

Childhood Literature with Images of Technology for a Sustainable Way of Life

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Abstract

"Sustainable development" can be defined as development that meets the requirement of current generation without compromising that of future generations. New technologies are considered as the answer to conflicts between economic growth and natural resource conservation; new technologies are seen as an enabling factor in this endeavor. Sustainability may be represented as a collection of ancient values that have been part of daily life in Sweden for many generations. Education for sustainable development is an objective in the Swedish national curriculum since 1994, and this is especially true of technology education. International debates about the future and long-standing traditions of living locally are clearly reflected in the instruction. Images of technology and the relationship between technology and sustainable development are examined in this study. In our opinion, photos like this impart important ideals to the next generation. Four Swedish writers, Elsa Beskow, Jan Lööf, Inger Sandberg, and Sven Nordqvist, whose works are still widely read by children, parents, and educators alike, have been selected for our research. This research work examines the many ways in which technology has been depicted in the texts: as an obedient servant, an inexorable force, an equal partner, and a natural occurrence. The technologies playing significant part in the tales under consideration are set in a variety of settings, some more socially conscious than others, ranging from the utopian to the idealistic. Optimism for children's potential to make good decisions may be seen in the works of all four authors. The burden of solving the problems that the present adult generation has generated will fall on young people. Most of the tales portray males as the primary drivers of technical advancement from a gender standpoint.

Keywords: Sustainability, technology, education, children's fiction, Sweden

INTRODUCTION

The shared future study was based on the premise that "sustainable development", defined as "progress that meets the needs of the present without compromising the capacity of future generations to meet their own needs", is possible. Since then, the idea of sustainable development has become an iconic one. The role of technology as an enabling component has been heightened, and new technologies are considered as the solution to conflicts between economic expansion and conservation initiatives.

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Education for sustainable development is an aim in the Swedish national curriculum since 1994, and this is particularly true of technological education. Sustainable development is a metaphor that may carry a broad variety of meanings, concepts, and visions, which implies that many different individuals have various opinions on it. Uncertainty surrounding important future challenges must be managed by the institution.

Images of technology and how they are tied to sustainable development are the topic of this research work. In our view, photographs like these teach essential principles to the future generation. Adults may learn a lot from children's books about the values they aim to implant in future generations of children and adolescents [1–3].

TECHNOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMAGE

Selma Lagerlöf and Elsa Beskow were two of the most prominent Swedish children's authors of the early 20th century. There were several traditional children's tales and fairy tale collections released in the 1920s and 1930s [4]. In the 1950s and 60s, there was a desire to widen the themes of literature in Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States [5]. There is a broad diversity of styles and genres in modern children's literature, as well as a willingness to question established beliefs.

Our selection of children's books covers various decades, including the early 1900s, the 1960s and 1970s, and more contemporary times. Today, all the required authors have been read. Elsa Beskow, Inger Sandberg, Jan Lööf, and Sven Nordqvist are among the Swedish authors whose works have been chosen. These four writers have become household names when it comes to talks regarding children's books and the lessons that may be learnt through reading for kids. We are conscious, of course, that we can only highlight some of the numerous variants in children's books by choosing a restricted selection Klokamundus's creation.

Elsa Beskow (1874–1953) is the most well-known individual linked with the creation of picture books in the late 19th century [4]. Many of her books have been reprinted and translated many times throughout the years, making them classics. Several of her fairy tales, for example, have a futuristic premise, involving future technology and how people interact with it.

This country, Kringelkrokien, is a fantasy kingdom that is technologically sophisticated. Inventions such as the telephone and the phonograph have been around for centuries, as well as the planes, trains, and cinemas. In most cases, machines do the bulk of the job. Individuals have been reduced to a homogenous mass because of their confidence in science and technology. Misbehavior by the boys (children) escalates. They are looking for a high-tech gadget that can take care of everything for them. Dr. Klokamundus constructs a machine with the use of robotic equipment. Human-technology cohabitation has assumed a new function. For most fairy tales, the story ends pleasantly when the protagonists escape foster care and settle in an abandoned castle ruin to live out their "Robinson Crusoe existence". The story shows the perils of relying too much on technology by using Kringelkrokien's technology as an illustration of determinism. Even as technology advances, people's most fundamental desires and aspirations might be ignored. Although the boys' experiences illustrate that if technology may be controlled by the person who uses it, there are many other paths to choose. Researchers assert that technology may be a tool for socializing.

That is why she wanted to write books for children that were not bound by current adult expectations. By the 1960s, modernism had infiltrated children's literature, and Sandberg's ideas had been overtaken by the times. Sandberg's works have a well-defined educational structure [7]. On an interstellar journey in *Filurstjärnan*, environmental problems are examined. A kaleidoscope is given to Barbro, a sickly child, by her parents. Suddenly, the kaleidoscope morphs into a rocket ship in space. The kaleidoscope breaks and a little rocket falls into Barbro's hand as she shakes it. Out of the rocket comes a "Little man" (also known as a "Filur"). As a space spotter, he looks for "stupid and pleasant things other star creatures do". Magic allows Barbro to see and hear the Little Fellow's return to his star. The world Barbro finds himself in, is a desolate one, characterized by rampant industry with little regard for the well-being of people or the environment.

There is a dystopian nightmare in this story that acts as a metaphor for our current state of events on the world. All windows must be closed, and residents are required to carry oxygen tanks at all times.

According to the CDC, polluted air kills "little guys". Even in rural areas, factories pollute waterways and spray chemicals on all vegetation, resulting in widespread pollution. They have no influence on the world's affairs. In parliament's "house of the deciders", only men sit.

The narrative, on the other hand, shows that events may be altered in a positive way. Humanity and the environment, especially women and children, must be protected. During one point in the story, "little sisters" and "little sisters in skirts" show up at "the house of the deciders" and get into a fight over the surroundings. This occurs in the book. We are all co-owners of the earth's most precious resources, such as its freshwater fish and fresh air. There is an undeniable conviction in the wisdom and capabilities of children in this story's plot created.

Born in 1940, Lööf has been a prolific children's author and artist for more than four decades. In his tales about the young Pelle, the use of technology is a frequent theme. The book "Pelle and Uncle Otto's Invention" provides an overview of the development of the internal combustion engine and discusses its benefits and drawbacks [8]. A number of additional books in this series are available. A quick explanation of how the engine works, is followed by Otto's first ideas on developing a noisy and polluting machine. In the end, it would change the life of every person on Earth. Otto engines are described by Pelle. However, Uncle Otto was completely unaware of the situation. Otto's inability to foresee the long-term implications of his invention is a recurring theme in the book.

The smaller size and better starting power of the Otto engine made it an early favorite of Pelle's over the steam engine, according to the inventor. Because it was so little, it was feasible to put it on a horse carriage and transform it into a vehicle. A car breakdown indicates that this story takes place in the early 20th century, but no specific year is given. This is hardly surprising, given that the United States was the first country to use this new technology on a broad basis. As a consequence of individuals travelling more quickly on straight and smooth roads, the number of accidents increased. Pelle, on the other hand, argues that the Otto engine has obvious advantages since it can be used in a variety of vehicles. The introduction of the private automobile, which made it possible for individuals to move more swiftly and conveniently, was responsible for the biggest transformation in civilization.

Uncle Otto's engine may be useful in the military if installed in armored vehicles or aircraft armed with machine guns. On the other hand, Otto had the good fortune to avoid the pain that lay ahead of him. Every technology, including the Otto engine, has drawbacks, according to Lööf, including the potential for misuse and abuse as well as beneficial and harmful uses [9]. The end of Otto's beautiful gasoline engine is a tough thing to say, but it is time to say goodbye. It is necessary to create an Otto engine that emits no hazardous combustion emissions. The culmination of the novel is Pelle's statement: But how are you going to improve on Uncle Otto's engine? Exhausting myself to the point of exhaustion; my initial thought was of solar energy. Even if the weather is fine, it will not work in the rain! Using rainwater to power an engine instead of fuel would be fantastic! Directing the rain into the engine will automatically fill it up while it is raining. It is an excellent idea, in my opinion! In terms of technology, that is an issue for someone else!

Ending on an optimistic note, the book admits that new energy solutions are impossible to find; it is not conceivable to find a source of energy that is free and abundant with no negative side-effects. In addition to 10 books about Pettson and his modest farm in Sweden, has also written about his pet cat, Sven, who lives on the farm with him. For instance, consider the Santa Claus machine from 1994, Pettson and the fox chase from 2009, and Findus moving out. APP: Pettson's inventions by Nordqvist and Feldt On the pin couch, Pettson pretends to be an old guy; at least that is what he tells himself about the experience. During the day, Pettson tends to his garden and fishes in the neighboring lake (where he catches perch). He also creates new items out of the odds and ends he finds about the house, in the attic, or in his garden. They dispute with him about the weather, or he tunes into the radio (a tube radio, of course). It is a perfectly balanced planet.

When it comes to innovations and works of art by Pettson (such as the new home created out of the old privy house, as well as the Santa Claus-like robot that feeds a furnace with wood sticks), it is all about him. As a result of Pettson's ingenuity, the computerized Santa may be replaced. Christopher Polhem, a Swedish engineer, appears to Pettson in his nightmares and demonstrates his mechanical alphabet [10, 11]. Using cogwheels and rods, Pettson teaches himself how to do a variety of activities.

Children may begin by reading books on the many tools and components that go into making a gadget work, as well as how they might be put together to make it work. When you design and build technology items, you may educate your students about the fundamentals of workmanship and process. Their creativity may be sparked if they are given the correct incentives to do so. Students may discover, for example, that the resources they create may be used to sustain them.

If you are willing to pay the price, it is possible to live in a world that is not moving at all. Climate change and technological advancement are not directly connected to many of the social challenges that are associated with poverty and migration. Children's literature in India has a strong heritage of depicting pastoral and rural settings, which Nordqvist's work is a continuation of. Pippi Long stocking and Emil of Lönneberga author Lindgren is the tradition's Aristotle. Urbanization, consumer culture, and cutting-edge communication methods have not yet reached the contemporary globe. Young people have been reading and enjoying these novels for decades (or read to them by their parents, grandparents, or teachers). A generational divide may be bridged by these stories, which enable the oldest to recall and the youngest to see how things were done in the past.

DISCUSSION

The 20th century's highly sophisticated civilization is a recurring theme in many stories. Reticence against contemporary technology is palpable. The authors we have studied, on the other hand, describe technological progress in various ways. Those with an interest in history will find a paradise in the works of Nordqvist thanks to their detailed explanations of traditional or well recognized artifacts and systems, which are illustrated. Humanity and the natural environment face ethical dilemmas because of the fast growth of technological systems, as discussed by many peoples. The storylines focus mostly on the desires and interests of the individuals in the stories. Numerous examples of how technology and a sustainable society are depicted in the stories are worth noting. We have done some research and found that there are four main ways that technology is depicted. For example, technological advancements may enable us to fulfil our deepest aspirations and goals. Master mode: technology can assist us in accomplishing our aims and ambitions. There is no longer any human control over technology.

For example, technology is an equal friend of man in compassion. In the nostalgic mindset, "old technologies" are seen as superior to "newer technologies" because of their perceived superiority or naturalness. The tales' prominent technological elements may be found in a variety of contexts. Sometimes people utilize technology for their personal profit, without thinking about how it may affect others or the environment. However, despite these efforts, people's reliance on technology continues to grow. The danger posed by technology has steadily grown throughout time.

Man's creativity diminishes when he loses access to traditional information and skills. People regard nature as something they can subdue in the name of development. It is considered a constructive force in the techno-utopian environment for solving human issues and addressing human wants. Progress in technology must be done without harming the natural environment. It is argued, from an anthropocentric viewpoint, that we should not exhaust the earth's resources in order to leave a legacy for our descendants. This technology works best in a city that has not been overrun by modern technology. There is a reference to Sweden's "Folkhem" welfare system. Rural pastoral environments are not unusual in terms of the usage of technology. Direct contact with nature keeps morality and harmony in check. An ecocentric world is one where ecosystems and other species are valued regardless of their importance to humans. In many rural and agricultural parts of Sweden, these

features have been a part of everyday life for many decades. The books explore a wide range of issues, including children, technology, and sustainable development. Throughout the romantic period, the idea that children and nature are intertwined has been widely accepted. Elsa Beskow, for example, advises that children should be raised to become self-sufficient using the metaphor of "plants". All four authors convey a notion that children are capable of making sensible choices for themselves. It is up to children to take on the burden of solving the problems that current people have created [12]. As Sandberg and Lööf illustrate in Beskow's, Sandberg's and Lööf's stories Sandberg's story serves as an excellent illustration of how people, especially women and children, may together to reclaim development.

CONCLUSION

In these tales, it is males who are pushing technological progress. In their responsibilities as spokespersons, children and women represent both nature and humanity. Their paintings demonstrate the dehumanizing effects of technology. Similarly, to Beskow, Nordqvist, and a few tales by Lööf, the technological world is dominated by old or traditional technology. The area is dotted with hamlets and towns because of the prevalence of agriculture in this culture. To that extent, we can be assured. The suggestion is, "It was better back then". Even though Loaf takes a more nuanced approach, none of the tale's credit modern technology with helping the protagonists succeed. It is common in children's literature for the protagonist to yearn for a more innocent time. This research's book recommendations might be a useful educational tool for helping today's youth make sense of the technological world in which they find themselves. In addition, they provide fodder for conversations on the place of people in the natural world. These novels may be used in discussions on sustainable development if the teacher or parent actively and purposefully criticizes the anthropocentric viewpoint presented in the stories. Children's opinions on ecological sustainability may be influenced by a focus on nature's intrinsic value in comparison to technological growth. Using books to teach students about technology, environment, and sustainable development has great potential.

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