Role of Fisheries Sector on Sustainable Development of Maldives: How Can Education Help?

^Gazi Mahabubul Alam, ^Aishath Farhath, ^Abdul Jalil Othman, ^Talukder Golam Rabby and ^Pradip Kumar Mishra

^1Academic Performance Enhancement Unit, University of Malaya, 50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
^2Ministry of Education, Republic of Maldives
^3Faculty of Education, University of Malaya, 50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
^4Faculty of Economics and Administration, University of Malaya, 50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Corresponding Author: Gazi Mahabubul Alam, Academic Performance Enhancement Unit, University of Malaya, 50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Tel.: +60322246345; Fax: +60322246348

ABSTRACT

Proper utilization of natural resources has been considered as one of the key tools for development. Experience confirms that while a few countries have become industrialized through the proper usage of natural resources by expanding other sectors with the alignment of global development phenomena, some countries are only consuming the wealth of natural resources and expending pleasurable daily life without working for fundamental sustainable development required to meet the future challenges. Maldives is one of the developing countries having some potential natural resources. A country of islands must have an ample prospect of fisheries sector. There is a shortage of competent manpower both at the level of policy making and at the grass root level. The fisheries sector of Maldives is yet to be developed with a long run vision that is connected with the national development goal. Country’s borrowed British education system is not necessarily catering to the local need. Given the nature of this short communication research letter, this study will explore some issues with an aim of offering some suggestions towards a solution.

Key words: Maldives, fisheries sector, education, development, policy

INTRODUCTION

Criteria of development and approaches towards development and their schemata have evolved out of historical social practices (Alam et al., 2009; Rabby et al., 2011a; Birdsell, 1963; Kaplan and Celik, 2008). Interpretation of social events is guided and constrained by the prevailing rationality which itself reflects the dominant constellation of power (Alam, 2009; Rabby et al., 2011b). Living in the era of globalization, denying the definition of development and its patterns (economic, social and human need) prescribed mainly by Western school of thought would not only make a country isolated but also dysfunctional (Alam et al., 2009; Rabby et al., 2011a). Approaches towards development process may vary from one country to another (Rabby et al., 2011a). A country which lacks natural resources is in a disadvantaged position in the running competition of development compared to other counterparts which have been enjoying the benefit of natural resources (Nargis and Hossein, 2006; Socones, 1998). However, evidence also asserts that over dependency on natural resources makes a nation lethargic which can be a greater hindrance for development. None can repudiate the need of competent manpower for the developmental process.