

Sustainable Development

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Abstract: Sustainable development has been formally defined by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) as “Development that meets the needs of the people today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. When we talk about needs it is not limited to the basic survival needs but also includes cultural, intellectual and other social needs. The “three pillars” of sustainable development are:

- The society
- The economy and
- The environment

These are interdependent and connected. The way we approach development affects the entire society. The impacts of our ways and decisions of development have huge consequences. Living within our environmental limits is one of the central principles of sustainable development. But the issue is: What needs to be sustained in Sustainable Development? Sustainable development ties together concern for the carrying capacity of natural resources with social, political and economic challenges faced. It is the organizing principle for meeting human development goals while simultaneously sustaining the ability of natural systems to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services upon which the economy and society depend. The desired result is a state of society where living conditions and resources continue to meet the human needs without compromising the integrity and stability of the natural system.

Keywords: Sustainable development, WCED, Three pillars: Society, Economy and Environment.

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I. Sustainable Development

If the mankind has to survive for long, sustainable development is the only key. The development in which we use resources in a way that they don't run out and remain for future uses is called Sustainable development. It means that doing development which does not damage or affect the surroundings. According to the Brundtland Commission sustainable development is the form of development which "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

On the technical level, it involves the sustainable technologies primarily based upon the employment of non-renewable, fossil fuels for technologies that benefit of renewable energies e.g. sun, wind and biomass, the adoption of conservation and recycling on a wider scale, and therefore the transfer of cleaner and energy economical technologies to countries within the developing world.

On the political and economic levels, sustainable development involves, the overhauling of development and trade practices that tend for the improvement of common peoples, a fairer distribution of wealth and resources inside and between nations, the charging of true price for the that exploit or begrime the setting, and therefore the encouragement of sustainable practices through legal controls and incentives.

On the social perspective, it involves a revived thrust towards universal primary education and health care, with specific stress on the education and social liberation of ladies. On the environmental level, it's regarding huge afforestation, revived analysis regarding farming practices (primarily organic) and bio-pest management etc., and therefore the vigorous protection of bio-multifariousness. On the informational level, there's a requirement for knowledge which will allow the event of proper social and environmental accountability systems.

The aim of ecologically sustainable development is to maximise human well-being or quality of life while not jeopardising the technical advancements. The measures for sustainable development are totally different in developed and developing countries as per their level of technological and economic development.

In the present time, all aspects of sustainable development i.e. physical, economic and social are at stake. Integration of various domains of knowledge is the essential challenge for the viable results and well supported development processes. We, in India, can focus on the few undernoted facts for Sustainable development:

1. For clean and sanitary living and conditions at workplace for the people;
2. Sponsoring the research on environmental problems;
3. Safety against industrial hazards;
4. Find economical ways for proper disposal of unsafe industrial wastes; Encourage afforestation;
6. Finding substitutes for unsafe materials based on indigenous resources rather than blindly looking on advanced nations for solutions;
7. Introduction of environmental education in academic curriculum;
8. Encourage use of non-conventional sources of energy, Production of environment-friendly merchandise needs to be encouraged;
9. Use of organic fertilisers and alternative bio techniques required to be popularised;
11. Environmental management should include monitoring and accountability; and Need for socialisation of all environmental problems.

The conservation of natural resources is one of the prime requirements for sustainable development. For conservation, the development policy has to follow the under mentioned norms:

- (i) Make all attempts to not impair the natural regenerative capability of renewable resources and at the same time avoid excessive pollution hampering the bio-spherical capability of waste assimilation and life network.
So far as possible, all technological changes and planning strategy processes, should try switch from non-renewable to natural resource uses.
- (ii) In general, formulate a phase-out policy for application of non-renewable resources generally.

Thus, for a worldwide sustainable growth, there is need for economical and effective management of the available resources. In Sept 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that has seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) viz.:

- Goal 1: No Poverty
- Goal 2: Zero Hunger
- Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being
- Goal 4: Quality Education
- Goal 5: Gender Equality
- Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Goal 10: Reduced Inequality
- Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- Goal 13: Climate Action
- Goal 14: Life below Water
- Goal 15: Life on Land
- Goal 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
- Goal 17: Partnerships to Achieve the Goal

The new agenda emphasizes a holistic approach to achieving sustainable development for all and has been built on the principle of “leaving nobody behind”.

In this area, the assembly of “environment-friendly products” (EFP) can be treated as a positive step. With the industrialization and technological development, objects of daily consumption are flooded in the market. There may be chance that these products are a danger to not only the health of the consumer but also to the environment. It is required to distinguish the environmentally hazardous products from those which are less harmful, or have an additional benign impact on the surroundings, right from the stage of manufacture through packaging, distribution, use, disposal and reusability or recycling.

Let us respect our surroundings, the nature, the resources and all other possessions provided to us free on this planet earth for the sustainability of our habitation and for our generations to come.

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