be stagnant in its way. And UNESCO has the vision to complete its mission of going ahead. If Global Education will get a proper shape from practical point of view it is sure to achieve its goals. UNESCO is the only organization which is playing a very vital role in this sphere and will continue to do so.

Conclusion

The demons of poverty, non-cooperation, inequality etc. may be triumph only through Global Education. World citizenship may be developed and environmental issues may be resolved only by global education. The same is being done. Even a lot of work has been done but we have vast challenges in front. UNESCO has to aim to face these challenges to achieve the real goal.

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