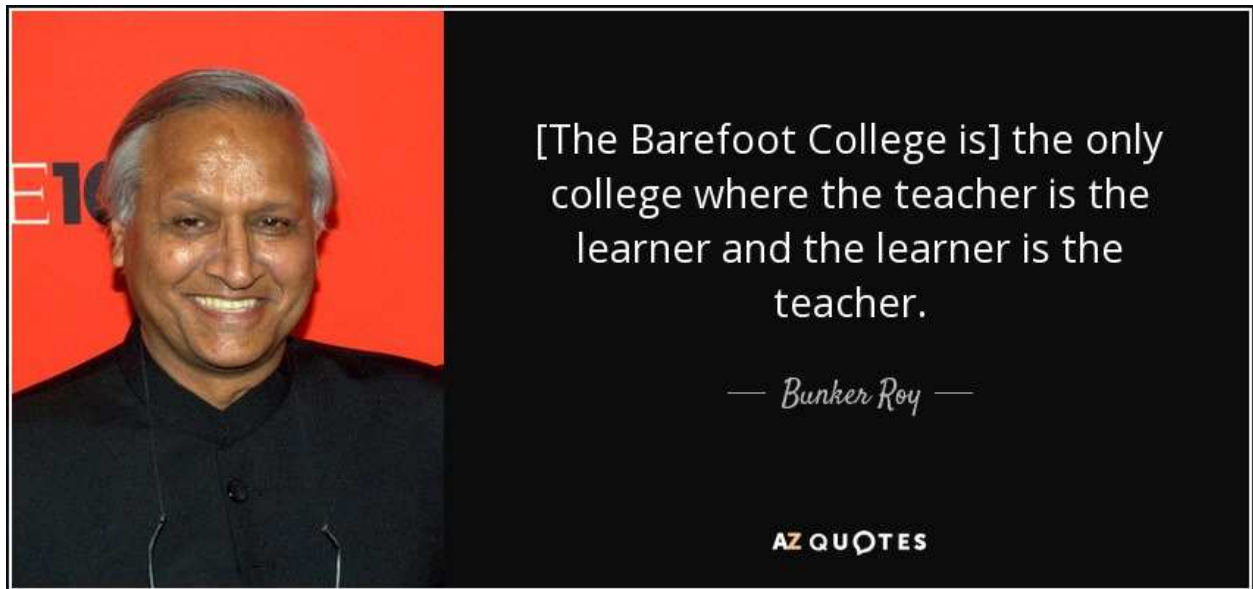


BUNKER ROY – VISIONAIRY PERSON THAT HAS AFFECTED MY PERSPECTIVE TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Bunker Roy is an Indian social activist who founded the "barefoot college". His focus is in educating illiterates and semi illiterate women in rural areas. He has cut across regions in India, Africa and Afghanistan and he empowers people (women) by understanding their background and has been able to infuse that in his sustainability goal. His aim was to provide basic services and infrastructures to rural communities and enable them be self-sufficient. His program has aided many women by teaching them technical skills in solar engineering, health care, rural handicrafts etc. He has been able to achieve women's empowerment, wasteland development and most important, education. Furthermore, he has been able to achieve success in other regions with the help of former students. Finally, he describes Barefoot College as "a place of learning and unlearning: where the teacher is the learner and the learner is the teacher."

Bunker Roy has been able to achieve social, environmental and economic sustainability for these women in rural communities as they are not just educated, they recycle products, utilize renewable energy, improve quality of life and economic production. I personally relate to his ideas as I believe in education and empowerment. When people are educated and empowered, they are able to be self-sufficient and also achieve sustainability in their own locality. Bunker Roy has been able to cut across parts of the three main arms of sustainability (economic, social, environment) and I end with his quote "Strengthen the rural areas and you will find less people migrating to urban areas. You give them opportunity, self respect and self confidence, they will never go to an urban slum".