



UNESCO: ROLE AND FUNCTIONS

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ABSTRACT

The important socio-economic needs of global society pave the fundamental roles and functions of UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in fostering global peace and development. The organization's mission revolves around promoting access to quality education, encouraging international collaboration in science, and safeguarding cultural diversity. UNESCO serves as a platform for nations to address shared challenges, advocates for the free flow of information, and plays a vital role in emergency response. UNESCO's commitment to education, science, and culture underscores its pivotal role in shaping a world that values knowledge, understanding, and collaboration for the betterment of humanity.

Keywords: Development, educational and socio-cultural growth, scientific and technological advancements

INTRODUCTION

UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, stands as a beacon for global collaboration in the realms of education, science, and culture. Founded with the conviction that fostering these three pillars is fundamental to building a world of peace and sustainable development, UNESCO plays a pivotal role in shaping international efforts toward these ideals. In simple terms, UNESCO's mission revolves around ensuring access to quality education for all, promoting scientific cooperation, safeguarding cultural diversity, and serving as a platform for nations to work together on shared challenges. As we delve into the roles and functions of UNESCO, we discover an organization dedicated to harnessing the power of knowledge and understanding to create a brighter, more harmonious future for people around the globe.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, or UNESCO, is a vital force in advancing global peace and development in the domains of science, culture, and education. Here are a few basic explanations of its primary tasks and functions:

EDUCATION

UNESCO strives to guarantee universal access to high-quality education. This covers initiatives to advance gender parity in the classroom, literacy, and the creation of instructional resources.

RESEARCH

UNESCO promotes worldwide cooperation and the exchange of scientific knowledge in the field of science. It is in favor of science-based research and applications for sustainable development.

CUSTOMS

The mission of UNESCO is to preserve and advance cultural diversity. This entails safeguarding historical buildings, maintaining linguistic diversity, and promoting the creative sectors. According to UNESCO, respecting and recognizing diversity in culture can advance world peace.

Information and Communication:

The free exchange of knowledge and the use of media for the good of humanity are encouraged by UNESCO. This entails tackling problems like fake news and media literacy in addition to promoting the right to free speech and information access.

Human and social sciences:

UNESCO focuses on topics including ethics, human rights, and the advancement of knowledge in the social and human sciences.

GLOBAL COLLABORATION:

The organization acts as a hub for global collaboration. Through UNESCO, nations may work together to address global issues, exchange experiences, and tackle shared challenges.

Increasing Capacity:



UNESCO assists nations in enhancing their scientific, cultural, and educational capacities by offering training and resources. Support for creating efficient institutions and policies is part of this.
Emergency Reaction:

UNESCO assists in emergency response during crises, such as natural disasters or conflicts. This can entail preserving cultural assets, offering emergency education, and aiding with community reconstruction.

UNESCO serves as a global spokesperson for the value of science, culture, and education in creating a more harmonious and sustainable world. It promotes international cooperation in addressing common issues.

It has 194 member states and twelve associate members, as well as partners in the non-governmental, intergovernmental and private sector. It has headquarters in Paris, France and UNESCO has 53 regional field offices and 199 national commissions that facilitate its global functions.

It was in 1942, during the Second World War, the governments of the European countries, which were confronting Germany and its allies, met in the United Kingdom for the Conference of Allied Ministers of Education (CAME) which called for a United Nations Conference for the establishment of an educational and cultural organization was convened in London in November 1945.

, This is how UNESCO was founded on 16 November 1945. The first session of the General Conference of UNESCO was held in Paris during November-December of 1946.¹

EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT TRANSFORMS LIVES

It is one aspect of sustainable development.²

Education changes lives and is at the centre of UNESCO's mission to establish peace, remove poverty and go for sustainable development.

This Organization is the only United Nations agency with a function to cover all areas of education.

It has been given the responsibility to lead the Global Education 2030 Agenda through 4 Sustainable Development Goals

5 'Education 2030 Framework for Action' (Incheon Declaration) is the direction to achieve the global education 2030 agenda of global education

Its work involves educational development from pre-school to higher education and beyond. The themes are global citizenship and sustainable development, human rights and gender equality, health, HIV, and AIDS, as well as technical and vocational skills development.

PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE AND FOSTERING CREATIVITY

Cultural development is important for overall development so it is realized by all that no development can be sustainable without a strong cultural aspect.

UNESCO has taken a three-layered approach to make culture its critical area in development policies and programmes. Also, it has a worldwide support for culture and development together. It also aligns with the international society to have clear policies and legal approach towards that. The modus operandi includes the Works on the ground to support governments and local levels to safeguard heritage, strengthen creative industries and encourage cultural pluralism.

Following are the important conventions and international treaties of UNESCO to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage:

The Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)

The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)

The Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001)

The Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)

The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)

The Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Traffic of Cultural Property (1970)

Science for a Sustainable Future

Science helps us to find solutions to today's acute economic, social and environmental problems and to achieving sustainable development and goals of different political cultures bring varied traditions to the democratization process

3.

UNESCO inspires to help countries to invest in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), to develop national science policies, to reform their science systems and to build capacity to monitor and evaluate performance through STI indicators.

Also, UNESCO works with its member states to pave the way for good decisions about the use of science and technology.



SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES

UNESCO supports to enable people to create and use knowledge for just and inclusive societies, help them in understanding each other and work together to build peace and development. Through promoting mutual understanding among member states by its various intergovernmental Programme like Management of Social Transformations (MOST), its Youth Programme and the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence Programme which include initiatives for democracy and global citizenship, intercultural dialogue, peacebuilding.

Communication and Information

UNESCO advances freedom of expression and the safety of journalists, combats online hate speech, as well as disinformation and misinformation through awareness raising initiatives.

It also supports universal access to information and knowledge through promoting Open Solutions, including Open Educational Resources, access for marginalized people, and multilingualism in Cyberspace.

UNESCO also paves the way to help 54 African countries with a stronger and better-targeted strategy.

The adoption of the African Union Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development paving the ground for the African Economic Community and the African Renaissance.

GENDER EQUALITY

UNESCO holds that people must enjoy equal opportunities, choices, capabilities, power and knowledge as equal citizens. It believes in having children, women and men with the knowledge, values, attitudes and skills to deal gender disparities. It is a precondition to build a sustainable future for humankind.

Some important initiatives to achieve the objective of Gender equality.

World Heritage Convention -1972 links together the concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties.

The Convention gives the kind of natural or cultural sites (World Heritage Sites) which can be considered for inscription on the World Heritage List.

The States Parties of convention are encouraged to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research.

It mandates how the World Heritage Fund is to be used and managed.

MAN, AND THE BIOSPHERE (MAB) PROGRAMME

It is an intergovernmental scientific programme that has an objective to establish a scientific basis for increasing the relationship between people and their environments.

It promotes innovative approaches to economic development that are environmentally sustainable.

UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGp) are laboratories for sustainable development six which promote the recognition and management of Earth heritage, and the sustainability of local communities.

The Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) is the only intergovernmental programme of the United Nations system devoted to water research and management, and related education and capacity development.

WORLD WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME (WWAP)

The growing global water crisis threatens the security, stability, and environmental sustainability of developing nations. The programme focuses on assessing the developing situation of freshwater throughout the world.

It also coordinates the work of 31 UN-Water members and partners in the World Water Development Report (WWDR).

INTERNATIONAL BASIC SCIENCES PROGRAMME (IBSP)

It is an international multidisciplinary programme established by UNESCO Member States to reinforce intergovernmental cooperation in science to strengthen national capacities in the basic sciences and science education.

UNESCO Science Report emphasizes on Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) governance around the world on a regular basis. Global Education Monitoring Report

Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report carries out its assessment of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal on education (SDG4) and its 10 targets, as well as other related education targets in the SDG agenda.

The report gives different accountability mechanisms that are given to hold governments, schools, teachers, parents, the international community, and the private sector accountable for inclusive, equitable and quality education McBride Report of 1980. The comprehensive report of the MacBride Commission is also named "Many Voices, One World".

It analysed communication problems in modern societies, particularly relating to mass media and news, considering the emergence of innovative technologies.



CONCLUSION

UNESCO is a specialized agency of the United Nations.⁷ It has marked achievements to its credit in the educational development fields worldwide through its various programmes in scientific and technological areas. Along with the governments of the countries UNESCO holds various programmes and organizes meets so that to find solutions for many challenges the mankind faces and this collaborative efforts bear good results and foster development globally. The problems of the global world are many and when countries sit together then the solutions are underway without disturbing the policies and programmes of the respective governments of member countries. Thus, UNESCO plays a particularly significant role in bringing good changes in many sectors of development for human beings.

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