



**“Nature has trumped our cards of careless attitude teaching us lessons in harsh ways”.**

**– Mr. Pradip Burman, Chairman, Mobius Foundation**

## Environment Positive: Viewpoint

The challenge of educating about sustainability during and post Covid 19 pandemic is being discussed at various platforms by sustainability professionals, educators, teachers, policy makers and the general public. The Covid pandemic has reemphasized the need for a sustainable lifestyle and education is the most potent tool to bring about such a transformation. This was the focus of the International Webinar organized by Mobius Foundation and partners to mark the first anniversary of the landmark International Conference on Sustainability Education (ICSE) on 9 and 10 September 2020. The virtual event was opened by Mr. Amit Khare, Secretary, Ministry of Education, Government of India who spoke about India's New Education Policy (NEP) terming it as broad based, multi-disciplinary and holistic. Presiding over the event, Mr. Eric Falt, Director and Representative, UNESCO New Delhi stressed upon the significance of the NEP as a great starting point and very welcome reform related to gender equality, foundation and holistic learning and for improving learning outcomes of children.

Mr Kartikeya Sarabhai, Director, Centre for Environment Education in his keynote address highlighted the challenges posed by Covid 19 on education system and sustainability education. Dr. Christa Henze, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany spoke about the importance of outdoor nature education and Professor Daisy Dimkpa of Niger Delta University spoke on her experience of YouTube in online learning and management of sustainability education in Nigeria. Mr. H. Rayappa, of ISRO, Bengaluru deliberated on the potential of satellite communications for education and empowerment in the Covid era. Mr Pradip Burman, Chairman, Mobius Foundation enlightened about the ICSE forum for regular exchange of ideas, experiences and efforts through the network, in order to carry forward the initiative. The second day of the webinar was devoted to youth where 15 young participants from across Asia presented their experiences of “Youth for Earth” and “My Future My Voice” campaigns organized to mark the 50th year of the Earth Day.

The ICSE events have been able to provide useful forum and opportunity for educators and teachers during the Covid crisis, for learning from experiences of the wider sustainability education community and for working together to build back better and resilient education systems through individual and collective leadership, creativity and innovation. We do hope that such leadership will be demonstrated and reinforced across education systems in days to come. India's new education policy is a positive development in this direction.

**Dr. Ram Boojh**  
CEO, Mobius Foundation

## Positive Affirmations

### Helping Create Justice, Equality, Peace and Environment Sustainability: The Key Role of Education

Education is often first seen in terms of literacy and then preparing for a prosperous, stable livelihood, also referred to commonly as good career. There is however also a much wider, more important role of education (which increasingly gets less attention), and this is to contribute to creating a society based on justice, equality, peace and environment protection. Ultimately this is the most important aim of human life and of education.



What is the essence of human life? This is to strive as much as possible to create a life based on justice, equality, peace, harmony of all forms of life and environment protection. What is the essence of education? The essence of education is to help to create the base for this by nurturing supportive value systems in various creative and interesting ways, with special emphasis on more formative years of childhood and youth but continuing later as well.

Source: <https://www.thenewlearn.com/2020/09/helping-create-justice-equality-peace-and-environment-sustainability-the-key-role-of-education/>

### How teacher training needs to evolve in the 21st century

A teacher in the 21st century has to inspire the learner to think in a way that benefits humanity. It is not about teaching to pass exams but teaching kids to become better humans.



The challenges of the 21st century are frankly going to be very different from those we faced over the past 300 years. The industrial period is over. Many today say that we are in the fourth industrial revolution while referring to the use of smart technology in our manufacturing and industrial processes. I say that we have left the industrial era and we are now in the first intelligent revolution. The continued growth in information and knowledge processing speed in conjunction with the development of artificial intelligence, will be a game-changer for education and inevitably for the teaching profession.

How we process information and generate knowledge with artificial intelligence will drastically change the way we think and learn. It is the latter dimension I want to focus on in this article, more specifically on what the role of teachers will be within a new learning space established as a result of the intelligent revolution. Socrates quipped, not surprisingly, when he said that there was nothing he could teach anybody but the ability to learn how to think. This takes on elevated importance as AI becomes a dominant factor in our decision-making process. What we teach our students and the people who we entrust to take on this important task will hold a more important position in our education systems in the first intelligent revolution than ever before.

Source: <https://www.daily.in/variety/teaching-teacher-training-education-in-india-new-education-policy/story/1133674.html>

# International Conference on Sustainability Education 2020

ICSE II WEBINAR September 09 - 10, 2020

The First International Conference on Sustainability Education (ICSE) 2019 was successfully organized by Mobius Foundation, Climate Reality Project India, UNESCO, TERI and 30+ other distinguished partners on 9th and 10th September 2019 in New Delhi, India. The conference highlighted the key role of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as an element of quality education through 5 Plenaries, 15 special sessions with as many 20 keynote speeches on various themes of sustainability education. One of the key outcomes of the ICSE 2019 was to create a FORUM for regular exchange of ideas, experiences and efforts throughout the network, in order to carry forward the initiative.

In continuation of these forums and to keep up the momentum of the 1st ICSE, Mobius Foundation and partners organized the 2nd version of the ICSE on 9th -10th September 2020 virtually. The ICSE 2020 was initially planned to be held in Abuja, Nigeria in association with the Federal Ministry of Education, Government of Nigeria along with other Nigerian organizations. However, due to COVID - 19, we organized the first anniversary of this landmark event through a two-day webinar.

## September 9, 2020 - Day 1: Sustainability Education and the New Normal

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought huge disruption in education forcing around 1.58 billion children and youth out of their campuses. The challenge today is to reduce as much as possible the negative impact this pandemic will have on learning and schooling and build on this experience to get back on a path of build back better the educational system. During ICSE II webinar proceedings of ICSE 2019 report was launched. The opening remarks were given by our Chief Guest, Shri Amit Khare, Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India and he spoke on comprehensive overview of National Education Policy (NEP). Shri Amit Khare emphasized that challenging situations like COVID 19 pandemic also provide opportunities to see, do and explore new things. We further had our eminent guests like Mr. Eric Falt addressed the audience on gender equality, youth and sustainability education, Dr. Christa Henze emphasized on what can be learned out of COVID19 pandemic crisis and education (ESD), Dr. Henze shared about the ripple effect of COVID in Germany is very different in communities and family, Prof Rayappa shared use of satellite communication to deal with situation of COVID disruptions in education, Prof. Daisy I. Dimkpa, on YouTube: The New Normal in Online Learning and Management of Sustainability Education in Nigeria addressing the webinar for attendees who joined us across the globe.



## September 10, 2020 - Day 2: Sustainability Education and the Youth

Young people have an enormous stake in the present and future state of Earth. There is a powerful opportunity for society if young people can participate positively in all aspects of sustainable development. With the similar vision Mobius Foundation, Earth Day Network and The Climate Reality Project India joined hands to launch the Youth for Earth and My Future My Voice Campaigns to mark the 50th year of the Earth Day. The campaign was run through January to July 2020. Youths were invited to participate in the campaign and be a 'Champion for Earth' and a 'Change Maker' by submitting their activity done from 22nd April 2019 onwards. It was also to provide a platform for youth to showcase their ground actions and influence the world that change starts from them. The campaign received overwhelming responses from the youth from all over India and South Asia about doing an activity or projects on the ground which brings about a change and leads to a more sustainable planet. We had 11 youth from all parts of the globe to present their projects on the various themes related to environment. The event was concluded by the key messages from our partners to the youth who are the change maker to build sustainable planet.



## Highlight of the Month

'Planet is dying', India's 8-year-old climate crusader warns

One of the world's youngest climate change activists, Kangujam was inspired by the devastating scenes she witnessed in Nepal in 2015, where as a four-year-old she helped her father deliver aid to victims of huge earthquakes that killed some 9,000 people and destroyed one million homes.

Now she is leading a youth movement calling for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indian lawmakers to pass a new law aimed at capping carbon emissions in the world's third largest producer of greenhouse gases.

"I am fighting to save our planet and our future," she said as she protested outside Parliament House in New Delhi on Sept 21, clutching a placard that read: "Child movement for climate, pass the climate change law."

Source: <https://www.thejakartapost.com/life/2020/09/28/planet-is-dying-indias-8-year-old-climate-crusader-warns.html>



## Funny Side



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