

# INTRODUCTION

## PREVALENCE OF EDUCATION

*“Knowledge is power  
if applied and shared.”*

—Dr. Rashid Alleem

Hello, and welcome to *Quality Education*. On March 15, 2016, I had the privilege and honor of meeting His Excellency the late S. R. Nathan, former president of Singapore, in his office at the Singapore Management University, where he had served as a distinguished senior fellow at the School of Social Sciences. There, we had a long discussion on how to make the world a better place to live in by applying the principles of sustainability by focusing mainly on quality education. The two of us agreed with Nelson Mandela’s quote: “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” That education, however, must be quality education.

I’m glad that you decided to join me on this journey through *education quality*. There is no doubt that quality education is such an important tool for life that I felt compelled to start

my Alleem 21 sustainable development goals list with quality education. Learn, and once you have learnt, teach others in turn, because education is the source of real happiness. Let us open the door of happiness with some of the knowledge that I feel necessary to share with the world.

Why did I decide to write this book? I wrote this book because I want to make a difference in the world and highlight many individuals and innovative organizations in the world who are making progress and improving millions of people's lives through quality education.

I have deliberately left this book short and sweet because I know that almost everyone is time-challenged.

The journey begins now.

Rashid Alleem  
Sharjah, UAE  
February 29, 2020

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Rashid Alleem is ranked third among the 25 most influential CEOs in the Gulf Cooperation Council and is considered one of the 100 most influential CEOs in the Middle East. Recently, the Academic College of Oxford, United Kingdom, honored Dr. Alleem with the title of “Honorary Professor” in recognition of his scientific, administrative, and humanitarian efforts and contributions, especially in the field of sustainable development. He is a passionate writer; an environmentalist; a sought-after thought leader; the creator of CRITRAL Thinking, a unique blend of “critical and lateral” thinking; and an internationally respected transformational leader. The founder of Alleem Knowledge Center, Dr. Alleem is a dynamic leader who has worked with prestigious governmental, semi-governmental, and nonprofit organizations. He is an entrepreneur par excellence with a flair for effective, strategic decision-making by means of innovative thinking. Dr. Rashid was recognized as “The Knowledge Ambassador of the UAE” by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum—the Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and ruler of the Emirate of Dubai—and as “Environmentalist of the Year 2012” by the fourth Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad.

Dr. Alleem earned a Ph.D. from the University of Salford, in Manchester, UK. Being a “sustainovationalist,” he has received five honorary doctoral degrees from different universities: Atlantic International University (USA), in recognition of his achievements in the socioeconomic fields; Somalia National University, for his humanitarian services; American Global International University (USA), for his global business contributions and numerous academic achievements; Indian Peace University, from which he received a Doctorate in Philosophy for his exceptional contributions, dedication, and social services to society; and Doctor of Philosophy (D. Phil) from Amity University, in recognition of his exceptional vision, deep commitment to the environment, professionalism and direction in the pursuit of excellence and his strategic vision and inspirational leadership in steering his organization towards continuous growth and dedication to the good of humanity.

Dr. Alleem was recently recognized as The Global Green Ambassador by DMG. Under his leadership, SEWA received the Voluntary Cancellation Certificate for excellence in energy-saving and the reduction of CO2 emissions by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2017. He was bestowed with the Friend of Singapore Sustainability Award 2017 by the government of Singapore, and he became a member of the advisory board of the Singapore World Water Council. He has received the prestigious title of “The Ambassador of Peace & Happiness in the Arab World” by Voice of Kerala Radio Station.

As a highly sought-after keynote speaker, presenter, and teacher, Dr. Alleem is well-known for delivering compelling

and practical messages to audiences of more than 200,000 people per annum, including at some of the largest regional and international venues.

Last but not least, he is one of the most interviewed and published charismatic media personalities in the region. A prolific writer both in English and Arabic, Dr. Rashid Alleem is the author of several books on management and leadership. His newest book, *The SEWA Way*, showcases 15 winning principles, providing a roadmap for achieving success both on an organizational and a personal scale. Aiming to improve social, economic, and environmental living conditions worldwide and helping to improve the quality of life for hundreds of millions who have not yet seen the benefits of sustainable development and inclusive growth, he has written four books on the topic of sustainability: *My Green Journey in Hamriyah*; *Sustainability: The Fourth Wave of Economy*; *I Am Committed: 17 Global Goals*; and *Alleem Sustainable Development Goals*.

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