

CHAPTER ELEVEN

THE POTENCY OF COLLABORATION OF EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES: ASSESSING THEIR ROLES IN ADVANCING CLIMATE JUSTICE AND JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the potency of the collaborative efforts of education, information and capacity building initiatives and their roles in advancing climate justice and just energy transition. It noted that education, information dissemination, and capacity building play pivotal roles in advancing climate justice and promoting a just energy transition. Education at all levels—primary, secondary, and tertiary—is essential for the advancement of climate justice and a just energy transition. Furthermore, the study noted that an informed society and individuals are the bedrock for climate justice and a just energy transition, as information is essential requisite for the advancement of climate justice and a just energy transition. Furthermore, the study noted that justice in climate centres on the uneven impact of alteration in weather upon disadvantaged and vulnerable groups is necessary in the society. A just energy transition and the advancement of climate justice depend heavily on information, education and capacity building. The study concluded that education, information, and capacity building initiatives are integral to advancing climate justice and facilitating a just energy transition. One of the recommendations made was that media outlets should provide comprehensive coverage of climate justice and energy transition issues, highlighting diverse voices, particularly from marginalised communities disproportionately affected by climate change.

KEYWORDS: Education, Information, Capacity Building, Climate Justice, Just Energy Transition

INTRODUCTION

Education, information dissemination, and capacity building play pivotal roles in advancing climate justice and promoting a just energy transition. These initiatives are critical components of broader efforts aimed at addressing change in climate and its uneven influences on susceptible groups. Justice for the climate embodies the even circulation of the weights and gains of weather change mediation and adoption, while a just energy transition involves transitioning to a sustainable energy system that prioritises equity and social inclusion. By focusing on education, information sharing, and capacity building, stakeholders can empower

individuals and communities to actively participate in shaping climate policies and transitioning to cleaner energy sources (Hobson et al., 2021).

Education serves as a foundational pillar for fostering climate literacy and raising awareness about the interconnectedness of environmental, social, and economic systems. It equips individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to understand complex climate issues, make informed decisions, and advocate for equitable solutions. For instance, educational programmes that integrate climate science, sustainable development, and social justice can empower students to become future leaders in driving climate action (UNESCO, 2020). Moreover, education initiatives targeted at marginalised communities can help bridge knowledge gaps and build resilience against climate-related challenges, ultimately contributing to more inclusive and sustainable societies.

Information dissemination plays a crucial role in ensuring transparency, promoting public engagement, and facilitating evidence-based decision-making in climate and energy policies. Through accessible and accurate information, stakeholders can enhance public understanding of climate justice principles, energy transitions, and the implications of different policy choices. For example, interactive platforms, community workshops, and multimedia campaigns can effectively communicate complex climate and energy concepts to diverse audiences, fostering dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders (IPCC, 2021). Timely and reliable information also enables individuals and organisations to monitor progress, identify gaps, and adjust strategies for achieving climate and energy goals.

Capacity-building initiatives are essential for enhancing the capabilities of individuals, organisations, and communities to effectively participate in climate action and energy transition processes. These initiatives encompass training, skill development, and technical assistance aimed at building resilience, promoting innovation, and fostering collaboration. For instance, capacity-building programmes for policymakers can enhance their ability to design and implement inclusive climate policies that prioritise marginalised groups and ensure equitable outcomes (OECD, 2020). Similarly, capacity building for renewable energy professionals can drive technological advancements, improve project management, and accelerate the deployment of clean energy solutions, contributing to a more sustainable energy future.

CONCEPT OF EDUCATION

Education at all levels—primary, secondary, and tertiary—is essential for the integration of individuals into society. Education at every level is essential for the advancement of climate justice and a just energy transition. In essence, education helps individuals integrate into society by teaching them the skills they need to become contributing members of the community as well as cultural values and standards. By this, there is promotion in the expansion of the economy and increased societal awareness of provincial plus worldwide problems. A vital fragment of tutelage of this level is anchored by systematised institutes. According to Mukerji (2024), education is tutoring bothered on the field of schooling and scholarship in school-like environments as conflicting to informal means which is the exact opposite.

Education may take different format, but it contributes to the transmission of understanding, abilities, and personality. For instance, there are hierarchy in formal and non-formal education, such as primary, secondary, and university education. Education is as old as the history of man and cuts across every ages, reflecting the pivotal want for enlightenment in addition to knowledge. It serves as a catalyst that helps people realise their full potential by stoking their curiosity. All forms of stimulate the mind, improves thoughtfulness, and encourages critical discerning, providing avenue for positive adjustment.

Furthermore, Ashikuzzaman (2023) noted that education is a fundamental human development pillar, encompassing various activities and processes to acquire knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes. Knowledge is a lifelong activity that begins when one is birthed and exists till death. Education encompasses more than just official settings like schools and universities; it also happens in casual situations, through personal experiences, and through connections with the outside world. Fundamentally, education gives people the skills they need to navigate and comprehend the complexity of the world. It promotes critical thinking, problem-solving techniques, and the growth of analytical skills in addition to facts and information. People with education are better able to think for themselves, challenge presumptions, and pursue fresh information.

The ultimate purpose of education is to empower people to live happy, meaningful lives, make meaningful contributions to society, and make wise decisions that will benefit both their communities and themselves. Bassey (2019) noted that education also implies the development of transformable knowledge and capabilities.

CONCEPT OF INFORMATION

An informed society and individuals are the bedrock for climate justice and a just energy transition. Information is an essential requisite for the advancement of climate justice and a just energy transition. Information, which is concerned with knowledge and knowledge exchange, is essential to all humans and one of their essential needs. Information is generally defined as the dissemination of knowledge. Sheldon (2024) defined information as the results obtained from processing data. Information is a derivation of significance and value from raw data to facilitate understanding, communication, and learning, which is a key factor in system designs and strategic planning, as well as in problem-solving and decision-making.

Igajah and Bassey (2021) explained that information plays a significant role in individuals' daily lives, and is central to national development. While information might be acquired passively, actively seeking out information necessitates acknowledging some degree of doubt or abnormality. Gaining knowledge of facts and its providers really assists in developing proficient abilities like. Information is also essential for economic development and progress since it makes it easier to spot market opportunities, streamline production procedures, and develop new goods and services that cater to consumer demands.

Furthermore, information can be seen as certainty, opinion, or piece of datum transferred through different channels of dissemination, such as written, oral, visual, and audio communications (Indeed 2023). Information has been known for different terms, including brainpower, message, datum, sign, or fact; however, knowing the kind of information one needs and how one can convey such information assists to preserve time, remain coordinated, and build worldwide acceptance for disclosing knowledge. Information is the building block that facilitates communication, helps people learn and develop, and powers decision-making. Information is therefore available through a variety of outlets, including social media, the Internet, and books. Information is vital for organisations, governments, and other institutions; it helps them make decisions and remain competitive in a world that is changing quickly. Its significance goes much beyond our own lives.

However, Ashikuzzaman (2023) defined information as the cultivation of processed, coordinated and structured data in an informative way to pass down knowledge, thoughts, or directives to be using different media, such as written, pictures, words, or motion pictures, and can be seen through diverse channels. The quantity of information that society has access to is increasing at an exponential rate due to

technological advancements. Additionally, it makes group and individual cooperation and collaboration easier. Information helps people grow as individuals by offering fresh viewpoints, thoughts, and concepts, but it also improves critical thinking abilities, widens one's perspective, and fosters creativity and problem-solving skills.

CONCEPT OF CAPACITY BUILDING

The ability of people and institutions to decide, carry out decisions, and carry out tasks in an efficient, sustainable, and effective manner is referred to as building capacity. Improvement in an individual's or organization's strength in "producing, performing, or deploying" is referred to as capacity building." Building capacity is an act to delivering to the societies the equipment it requires in adapting, surviving, and prospering in a dynamic world. These tools comprise ability, predisposition, gifts, and possessions. Change that is from within and can be improved on eventually builds capacity; this sort lengthens beyond task delivery and includes modifying behaviour and convictions.

Moreover, York (2024) posited that capacity building enables groups to develop and intensify capabilities. As such, the group can perform well and achieve its objective, man upon obstacles and enforce good leadership, promoting expansion. Furthermore, by empowering individuals to undertake their right of learning, acknowledge their desires and formulate steps to meet their demands, a capacity-building can be established.

Increasing a capacity is an investment in its future viability and efficacy. Whatever it takes to move from one stage to the next is known as capacity building. When capacity building is successful, it strengthens a persons' strength to deliver on mission over time (National Council of Nonprofit, 2024). Building capacity is a far more comprehensive idea that needs to be viewed from a systemic standpoint that takes into account various groups of people, organisations, institutions, and society as a whole. Building capacity is the process of transforming attitudes and behaviours, conveying knowledge, and fostering skill development while optimising the advantages of ownership, participation, and knowledge sharing.

CONCEPT OF CLIMATE JUSTICE

This concentrates upon uneven "effects of climate or weather change on disadvantaged groups. The objective of it for a fair distribution of the climate across the globe also to lessen its effects. Environmental justice includes climate justice. Concepts such as just, rights of humans, general individual rights, and responsibility for change in climate are all examined in the context of climate justice. This is accomplished by drawing parallels between the origins/consequences of weather change and the ideas of being just, especially social and societal justice. Robinson (2022) mentions that justice in climate is associated to the outline for human rights and global growth, allotting the wealth and challenges related with environmental normality, as well as worries on the effects of environmental degradation.

The activity of combating environmental injustices, seeks for resolutions that challenges the prevailing causes of climate change. Climate change challenges people's rights. Every individual have to know how to decide on their own and exist honourably. Disasters from climate is detrimental to lives, careers, and cultures, putting the supply of food and water in fear of extinct. Lam (2023) defined climate justice as a term that recognises the effect of industrial growth and consumption and, more importantly, the knowledge of how it affects individuals of different standings in the society.

To achieve justice in climate requires a centralised decision and climate action change around equity and human rights. These concepts affirm that countries, regions and people who have profited commercially from excessive greenhouse radiations have a duty in assisting those affected by climate change, most essentially, vulnerable regions that often make least involvement to the challenge. Vachette & Gulliver Sarah (2024) mention that climate justice replicates cumulative consciousness that environment change will disturb not only the atmosphere but also the communal textile of the societies and homelands.

Science informs climate justice, which responds to science and recognises the need for fair resource management. Climate justice unifies progress and solidifies civil rights. Justice in the climate ensures that defenseless persons are secured and the benefits and costs of climate change are fair in distribution. Chandran (2020) explained that climate change is a great injustice that confronts lives and living. The impact of which is globally spread and unparalleled in scope, emerging from changed in atmospheric patterns that endangers farming to heightened sea levels that increases the likelihood of flooding. Climate justice entails an international justice problem where powerful states profit from policies or actions that hurt poorer nations.

THE PLACE OF EDUCATION IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF CLIMATE JUSTICE AND JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

Stimulating fair evolution to less-carbon budget that will not worsen inequities is one of society's numerous difficulties. Notably, new educational strategies centred on social, environmental, and climate justice are necessary to achieve the just transition. To create syllabus which supports justifiable development and just societal transition, education for such shift must be worth the qualities of fairness, such as parity, fairness, impartiality, also, inclusivity, encourage educational methods that maintains the shift to a low-carbon economy, and affirm significant roles teachers and students play as agents of transformation. (Droubi & Galamba, 2023).

Leaders and teachers in higher education frequently assert that their schools handle the humanities through research and instruction. In actuality, though, it's uncertain how much higher education is helping society bring about the revolutionary shifts required to address the interlocking problems of escalating health inequities, expanding economic injustice, and deteriorating climate change. Whether in official or not, from school instruction to communal-based/ societal inventiveness, tutelage needs transformation. Education gives people the knowledge and skills they need to comprehend the pressing need for significant changes in the energy industry in order to facilitate the global transition to a green and sustainable economy. (Heffron, 2023).

Leaders in higher education frequently assert that their schools help address the most pressing issues in the humanities through research and instruction. In actuality, though, it's uncertain how much higher education is helping society bring about the revolutionary shifts required to address the interlocking problems of escalating health inequities, expanding economic injustice, and deteriorating climate change. Because of climate change, switching to renewable energy is imperative. However, economic and cultural issues pose challenges to the energy transition in a globalised society. In order to preserve socioeconomic resilience, various energy transition strategies are required for the global north-south dimension of the energy transition.

A vision-driven, cohesive, and place-based set of ideas, procedures, and methods known as Just Transition helps people gain the financial and political clout necessary to transition from an extractive to a reformative economy. Which entails taking a waste-free, holistic approach to the cycles of production and

consumption. The transition must be unbiased and rational, creating compensations for historical wrongs while also creating novel structures through preparations for future.

THE PLACE OF INFORMATION IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF CLIMATE JUSTICE AND JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

A just energy transition and the advancement of climate justice depend heavily on information. Stakeholders can catalyse transformative change towards a more sustainable and equitable future by implementing inclusive communication strategies and focusing information dissemination efforts. Accurate and comprehensive information is essential for addressing environmental injustices and advancing climate justice.

According to Bullard (2019), marginalised communities often lack access to vital information regarding environmental hazards and climate risks, exacerbating existing inequalities. By disseminating information on environmental impacts and vulnerabilities, stakeholders can empower marginalised communities to advocate for their rights and participate in decision-making processes (Dowie, 2017).

Information also acts as a catalyst to raise public awareness and encourage group action in the direction of climate justice. Through media coverage, educational campaigns, and digital platforms, information can raise awareness about the disproportionate impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations, thereby galvanising support for equitable policies and initiatives (Leiserowitz et al., 2020). Additionally, information sharing facilitates knowledge exchange among stakeholders, enabling grassroots movements and advocacy groups to amplify their voices and demand accountability from policymakers (Sullivan, 2018).

Information access is crucial in the context of the just energy transition to address energy poverty and encourage the fair allocation of renewable energy resources. According to Sovacool and Dworkin (2015), information campaigns and community engagement initiatives are crucial for ensuring that marginalised communities have equitable access to renewable energy technologies and energy-efficient solutions. By providing information on available resources, funding opportunities, and technical assistance, stakeholders can empower communities to participate in the transition towards renewable energy and advocate for inclusive energy policies (Bakker et al., 2021).

Furthermore, information is essential for promoting accountability and transparency in the governance of the environment and the energy sector. By promoting open data initiatives, transparency platforms, and participatory mechanisms, stakeholders can enhance public access to information on climate policies, emissions data, and energy infrastructure projects (Boyd et al., 2019). This transparency fosters trust, enhances public engagement, and enables communities to hold governments and corporations accountable for their climate commitments and actions (Vandenbergh & Gilligan, 2020).

THE PLACE OF CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF CLIMATE JUSTICE AND JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

Building capacity is essential to achieving climate justice and enhancing global energy transmission networks. First and foremost, capacity-building programmes improve the expertise of people and organisations dealing with climate change. Policymakers, scientists, engineers, and communities can all benefit from training programmes on climate adaptation measures, renewable energy technology, and sustainable behaviours. Workshops and educational initiatives, for instance, can increase public understanding of the significance of lowering carbon footprints and switching to cleaner energy sources.

Building capacity equips stakeholders with the knowledge and skills they need to carry out climate policy and sustainable energy projects in an efficient manner.

Second, innovation and technology transfer in the areas of climate resilience and renewable energy are promoted by capacity building. Transferring best practices, skills, and technology is made easier by capacity-building initiatives such as research collaborations, knowledge exchange programmes, and partnerships between developed and developing nations. As a result, cutting-edge technologies like energy storage devices, smart grids, and climate-sensitive farming techniques may be used. Through the utilisation of diverse stakeholders' combined knowledge and resources, capacity building expedites the development of a more resilient and sustainable energy infrastructure.

Thirdly, in order to advance social justice and inclusivity in energy access and climate action, capacity building is essential. Initiatives can guarantee the observance of climate justice principles by giving priority to the involvement of marginalised communities, indigenous groups, and vulnerable populations in capacity-building activities. In order to enable communities to actively engage in decision-making, defend their rights, and have access to clean energy technologies, this includes offering training and tools. For example, capacity-building initiatives can help community-based renewable energy projects enhance energy availability in distant places while also providing economic empowerment to local individuals.

Fourthly, enhancing institutional capability and fortifying governance frameworks for energy management and climate action are two benefits of capacity building. This entails strengthening the capacity of governmental entities, oversight committees, and civil society organisations to create and carry out efficient policies, rules, and plans. Initiatives to increase capacity also aid in the creation of open monitoring and assessment systems to monitor advancement, evaluate effects, and guarantee accountability for energy and climate-related projects. Capacity building improves the resilience and general efficacy of the energy and climate systems by creating strong institutions and governance frameworks.

Enhancing energy transmission worldwide and promoting climate justice are two important and varied functions of capacity building. Capacity-building programmes is essential in supporting sustainable development similarly, creating shift towards low-carbon and climate-resilient future by means of improving knowledge, fostering innovation, promoting inclusivity, and strengthening governance.

CONCLUSION

Education, information, and capacity building initiatives are integral to advancing climate justice and facilitating a just energy transition. By empowering individuals and communities with knowledge, skills, and resources, these initiatives enable meaningful participation, foster collaboration, and drive transformative change towards a more equitable and sustainable world. However, to maximize their impact, these initiatives must be inclusive, accessible, and tailored to the diverse needs and contexts of different stakeholders, particularly those most affected by climate change and energy transitions. Through concerted efforts and collaborative partnerships, education, information, and capacity building can play a pivotal role in achieving climate justice and a just energy transition on a global scale.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Media outlets should provide comprehensive coverage of climate justice and energy transition issues, highlighting diverse voices, particularly from marginalised communities disproportionately affected by climate change.

- Media organizations should partner with schools, universities, and NGOs to develop and disseminate educational programmes and materials on climate justice and energy transition. These collaborations can include documentaries, interactive online content, and community workshops that engage the public and enhance understanding of these critical issues.
- Governments should mandate the inclusion of climate justice and sustainable energy transition topics in school and university curricula. This can involve developing specific courses, incorporating climate justice into existing subjects, and providing training for educators to effectively teach these concepts.

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