

North East Foundation For Regional Sustainability
Guwahati-13, Assam, India
www.nefrs.org

Education For Sustainability

- Role of Academy, Industry, Community and Government
- Road Map Ahead

Bora, A.(2005): 'Education for Sustainability-Role of Academy, Industry, Community and Government' 1st Round Table Conference by NEFRS, Dec 4, Guwahati



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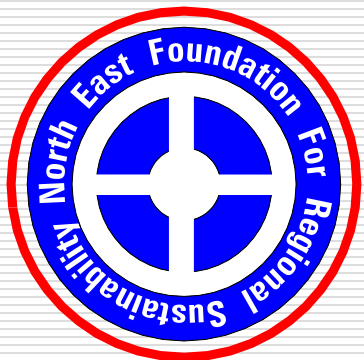
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Education For Sustainable Development (ESD)

- 2005-2014 is the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
- ESD should not be seen as 'one more subject' to be added to an overcrowded curriculum
- ESD not simply about sustainable development theory

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Education For Sustainable Development (ESD)

- Manage education as a tool to achieve Sustainable Development
- Making Education
 - a process of individual, social and national transformation for sustainability
 - Promoting values as software of human development that sets direction, decision, behaviour and lifestyle
 - Values such as human rights for future generation, gender equity
- Whole school approach
 - Mission of all forms of learning institutions are to be consistent with the sustainable future for the institutions as well as the state

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ESD is much beyond formal education

- ESD encompasses all forms of learning- formal, non formal and informal from early childhood to adult life
- All existing educational programs such as SSA [Sarba Siksha Abhijan], adult education, health education relating to AIDS fall under a framework of ESD



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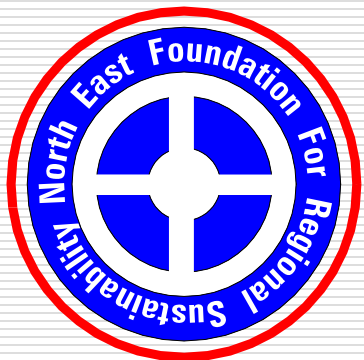
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ESD is much more than Environmental Education

- ESD encompasses Environmental Education
- ESD seeks to link all other problems such as poverty to human health] that are related to a given environmental problem
- In Indian Supreme Court had to intervene for introducing Environment as a compulsory subject up to HSS level from the academic session 2004-2005
- A proactive role is needed for ESD

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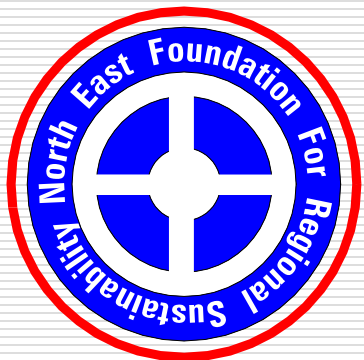
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No Universal Model for ESD

- Sustainable Development is a better quality of life for individual, family and for all
 - ESD must be locally relevant and culturally appropriate
- ESD calls for a local agenda for sustainable development
- ESD calls for setting local sustainability goals
 - A question of management of natural, social and cultural capital
 - All- Academy, Industry, Community and Government are stakeholders

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Incorporating Sustainability in Education

- How ESD is relevant to different areas of our teaching and research?
- How to see the links between different disciplines, specialisms, profession and ESD?
- ESD should not be seen as 'one more subject' to be added to an overcrowded curriculum
- What can a particular discipline do for sustainability? And how to integrate sustainability into it?

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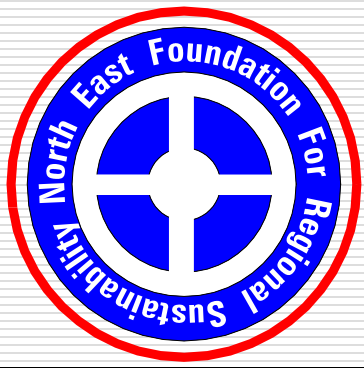
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Road Map Ahead towards ESD

- Develop local agenda for Sustainable Development
- What kind of education we need to promote local agenda for sustainable development? Research Agenda?
- What kind of knowledge, skills, perspective and values we seek to impart in our graduates/citizenry?
- What attributes we will target in our graduates?

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The attributes

- Systemic thinking that grasps the whole without losing sight of its parts
 - Objectives of an individual teacher in contrast to the institutions
 - Links between education-employment-utilisation of employed manpower
 - Harmonisation of public policies
- Knowledge and skills without perspective and values cannot lead to sustainability
 - Future consequences of current planning decisions
 - Cities are at risks and cannot withstand a shower?
 - Critical, creative and future thinking skills, confidence to deal with uncertainty

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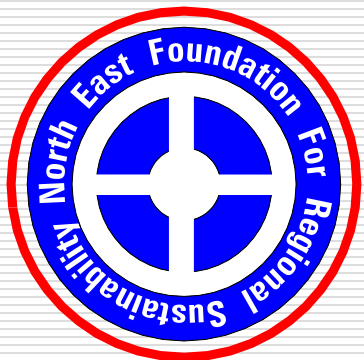
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Strategies

- Awareness within the educational community and public that reorienting education to sustainability is essential
- Reviewing and orienting existing educational policy or programs for consistency with the policy of sustainability
- How far ESD is already integrated into educational initiatives and what these are, where these are!

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Strategies

- Establishing code of practice to assist in the integration of sustainable development into the daily decisions, actions and operations of the educational institutes
- Guidelines to government on how to adopt a holistic approach to ESD and how to integrate it in the existing practices and system
- Policy framework of Sustainable Education Act

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