

STRATEGIES FOR INTEGRATING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTO HIGHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

The concept of sustainable development is the process of integrating and balancing the economy, environment, and the overall health and well-being of society.

Education for sustainable development is an emerging imperative. It represents a major shift in the way students are taught and learn within the higher education sector in order to make higher education the major contributor to society's efforts to achieve sustainability development, through the skills and knowledge that its graduates learn and put into practice and through research and exchange with community.

United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed the ten-year period beginning on first January 2005 the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) to emphasize that education is an indispensable element for achieving sustainable development. This initiative and many other initiatives of the United Nations agencies have been a great recognition for many universities around the world to pursue and mainstream Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), throughout their organizations. In fact many universities have become engaged in the process of integrating sustainable development in their activities, by integrating sustainable operations, policy and practices for the long term, in order to make higher education relevant to the societal needs, in general, and sustainable development in particular, and to make themselves a microcosm of the outside world. To achieve their goals universities have to find out what kind of learning objectives do the challenges associated with sustainable development impose on education in general and on higher education in particular and how can the universities respond to these challenges and how these learning objectives are expected to evolve in the future.

The purpose of this paper is to explore the strategies used by some universities to take into consideration integrating sustainable development to fulfill their assigned missions. Some examples are given to highlight the impact of sustainable integration development into higher education on education, research, economy and environment.

Keyword: sustainable development/ integration/ university/ research/ education