

HOLISTIC THINKING AND ACTING

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Abstract: The world needs a new paradigm. The challenges that we face today need a new way of thinking and new approaches. We must think about changes today and not in the future. In the contribution the reasons for current situation in the world are listed, the stakeholders which have a power to make a change are defined and possible solutions are suggested. Holistic and transdisciplinary thinking and the integration of natural science and technology knowledge with social science and humanities knowledge is in the heart of a new paradigm.

Keywords: Holism, education, sustainability, change.

DISCUSSION

The humanity is exploiting the Earth's limited natural resources as if they were endless. The measure of our overuse of natural resources is Earth Overshoot Day (Day of ecological debt), the day on which humanity uses all natural resources available in one year. It is the day when we, humanity, enter ecological debt to future generations. The Earth Overshoot Day in 2023 was August 2nd. Earth Overshoot Day in developed countries occurs much earlier, in Slovenia, for example, it occurred on April 18th. This is not acceptable and far from sustainability.

According to the United Nations definition of sustainability is: "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations as a universal call to action to ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The SDGs are integrated and address social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainability and evolution of them.

According to SDGs definition our actions (education, research, development, production...) should be holistic. In the frame of this article, holism is meant that parts of a system (in our case world) are in intimate interconnection, so that they cannot exist independently of the whole, or cannot be understood without reference to the whole. If we see all parts of the system interconnected, we understand that every change in the system will affect all parts of the system. If this is so than we should plan all our actions holistically. We, as Humanity, face sustainability crisis mainly because we do not think and act holistically.

Holistic and transdisciplinary thinking and the integration of natural science and technology knowledge with social

science and humanities knowledge should be our guideline for the future.

Reasons for the sustainability crisis are proposed as follows: world economic system(s), overproduction and consumerism which all together give rise to unsustainable set of basic values such as: constant growth and profit.

A balanced world with balanced development and balanced growth for the benefit of all should be our common goal. In the equation of the wealth of the countries' healthy environment, healthy people, healthy society, and balanced GDP should be included.

Stakeholders who can make a change in current sustainability crisis are proposed as follows: Consumers, Economy, Politics (legislation), Educators.

A highly evolved and technically developed world needs focus on emotionally and socially developed human beings with high awareness who can use knowledge and new technology tools for building a better world. Based on holistic knowledge and understanding of deep interconnection of technology and social sciences, the strategy(es) for the future would meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

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