ETSD SEMINAR SERIES 6

Sustainability and MDPs

Center for Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Development (CETSD)

@ IIT Jodhpur

presents

Series 6: **Second Session of Sustainability Talk Series – Education Vertical (SDG4)**

Date: **19th July 2021**

Time: 5:30 pm

Communication Protocol for the Audience over Webex

- Please keep your Mic on Mute & Video OFF
- Speak only when the moderator says it is your turn
- Use the *Chat* (to *Everyone*) option to write the question you wish to ask.

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SUSTAINABILITY IN EDUCATION

The Role of Sustainability in Higher Education

- *What are the gaps in the spread of access to education in the post-Covid world?*
- *How can sustainability be used as a fundamental fabric for developing engineering and technology curriculum in the era of Industry 4.0?*
- *How can India achieve the targets identified by SDG #4 on Quality Education?*

INVITED SPEAKERS

Shri Anurag Goel
IAS (Retd.), Advisor, IIT Jodhpur
Former Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Former Member, Competition Commission of India

Prof. P. D. Jose
Professor and Chairperson, Strategy
IIM Bangalore

SGD 4 on Quality Education aims to **Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.**

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

19 July 2021 Schedule for the Virtual Gathering on **Sustainability and Education**

Time	Talk Title	Person	Affiliation	UN SDG Goals
5:30 PM	Introduction by Moderator	Dr. Preeti Tiwari	CETSD and SME, IIT Jodhpur	
5:35 PM	**Role of Sustainability in Higher Education System**	**Shri Anurag Goel**	**Retired IAS, Former Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Advisor, IIT Jodhpur**	#4 and others
5:55 PM	**Sustainability Education in Management Schools: Relevance and Directions for Future Research**	**Prof. P. D. Jose**	**Professor and Chairperson, Strategy IIM Bangalore**	#4 and others
6:15 PM	Q&A Session	All Discussants		

Shri Anurag Goel

IAS (Retd.), Advisor, IIT Jodhpur
Former Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Former Member, Competition Commission of India

Retired IAS Officer with a career spanning four decades

Served in corporate affairs, defence, home affairs, civil aviation, health, and finance sectors

Senior Advisor to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) / Sustainable Development

One of the **principal architects** of competition law and regulation in India

Founder, Shaping Tomorrow Consultants LLP

Former Member, Competition Commission of India

Recipient of the prestigious **Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration**

Prof. P. D. Jose

Professor and Chairperson, Strategy
IIM Bangalore

Fulbright Fellow (1999-2000)
MIT, USA, and Kenan-Flagler Business School, North Carolina

Visiting Faculty at
Cardiff Business School, IIM Kozhikode
Gothenburg School of Business, Economics & Law at the University of Gothenburg (2005-06, 08)

Visiting Researcher (UNDP/GoI Fellowship)
Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

ESRC Visiting Fellow
Centre for Business Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability & Society at Cardiff University

Corporate Environmental Management, Sustainable Enterprises, and Understanding Corporate Failures

Shri Anurag Goel
IAS (Retd.), Advisor, IIT Jodhpur
Former Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Former Member, Competition Commission of India

Some Offline Questions and Responses by Shri Anurag Goel

While most of the startups focus on disruptive technological innovations, we see very few startups who are focussed on addressing environmental issues. What can we do to motivate students towards startups focussed on sustainability and what kind of training can be inculcated in the curriculum itself to make this happen?

First, many of the trends and technologies I mentioned in my talk have inherent environmental solutions and optimizations, so naturally, professors should highlight those advantages and how these tech advances can be optimized further towards better environmental outcomes. There may be limited need to add things like more environmental programs at the university, not comparable to movement towards programming and STEM programs as you could see in general. However, one could imagine creation of specialized programs to address certain specific opportunities in the market that come out of the innovations i.e. environmental specialist for vertical farming tech (merging sustainable energy production with farming methods), and others. What I would like to emphasize again, as I did in my talk, is the need to develop a FUTURIST MINDSET, and understanding of the planet impacting implications of sustainability issues for future generations. Special programs and initiatives for this need to be taken up, along with underlining the huge business potential for sustainability related startups, and accorded the HIGHEST PRIORITY. Once that happens, rest will follow.

Combining the idea of exponential change and society, what role can education play; especially in a country like ours that has a digital and overall resource divide?

The great movers will be private enterprises in India. So creating deeper ties with the private sector to satisfy their needs would be advisable to keep programs in evolution to follow the need. Higher education institutions that focus exclusively on research will have a hard time keeping up and may be left behind because exponentiality requires following the drivers closely, and that will be private sector. Once the educational institutions and students realize the direct impact of exponential technologies on the society and on the way we live, work, interact and think; and link all of this to the sustainability/ climate issues; the kind of lessons to be imparted, as also the role and contours of education will become very clear. Bridging the digital divide obviously has to be one of the key deliverables for the education system.

I would advise those interested (and whoever asked the question) to pick up the key points from my PPT, and do further search, as suggested by me during the talk.

Shri Anurag Goel
IAS (Retd.), Advisor, IIT Jodhpur
Former Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Former Member, Competition Commission of India

Some Offline Questions and Responses by Shri Anurag Goel Contd.

Do we need to place an end/death date for products? It would mean buying products again and again, say a smartphone. Could such a business model lead us in the correct direction?

No. That would encourage consumerism of the worse sort. What would be best is to assume a shorter life cycle for most products except infrastructure and others, and ensure these products have a path towards degradation and recycling back into usable materials for re-engineering/re-printing. Ideas like modular construction of devices can help this, as well as additional focus in materials research.

We see that sustainability as a full-time course is still not commonly available. Is this due to a dearth of professional experts, or are there some other challenges to this?

I think sustainability is a very broad area with multiple facets. It may be a challenge to find one professor with enough knowledge to tackle that on his/her own. What we need to do is to develop a separate stream for imparting education on sustainability. One day you might have not only a masters degree on the subject, but entire institutions / departments on the subject. Instead of trying to do this ab initio, it will be far easier and efficient to develop clear insights into connections between the different disciplines, and then develop new programs compromising mostly the existing disciplines with additional inputs relating to these linkages. A conceptual framework for this can be designed by someone who has a holistic understanding of what I am talking about.