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## COMPONENTS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

**Dr. S. V. Shinde**

Associate Professor , D. A. V. Velankar College Of Commerce, Solapur.

### ABSTRACT

**T**he idea of sustainable development was introduced first in the world conservation strategy of 1980, and then Brundtland report of World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987.

**KEYWORDS** : idea of sustainable development , Environment and Development .

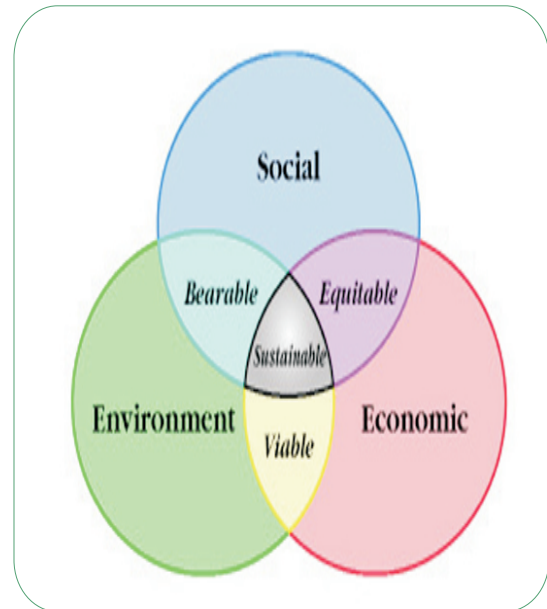
### INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development in India now encompasses a variety of development schemes in social, clean tech (clean energy, clean water, and sustainable agriculture) and human resources segments, having caught the attention of central and state government and public and private sectors. Many of the world's most valuable finite resources are being extracted at increasingly rapid rates which questions the long-term sustainability of growth. Sustainable development in India includes social, economic, environmental, national income, ecological, health, Science and education, poverty eradication, unemployment etc.

Sustainable Development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In other words we have to live our lives using water, electricity, oil etc. in such a way that our children and grandchildren and all the generations coming after them will also have the same chance of living for a sustainable life.

### MEANING AND DEFINITION:

The word sustainable development has very well known implications. It has both socio and economic



content. It involves use of natural resources. It implies socio economic growth rate in a compounded manner. It means to provide enough of what one needs in order to live or exists and grow on a sustainable basis. It also implies gradual socio-economic growth increase in size, quantity and quality. It also involves development of wealth of an area, people and society of a country. It is a long-term and eternal activity. It is a process whereby human beings try to shape and reshape the natural environment. This involves a pattern of resource use that aims to meet the current human needs while preserving the environment so that needs of the future generation can also be met comfortable and satisfaction. It implies a strategic solution for meeting the need of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The process involves introduction/involvement and in economic activity by special initiative generally known as development programmes/schemes. Such programmes have three components: Economic agenda for inclusive growth, which aims to improve the economic status of majority of people with focus on poor families. Provision of basic social Infrastructure in sufficient quality i.e. road, water supply, education, credit services, power, irrigation etc. The main reasons people are concerned with sustainable development is because of the fact that, the world is a place of finite materials. The scope of sustainable development has become massive, and many areas of life fall under this broad umbrella.

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In other words, we have to live our lives (using water, electricity, coal, oil, fossil fuel, carbon dioxide, greenhouse gases) in such a way that our children and our grandchildren and all the generations coming after them will also have the same chance of living a sustainable life.

It follows then, that we have to make serious changes to our lifestyle in the very near future, or there will be a very unhappy future for our children and grandchildren. We cannot keep going the way we are. The Bruntland Report (1983) was the first publication and recognition of what the popular term 'Sustainable development' is. It outlined 4 key figures. The main focus of this concept as given by him involved "meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of the future generation".

This definition is further qualified by a common acceptance of there being 'three pillars of Sustainable Development'. These pillars are identified in the slogan used at the World Summit for Sustainable Development 'Care and respect for People; Planet and Prosperity (Commercial activities)'. It is recognised that these three pillars are of equal importance – if any one aspect is ignored or given a higher priority than others, the effect will be to unbalance and destabilise all three aspects, because they are inter-connected and interdependent. It is also recognised that these three aspects need to be addressed simultaneously – we cannot address them on one at-a-time basis as this would also create an imbalance.

While the above definition and explanation of the three pillars of Sustainable Development is conveniently short and concise, they do not convey or provide an adequate depth of understanding regarding the intellectual, moral and spiritual values that underlie the concept of Sustainable Development. Firstly, it needs to be understood that Sustainable Development is essentially about 'a value system'. It is not a scientific formula that can be intellectually or mechanically applied to a situation. The concept of Sustainable Development is an evolutionary step forward in human consciousness, awareness and behaviour – leading to a more holistic and balanced value system.

The concept of Sustainable Development invites us all, as individuals to evolve beyond pure self-gratification and short-term thinking into an awareness and understanding that harm to one will eventually cause harm to all.

## **COMPONENTS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:**

### **1) EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:**

United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005-2014, (DESD) 'emphasizing that education is an indispensable element for achieving sustainable development'. It also designated UNESCO as the lead agency to promote and implement the Decade. The vision of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is a world where everyone has the opportunity to benefit from quality education and learn the values, behaviour and lifestyles required for a sustainable future and for positive societal transformation. ESD is for everyone,

at all stages of life and in all possible learning contexts. ESD employs a partnership approach that engages multiple sectors and stakeholders – including media agencies and the private sector – and utilizes all forms and methods of public awareness raising, education and training to promote a broad understanding of sustainable development.

ESD equally addresses all three pillars of sustainable development – society, environment and economy – with culture as an essential additional and underlying dimension. By embracing these elements in a holistic and integrated manner, ESD enables all individuals to fully develop the knowledge, perspectives, values and skills necessary to take part in decisions to improve the quality of life both locally and globally on terms which are most relevant to their daily lives.

### **MEANING OF EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:**

“Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)” is a concept that goes for beyond environmental education. ESD is the educational process of achieving human development (“the three pillars of human development” proposed by UNDP: economic growth, social development, and environmental protection) in an inclusive, equitable and secure manner. It thus includes education for poverty alleviation, human rights, gender equality, cultural diversity, international understanding, peace and many more, UNESCO proposed that the vision of education for sustainable development is a world where everyone has the opportunity to benefit from quality education and learn the values, behaviour and lifestyles required for a sustainable future and for positive societal transformation.

### **NEED OF EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:**

The concept of sustainable development touches upon all aspects of the social and institutional fabric. In this sense sustainable development provides a way of articulating the overall social project and aim of development. Since the Earth Summit in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, there has been increasing recognition of the critical role of education in promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns in order to change attitudes and behavior of people as individuals, including as producers and consumers, and as citizens. If other related international education initiatives look at education as a fundamental human right and focus on providing educational opportunities to everyone and reducing illiteracy, ESD focuses on the underlying principles and values conveyed through education and the content and purpose of education.

### **2) EMPLOYMENT GENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:**

In India, due to the agrarian sector with seasonal operations time disposition and availability for work have been the criteria for measuring employment. The accepted method of measuring employment is the usual status. Reliable estimates of employment/ unemployment are generated through National Sample Surveys conducted once in five years by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The concept recognises time utilisation only.

### **EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC PLANNING:**

Planning in India focused at realizing a high rate of growth of output in the long term. A basic assumption was that shortage of capital goods in relation to employable persons constituted a fundamental constraint on growth in the economy. Therefore the planning process made no attempt to define an independent employment strategy; the focus on economic growth was viewed as essential for improving the employment situation. Initially, labour force expansion was not seen as a problem to be contented with. Thus, in the Five Year Plans, the generation of employment was viewed as part of

the process of development and not as a goal in conflict with, or to be pursued independently of economic development.

The approaches to tackling the task of unemployment have varied from time to time. In the initial years of planning reliance was placed primarily on the expectations of a rapid industrial development and control of population. These expectations did not materialise and it was observed that the rate of growth of employment was generally much lower than the GDP rate of growth of the economy.

### **3) POVERTY ERADICATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:**

Poverty and a degraded environment are closely inter-related, especially where people depend for their livelihoods primarily on the natural resource base of their immediate environment. Restoring natural systems and improving natural resource management practices at the grassroots level are central to a strategy to eliminate poverty.

The survival needs of the poor force them to continue to degrade an already degraded environment. Removal of poverty is therefore a prerequisite for the protection of the environment. Poverty magnifies the problem of hunger and malnutrition. The problem is further compounded by the inequitable access of the poor to the food that is available. It is therefore necessary to strengthen the public distribution system to overcome this inequity. Diversion of common and marginal lands to 'economically useful purposes' deprives the poor of a resource base which has traditionally met many of their sustenance needs. Market forces also lead to the elimination of crops that have traditionally been integral to the diet of the poor, thereby threatening food security and nutritional status.

While conventional economic development leads to the elimination of several traditional occupations, the process of sustainable development, guided by the need to protect and conserve the environment, leads to the creation of new jobs and of opportunities for the reorientation of traditional skills to new occupations. Women, while continuing to perform their traditional domestic roles' are increasingly involved in earning livelihoods. In many poor households they are often the principal or the sole breadwinners. A major thrust at the policy level is necessary to ensure equity and justice for them.

Literacy and a basic education are essential for enabling the poor to access the benefits offered by development initiatives and market opportunities. Basic education is therefore a precondition for sustainable development. A sizeable proportion (about 60 per cent according to some estimates) of the population is not integrated into the market economy. Ensuring the security of their livelihoods is an imperative for sustainable development.

### **4) SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE:**

Sustainability has been attached to any number of social and economic pursuits: the international community wants sustainable economic growth, sustainable development, sustainable forestry, a sustainable population, sustainable cities, and so on.

The idea of sustainable agriculture has been around a long time. Since the very first crop was sown and animal was penned, farmers have tried to ensure that their land produces a similar or increasing yield of products year after back-breaking year; recent attempts to popularise the concept build on this tradition.

**One modern definition is as follows:**

**Sustainable agriculture is the use of farming systems and practices which maintain or enhance:**

- The economic viability of agricultural production;



- The natural resource base; and
- Other ecosystems which are influenced by agricultural activities.

**This definition can be supplemented by some fundamental principles of sustainable agriculture:**

- that farm productivity is enhanced over the long term;
- that adverse impacts on the natural resource base and associated ecosystems are ameliorated, minimised or avoided;
- that residues resulting from the use of chemicals in agriculture are minimised;
- that net social benefit (in both monetary and non-monetary terms) from agriculture is maximised; and
- that farming systems are sufficiently flexible to manage risks associated with the vagaries of climate and markets.

### **5) HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:**

Human health in its broadest sense of physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing is to a great extent dependent on the access of the citizen to a healthy environment. For a healthy, productive and fulfilling life every individual should have the physical and economic access to a balanced diet, safe drinking water, clean air, sanitation, environmental hygiene, primary health care and education.

Access to safe drinking water and a healthy environment should be a fundamental right of every citizen of developing countries continue to be vulnerable to a double burden of diseases. Traditional diseases such as malaria and cholera, caused by unsafe drinking water and lack of environmental hygiene, have not yet been controlled. In addition, people are now falling prey to modern diseases such as cancer and AIDS, and stress-related disorders. Many of the widespread ailments among the poor in developing countries are occupation-related, and are contracted in the course of work done to fulfill the consumption demands of the affluent, both within the country and outside. The strong relationship between health and the state of the environment in developing countries is becoming increasingly evident. This calls for greater emphasis on preventive and social medicine, and on research in both occupational health and epidemiology.

### **6) ECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:**

A first principle for sustainable development is that any development activity should help to sustain (and not harm) our natural resources. Both scientists and ordinary people have noticed that the Earth's life-support systems are taking strain once fertile areas can no longer sustain people; global fishing stocks have been depleted; the atmosphere, water courses and our food supplies have been polluted. It is difficult to determine how much of this kind of development the Earth can take. It is also hard, for each activity, to predict its impact on ecosystems. For this reason, we need to apply the precautionary principle, which states: Do not proceed with a development until we are reasonably sure that it won't have negative impacts; if we cannot be sure, then do not proceed! There is also much that we can do to restore our environments, which in turn opens up many new development opportunities. Examples include organic farming, de-contaminating the soil and re-growing forests. On a macro-scale, if we are to sustain the planet, we must reduce population growth and change our patterns of consumption.

### **7) RENEWABLE ENERGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:**

The Government of India, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy hosted the 4th International Renewable Energy Conference in 2010. The Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference (DIREC)

2010 was held from 27th to 29th October, 2010 in New Delhi/ NCR DIREC 2010 is the fourth in the series of the International Renewable Energy Conferences, which followed from the initiative taken at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, acknowledging the significance of renewable energies for sustainable development – especially for combating poverty and for environmental and climate protection.

DIREC 2010 is an international platform for government, private sector, and civil society leaders to jointly address the goal of advancing renewable energy. This is the 4th global ministerial-level conference on renewable energy, following successful editions in Washington in 2008. Beijing in 2005, and Bonn in 2004.

Energy is an important input for economic development but today, the world's energy supply is largely based on fossil fuels. These sources of energy will not last forever and have proven to be contributors to environmental problems. This has led the governments around the globe and industries to think seriously about alternative sources of energy. This need was further affirmed by the 1973 oil embargo and oil price shock of 2008 and the ever increasing oil prices since then. These issues along with declining availability of the fossil fuels has led to the fast development of renewable energy resources such as biomass, bio-fuels, wind, solar, geothermal, and hydro energies etc.

According to a study commissioned by International Energy Agency titled: "World Energy Outlook, 2008" the world's energy system is at crossroads. Current global trends in energy supply and consumption are patently unsustainable – environmentally, economically, socially but this situation can be changed if we can secure the supply of reliable and affordable energy; and effect a rapid transformation to a low-carbon, efficient and environmentally benign system of energy supply.

### CONCLUSION:

Sustainable development is achieved through optimizing gains from several variables, rather than maximizing those from a single one. This requires government departments, by convention sectorally organized, to work together, or in some cases as a single multi-disciplinary authority. For this joint planning, transparency and coordination in implementation are required. The richness of skills available in society must be harnessed through partnerships involving institutions in civil society, such as NGOs, CBOs, corporate (including private) bodies, academic and research institutions, trade unions, etc. which must be made an integral part of planning and implementation for sustainable development.

Utilization of natural resources in a way that nature's equilibrium balance is not affected of its five important forces are the Sky (atmosphere), Sun, Earth, Water and Vegetation. These are also resources which sustain habitat. Over use of one or improper use of another affects balance and creates natural calamities which is now called as "Global Warming".

The programme for sustainable development varies from country to country and from area-to-area and even from families to families. The development of an area or poor families is key to evolve such programmes and its implementation.

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