

# U.Lab 2x

## About this Prototype:

***Vision & Intention: What is the future that stands in need of you, in order to bring it into reality? Crystallize this vision and intention in a few sentences.***

We envisage a holistic education around sustainability, preservation of the environment and social equity that is holistic and embraces a multi-disciplinary approach. The vision is to create leaders who are aware of the multi-disciplinary nature of the ecological and social challenges that we face, and are equipped with the right knowledge, tools and skills and are inspired to act in a manner that is consistent both with their highest beliefs and societal needs with a firm conviction that it is possible to build a more just and humane world, which can respect Mother Earth, and yet at the same time result in a better quality of life for all.

***Describe your prototype. What concrete actions will you take in the next 3 months to gain feedback and learn by doing?***

We have begun working on a curriculum that addresses the need for sustainable development, preservation of the environment, ensuring social equity while at the same time being realistic about the need to improve the quality of life for a vast number of people around the world. We believe that the current sustainability education system does not address many of the key issues that need to be addressed. For instance, policy making & advocacy, the psychological aspects related to denial of climate change & the refusal to acknowledge that the current development model is to blame for man-made climate change, biodiversity loss and species extinction, etc. We am trying to draw upon our experience in industry and also in being engaged with academia, in arriving at our conclusions.

This work is still in the very nascent stages; and will undergo tremendous changes before it reaches its final shape & form.

***What questions do you intend to explore through this prototype?***

The questions that we intend to explore through this prototype include :

1. Addressing the disconnect within the self, disconnect with others & with Mother Earth.
2. Filling the gaps that we see in current education systems around sustainability : advocacy, policy making, psychology, role of arts & spirituality in well-being, etc.
3. Adopting a Systems Thinking approach towards sustainability.
4. Learning from Nature (eg, Biomimicry).
5. Integrating Sustainability with Industry 4.0.

***What key insights from your Interviews and Learning Journeys influenced the development of your prototype?***

1. The current crisis with regard to climate change and social inequity is as much a psychology / moral crisis, as it is of faulty policies and collusion / corruption. Topics such as psychology, spirituality, advocacy, policy making, etc need to be integrated into sustainability education.
2. Two aspects fundamentally need to be addressed : changing the industry model from extract, make, use, dispose model to one that is circular in nature; & reduce unbridled consumption through appropriate policies (eg, accounting for resources from a cradle-to-cradle perspective & carbon taxes, etc).
3. Mother Nature is the best designer. Her designs & creations are awe inspiring, efficient, & innovative. Man-made designs come nowhere near this. It helps to incorporate principles of how nature accomplishes things, into every action that we take.
4. Everything is inter-related. Solutions to major challenges such as climate change and social inequity require collaboration, are inter-disciplinary in nature & cannot be solved piece-meal & in silos.
5. Every action counts. Every individual counts. No effort is small. Together, taking small actions every day, by an ever increasing number of people, can make a significant difference.

***Why does this prototype matter to the key stakeholders involved?***

The prototype aims to educate individuals on various aspects related to sustainable development, preservation of the environment and social equity; and to inspire them to take the necessary first steps to ensure that biodiversity loss and species extinction are halted or reversed, to push for legislation that aims to enhance quality of life for everyone & to reduce inequity. It aims to provide individuals with the tools, knowledge and skills to do this.

***What input or support do you need from others now?***

We need to build a team that has individuals with the required knowledge and skill-sets mentioned previously, that are willing to collaborate and share their knowledge & expertise to accomplish this. Also needed are passionate people who are willing to devote time to reach out to communities, governments, businesses, educators, and other stakeholders and to gather their inputs and feed it back into developing this curriculum. Also needed are individuals who can create outstanding videos, presentation and other engaging content that can help make the delivery of the curriculum more effective. And last, people with skills in digital / social media communication, who can help create meaningful and inspiring campaigns to promote the curriculum are needed.