
Sustainable Development in India

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Abstract:

India has been witnessing a blinding pace of growth and development in recent times. Experts are now calling for “sustainable development” and the term has gained momentum in the last few years. Almost all economies of the world are actively engaged in their economic progress. Economic advancement is a must for underdeveloped countries because in it lies the solution of the problems like poverty, unemployment, backwardness and low standard of living. It is also equally important for developed countries because by it they intend to maintain the level of their existing prosperity for a long period. Over the last twenty years the new concept was put forth for the development of country that is "Sustainable Development". It means that real income or production and economic welfare of an economy should increase in such a manner as to maintain environmental conservation and quality of life and as a result of which present and future generations may enjoy maximum net advantage. The present paper focus on the need and the various indicators of sustainable development.

Introduction:

The concept of Sustainable development was propounded for the first time in 1987 by the **WORLD COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN BROUNDTLAND REPORT entitled as 'OUR COMMON FUTURE'**. It is that process of economic development which aims at maintaining the quality of life of both present and future generations without harming natural resources and environment. Main rationale behind the use of this concept is that the process economic growth in almost all the developed countries and economic development in underdeveloped countries have been at the cost of natural resources and environment.

As the concept developed, it has shifted to focus more on economic development, social development and environmental protection for

future generations. It has been suggested that "the term 'sustainability' should be viewed as humanity's target goal of human-ecosystem equilibrium (homeostasis), while 'sustainable development' refers to the holistic approach and temporal processes that lead us to the end point of sustainability". The concept of sustainable development has been—and still is—subject to criticism. What, exactly, is to be sustained in sustainable development? It has been argued that there is no such thing as a sustainable use of a non-renewable resource, since any positive rate of exploitation will eventually lead to the exhaustion of Earth's finite stock; this perspective renders the Industrial Revolution as a whole unsustainable. It has also been argued that the meaning of the concept has opportunistically been stretched from 'conservation management' to 'economic development', and that the

Brundtland Report promoted nothing but a business as usual strategy for world development, with an ambiguous and insubstantial concept attached as a public relations slogan.

According to World Development report 2003, "Sustainable development is that process of development which meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own needs"

Various features of Sustainable Development

1. Efficient use of natural resources
2. No reduction in the quality of life of the future generations
3. No increase in pollution
4. Does not delimit the concept of development
5. Distributional equity
6. Preservation of three types of capital (human, physical and natural)

NEED FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Any serious attempt at reducing poverty required sustained economic growth in order to increase the productivity and income in developing countries. But there is more to development than just economic growth. World Development Report 2003 suggest that ensuring sustained development requires attention not just to economic growth but also to environment and social issues. Unless the transformation of society and management of environment are addressed integrally along with economic growth, growth itself will be jeopardized over the longer time.

The importance and need for sustainable development is mainly due to the following reasons-

1. Poverty declining but still a challenge
2. Inequality widening
3. Conflicts devastating
4. Air pollution
5. Fresh water increasingly scarce
6. Soil being degraded
7. Forest being destroyed
8. Biodiversity disappearing
9. Fisheries declining

VARIOUS DOMAINS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ENVIRONMENT (ECOLOGICAL)-

Environmental sustainability concerns the natural environment and how it endures and remains diverse and productive. Since natural resources are derived from the environment, the state of air, water, and the climate are of particular concern. The IPCC Fifth Assessment Report outlines current knowledge about scientific, technical and socio-economic information concerning climate change, and lists options

for adaptation and mitigation. Environmental sustainability requires society to design activities to meet human needs while preserving the life support systems of the planet. This, for example, entails using water sustainably, utilizing renewable energy, and sustainable material supplies (e.g. harvesting wood from forests at a rate that maintains the biomass and biodiversity).

AGRICULTURE- Sustainable agriculture consists of environment friendly methods of farming that allow the production of crops or livestock without damage to human or natural systems. It involves preventing adverse effects

to soil, water, biodiversity, surrounding or downstream resources—as well as to those working or living on the farm or in neighboring areas. The concept of sustainable agriculture extends inter generationally, passing on a conserved or improved natural resource, biotic, and economic base rather than one which has been depleted or polluted. Elements of sustainable agriculture include agro forestry, mixed farming, multiple cropping, and crop rotation.

ECONOMICS- It has been suggested that because of rural poverty and overexploitation, environmental resources should be treated as important economic assets, called natural capital. Economic development has traditionally required a growth in the gross domestic product. This model of unlimited personal and GDP growth may be over. Sustainable development may involve improvements in the quality of life for many but may necessitate a decrease in resource consumption. According to ecological economist Malte Faber, ecological economics is defined by its focus on nature, justice, and time. Issues of intergenerational equity, irreversibility of environmental change, uncertainty of long-term outcomes, and sustainable development guide ecological economic analysis and valuation.

ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS The total environment includes not just the biosphere of earth, air, and water, but also human interactions with these things, with nature, and what humans have created as their surroundings.

As countries around the world continue to advance economically, they put a strain on the ability of the natural environment to absorb the

high level of pollutants that are created as a part of this economic growth. Therefore, solutions need to be found so that the economies of the world can continue to grow, but not at the expense of the public good.

ENERGY- Sustainable energy is clean and can be used over a long period of time. Unlike fossil fuels and bio fuels that provide the bulk of the world's energy, renewable energy sources like hydroelectric, solar and wind energy produce far less pollution. Solar energy is commonly used on public parking meters, street lights and the roof of buildings. Wind power has expanded quickly, its share of worldwide electricity usage at the end of 2014 was 3.1%.

TRANSPORT- Transportation is a large contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. It is said that one-third of all gasses produced are due to transportation. Motorized transport also releases exhaust fumes that contain particulate matter which is hazardous to human health and a contributor to climate change.

Sustainable transport has many social and economic benefits that can accelerate local sustainable development. According to a series of reports by the Low Emission Development Strategies Global Partnership (LEDS GP), sustainable transport can help create jobs, improve commuter safety through investment in bicycle lanes and pedestrian pathways, make access to employment and social opportunities more affordable and efficient. It also offers a practical opportunity to save people's time and household income as well as government budgets, making investment in sustainable transport a 'win-win' opportunity.

BUSINESS- The most broadly accepted criterion for corporate sustainability constitutes a firm's efficient use of natural capital. This eco-efficiency is usually calculated as the economic value added by a firm in relation to its aggregated ecological impact. This idea has been popularised by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) under the following definition: "Eco-efficiency is achieved by the delivery of competitively priced goods and services that satisfy human needs and bring quality of life, while progressively reducing ecological impacts and resource intensity throughout the life-cycle to a level at least in line with the earth's carrying capacity".

POLITICS- A study concluded that social indicators and, therefore, sustainable development indicators, are scientific constructs whose principal objective is to inform public policy-making. The International Institute for Sustainable Development has similarly developed a political policy framework, linked to a sustainability index for establishing measurable entities and metrics. The framework consists of six core areas, international trade and investment, economic policy, climate change and energy, measurement and assessment, natural resource management, and the role of communication technologies in sustainable development.

SOME INDICATORS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- . Total production growth rate
- . Population
- . Water supply and its uses
- . The availability of fresh air and water
- . Human Resource Development
- . Energy

In order to capture all aspects of ecological environmental changes the following indicators are also suggested-----

Illustrative list of Sustainable indicators

Issues	Indicators of environmental pressure	Indicators of societal response	Indicators of environmental conditions
1. Climate change	Emission of carbon monoxide	Energy intensity	Atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases, global mean temperature
2. Urban environmental quality	Auto, transportation, Industrialization	Minor and major morbidity	Concentration of sulphur dioxide, Nitrogen particulates in selected cities

3. Biological diversity and landscape	Land use changes	Protected area as percentages of total area	Threatened or extinct species as percentage of known species
4. Waste	Municipal, industrial, nuclear, hazardous waste	Expenditure and collection and treatment, waste recycling rates(paper and glass)	Not applicable
5. Forest resources	Intensity of use of forest resource	Soil erosion, floods	Area, volume and distribution of forests
7.Fish resources	Fish extraction rates	Decline in fish catches	Biodiversity changes. extinction of species
8. Water resources	Intensity of use of water resources	Short duration morbidity	Depletion of surface and ground water
9.Soil,degradation(desertification)and erosion	Deforestation, intensive use of chemical fertilisers	Water logging, salinity changes, floods	Decline in land productivity

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