

Strategies for Sustainable Development in India (With Special Reference to Future Generation)

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Abstract:

The term “sustainable development” is defined as development to achieve the needs of present generation without compromising future generation’s needs, while we are misusing the resources in a very vital manner, which is not good for the present generation and as well as to the future generation. ‘Future Generations’ is mainly related to the environmental problems of resource consumption and pollution and their distribution over long time horizons. In this paper, we focus on strategies for sustainable development, which are necessary for the survival of and our present generation as well as coming generation. In addition, emphasize on how to improve the quality of life of both current and future generations, while safeguarding the earth’s capacity to support life in all its diversity.

Keywords

Sustainable Development, Future Generation, Environmental Problems, Resource Consumption.

1. Introduction

Sustainable development, at present time, is the most concern phenomena. Globally every country including most developing countries like India and China thinks very much about it because they realize that their future generation must be suffered to lack of resources, which is obviously most central to survive. This phenomenon comes after Second World War. The concept of sustainable development is not related only future generation but also with the present generation. Firstly, it is important to know the conceptual meanings of sustainable development. It is a way of thinking by which we can secure our present and future generations. The right to development means the right to improvement and advancement of economic, social, cultural, and political conditions that can be improved the global quality of life. Improvement of global quality of life means the implementation of changes that ensure every person’s life of dignity and at the same time,

citizens realize their human rights. These changes must include the eradication and alleviation of widespread conditions of poverty, unemployment, and inequitable social conditions. In this context, the statement of Mrs. Indira Gandhi would like to quote in which she was emphasized on environmental security for sustainable development.

The United Nations-appointed World Commission on Environment and Development, also known as the Brundtland Commission after its chair, former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, coined it in 1987.

At the UN Conference, on Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972, she said that the removal of poverty is an integral part of the goal of an environmental strategy for the world. Sustainable development ensures the well-being of an individual by integrating social development, economic development, and environmental conservation and protection. The most frequently used definition of sustainable development is ‘development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.’ The meaning of needs is something that is necessary for the organism to live a healthy life. It is necessary for the sustainable development that the policies and technologies should be green so that environmental ability meets present and future generation in an equal manner.

2. Chronological Milieu of Sustainable Development

In the mid-20th century world, community highlights four points of collective desire and aspiration of the people - peace, independence, development, and environment. After this first time, Rachel Carson represented the conflict between economic development and the environment in his book ‘*Silent Spring*’ in 1966. D. H. Meadows in his book ‘*Limit to Growth*’ centralized the attention on environment degradation occurs due to development in 1972.

This report challenged the idea of progress that compares the present with the past and considers the future an endless possibility for further growth and improvement because it failed to acknowledge the

obvious truth that resources are finite, and hence growth dependent on resources cannot be endless. The implicit message of The Limits to Growth was that growth needed to be replaced with no growth. UNEP introduced in 1972 in Nairobi for thinking about to environmental problems.

The World Conservation Strategy published in 1980 by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), and *Our Common Future* (also known as the Brundtland Report after the chairman of the committee), published by the UN-appointed World Commission on Environment and Development seven years later, provided the answer as “sustainable development”– and thus the concept of sustainable development was born.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, was a remarkable event. The heads of 179 states and representatives of numerous countries, international organizations and non-governmental organizations were in attended the conference. This conference demonstrated that humanity could no longer treat the environment separately from economic development.

The conference led to the acceptance of a world action plan called *Agenda 21*, an action programme spanning the next 100 years. The Rio Declaration contains the basic principles that must underline future state decisions and policies. After ten years of Rio de Janeiro, summit Johannesburg Summit 2002 held in Johannesburg. The focus of this summit was the need to remove the barriers to sustainable development in modern societies. Alleviate poverty and disease, manage natural resources rationally, and promote responsible consumption and production. The main emphasis was to use the benefits of globalization to establish a balance between development and environment.

3. Challenges of Sustainable Development

The challenges of sustainable development and its consequences are clearly visible. It is only invisible if we not want to see. *The population* is a major challenge for the sustainable development.

In the beginning of the 21st century, the population of the Earth reached 6 billion and is expected to level out between 10 and 11 billion over the next 50 years. The basic challenges will be shortages of drinking water and arable land for food production.

Poverty is another major challenge because almost 25% of the world’s population lives on less than USD 1 per day. *Inequality* continues to be a serious obstacle to sustainable development with the

number of people suffering from undernourishment. The fall of food prices over the past 30 years may have contributed to increases in consumption, but in many regions of the world arable terrains are limited, and the creation of new ones has a destructive effect on the remaining ecosystems. In the future, the growth of food production should not come at the expense of nature. By 2010, the current step of biodiversity loss should be significantly slowed.

The shortage of drinking water in many regions of the world is a major barrier to sustainable development. It is expected that, at the current rate of development, every second person will suffer from water shortage by the year 2025.

Human health is also an obstacle to sustainable development. In many cases, deaths in developing countries are avoidable. Humanity should direct more attention and money in the coming years to the struggle against diseases. The imminent task is to reduce the death rate among children under five years of age by two-thirds, and the death rate of young mothers by 75% by 2015.

Consumption of energy is a major challenge for the sustainable development. Consumption of all forms of energy is continually rising. The improvement of access to reliable, sustainable, and environmentally friendly energy sources and services, as well as the creation of national programmes for energy efficiency, is a particularly important task for the next 10-15 years.

Deforestation is the particularly great challenge before the sustainable development. The world's forests diminish mainly due to the expansion of agriculture. In the coming years, improving the recovery and management of the forests will be of utmost importance.

Petrol consumption is constantly rising. The Summit emphasized the need to realize the decisions of the Kyoto Protocol for reaching an agreement on emissions norms for greenhouse gases in developed countries.

4. Strategies for Sustainable Development

The conceptual meaning of sustainable development is not to create an obstacle in the development process but this concept belongs to how we utilize our resources so that an inter-relationship can be established among present and future generations. To attain sustainable development, many probable strategies can be useful.

Input Efficient Technology can be reducing the exploitation of resources. Therefore, this technology may good for sustainable development. Via *Using of Environmental friendly Sources of Energy*, such as LPG and CNG, which are eco-friendly fuel, we can

reduce the greenhouse gases from the earth. Delhi Transport Corporation's initiative to CNG Buses in Delhi is the one of the best effort to reduce CO₂ and other harmful gases. The government should pay attention to *Integrated Rural Development Programmes*. Through this, the burden and interdependency on cities for employment can be decreased. To focus on *renewable sources of energy* like solar and wind for energy needs. It will be beneficial for the country like India; there is enough sunlight, to *Convert Sunlight into Solar Energy and Solar Energy in Electricity*. It will create an atmosphere for green development. For attaining the sustainable development, it is necessary for the government and society to control on the *Tragedy of Commons*. It means to stop the maximum use of easily available resources. With above these government should stimulate the *organic forming and recycle the wastes*. Last but not least, it is a responsibility of citizens to encourage the awareness to *conserve the natural assets for inter-generational equality*.

5. Conclusion and suggestion

Sustainable development is a vision and a way of thinking and acting so that we can secure the resources and environment for our future generation. It will not be brought about by policies only — it must be taken up by society as a principle guiding the many choices each citizen makes every day, as well as the big political and economic decisions that affect many. It is clear that environmental degradation tends to impose the largest costs on those generations that are yet to be born. Future generations are disadvantaged with regards to present generations because they can inherit an impoverished quality of life, share a condition of structural weakness in having no voice and representation among the present generation and so their interests are often neglected in present decisions and planning while it is very much needful that we think about our generation. We can only improve sustainable development when it will put an emphasis on involving citizens and stakeholders. Ultimately, the vision will become reality only if everybody contributes to a world where economic freedom, social justice, and environmental protection go hand in hand, making our own and future generations better off than now.

6. References

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