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Sustainable Development: Defining A New Paradigm

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Abstract
Sustainable development is development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In current research article three major aspects of sustainable development are considered as Economic, Environmental and Social. The research article shows a close resemblance between the three parameters and for generating policies for sustainable development, as three parameters and their aspects should be taken in consideration to frame best policy for sustainable development. As India is a growing country and second largest country in terms of population, so to meet with the demand, a lot of pressure is imparted on natural resources as well as fossil resources. The economic condition of people in India is not very good, and due to this they are more bound to misuse resources. In terms of environmental conditions there is more diversity, so for every region there is specific demand of resources, and some of them are using more wildly while some of them are using it on moderate levels. The other major factor is the social mentality of population, for any planning related to sustainable development major thing starts from education society about the phenomenon. It is very drastic to know that skill number of peoples in our country feel that they will have to do nothing with development, it's not their work, Government will do it, and we cannot do any thing. So to obtain results from any kind of sustainable development theory educating society is must. The results so obtained clearly demonstrate a new paradigm in developing a model of sustainable development globally.
Key words: *Sustainable Development, Economic, Environmental, Social, paradigm.*

1- INTRODUCTION

More than one hundred definitions of sustainable development exist, but the most widely used one is from the World Commission on Environment and Development, presented in 1987. It states that sustainable development is "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Sustainable development promotes the idea that social, environmental, and economic progress is all attainable within the limits of our earth's natural resources. Sustainable development approaches everything in the world as being connected through space, time and quality of life.

As in spite of being different countries, different religion we all are sharing one universe. If Pakistan is using excessive pesticides then the flowing water can harm fish stocks off the cost of India. The air pollution we emit in Asia can affect the air quality of Europe. On the flip side, clean air practices on one continent will positively impact air quality across the ocean. The earth's connection to time is demonstrated in how we, today, are either benefitting or suffering from the choices of our grandparents and other ancestors. Their

decisions about how to farm their land continue to impact the agricultural practices of today. Looking to the future, the economic choices we make and policies we endorse today will be the ones affecting our children and grandchildren as adults.

Sustainable development constantly seeks to achieve social and economic progress in ways that will not exhaust the earth's finite natural resources. The needs of the world today are real and immediate, yet it's necessary to develop ways to meet these needs that do not disregard the future. The capacity of our ecosystem is not limitless, meaning that future generations may not be able to meet their needs the way we are able to now. To cope with future requirement we will have to start thinking from today, as the phenomenon of sustainable development is not meant for today its usefulness and its best part will be seen in future, so any mismanagement in utilizing natural recourses not by any one but by whole population, will not take us to the desired results, we all will have to put hands in noble work then only we will get the required results as per our predictions. The best way to achieve results is to use sustainable energy solar energy, wind energy, ocean energy and other forms of natural energy.

Some of the more common examples of sustainable development practices are: Solar and wind energy. Energy from these resources is limitless, meaning we have the ability to eliminate dependence on non-renewable power sources by harnessing power from renewable resources. Sustainable construction; Homes, offices and other structures that incorporate recycled and renewable resources will be more energy efficient and stand the test of time. Crop rotation; many farmers and gardeners are using this method as a chemical free way to reduce diseases in the soil and increase growth potential of their crops. Water fixtures; Water conservation is critical to sustainable development, and more and more products are available that use less water in the home, such as showers, toilets, dishwashers and laundry systems.

The world's resources are finite, and growth that is un-managed and un-sustained will lead to increased poverty and decline of the environment. We owe it to future generations to explore lifestyles and paths of development that effectively balance progress with awareness of its environmental impact. In order to preserve the future, we must appreciate the interconnectedness between humans and nature at all levels. Sustainable development practices can help us do this, and through education and building awareness, preserving the future is within everyone's reach. In long prospective three major regime of Sustainable Development may consider covering, a broader aspect of Sustainable Development these include: Economic, Environmental and Social aspects. Economic: An economically sustainable system must be able to produce goods and services on a continuing basis, to maintain manageable levels of government and external debt, and to avoid extreme sectoral imbalances which damage agricultural or industrial production. Environmental: An environmentally sustainable system must maintain a stable resource base, avoiding over-exploitation of renewable resource systems or environmental sink functions, and depleting non-renewable resources only to the extent that investment is made in adequate substitutes. This includes maintenance of biodiversity, atmospheric stability, and other ecosystem functions not ordinarily classed as economic resources. Social: A socially sustainable system must achieve distributional equity, adequate provision of social services including health and education, gender equity, and political accountability and participation.

Clearly, these three elements of sustainability introduce many potential complications to the original simple

definition. The goals expressed or implied are multidimensional, raising the issue of how to balance objectives and how to judge success or failure. For example, what if provision of adequate food and water supplies appears to require changes in land use which will decrease biodiversity? What if non-polluting energy sources are more expensive, thus increasing the burden on the poor, for whom they represent a larger proportion of daily expenditure? Which goal will take precedence?

In the real world, we can rarely avoid trade-offs, and we can "maximize" only one objective at a time. It concludes that "it is impossible to define sustainable development in an operational manner in the detail and with the level of control presumed in the logic of modernity." The strongly normative nature of the sustainable development concept makes it difficult to pin down analytically. Nonetheless, the three principles outlined above do have resonance at a commonsense level. They satisfy the criterion set forth earlier for a powerful, easily grasped concept which can have wide applicability. Surely if we could move closer to achieving this tripartite goal, the world would be a better place – and equally surely we frequently fall short in all three respects. It may be easier to identify un-sustainability than sustainability – and the identification of un-sustainability can motivate us to take necessary policy action. It is instructive to examine the problem from different disciplinary perspectives. Certainly the goals set forth require the insights of multiple disciplines. Economists, one might assume, would tend to give greater weight to the economic objectives, ecologists to the environmental dimension, and social theorists to the social issues. But before we can attempt to balance these different perspectives, we need to understand them and explore their internal logics.

Each of the three areas is commonly referred to as a system: economic systems, environmental systems, and social systems each have their own logic. It is an impossible task to analyze all these systems at once. Therefore we must start by considering each separately. The total system of which human society is a part, and on which it depends for support, is made up of a large number of component systems. The whole cannot function properly and is not viable and sustainable if individual component systems cannot function properly. Sustainable Development is possible only if component systems as well as the total system are viable. Despite the uncertainty of the direction of sustainable development, it is necessary to identify the essential component systems and to define indicators that can provide essential and reliable information about the viability of each and of the total system. This implies that we can use different indicators to measure different dimensions of sustainability. Indicators imply measurement; measurement implies the theoretical definition of concepts to measure. Worldwide a lot or discussion and research is going on to understand the concept and to develop a new work plan for Sustainable Development in considering whole universe, as when we talk universe that means all of us are involved in the matter.

2- THE BRUNDTLAND REPORT

The term 'sustainable development' was popularised by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) in its 1987 report entitled *Our Common Future*. This book is also known as the Brundtland Report, after the Chair of the Commission and former Prime Minister of Norway, Gro Harlem Brundtland. The aim of the World Commission was to find practical ways of addressing the environmental and developmental problems of the world. In particular, it had three general objectives:

- To re-examine the critical environmental and development

issues and to formulate realistic proposals for dealing with them;

- To propose new forms of international co-operation on these issues that will influence policies and events in the direction of needed changes; and
- To raise the levels of understanding and commitment to action of individuals, voluntary organizations, businesses, institutes, and governments.

Our Common *Future* was written after three years of public hearings and over five hundred written submissions. Commissioners from twenty one countries analyzed this material, with the final report being submitted to the United Nations General Assembly in 1987.

3- KEY ISSUES

Our Common Future reported on many of the global realities explored in Module-1, and recommended urgent action on eight key issues to ensure that development was sustainable, i.e. that it would satisfy 'the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. These issues were: Population and Human Resources, Industry, Food Security, Species and Ecosystems, The Urban Challenge, Managing the Commons, Energy, Conflict and Environmental Degradation.

AGENDA 21 - Major issued related to Sustainable Development were discussed at a major international conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992. Known as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development – or more simply as the Earth Summit – this meeting brought together nearly 150 Heads of State where they negotiated and agreed to a global action plan for sustainable development which they called Agenda 21. The Earth Summit was also attended by nearly 50,000 official observers and citizens from around the world who met in a wide range of official and community-based councils and seminars at a Global Forum.

As well as Agenda 21, four new international treaties – on climate change, biological diversity, desertification and high-seas fishing – were signed in the official sessions. In addition, a United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development was established to monitor the implementation of these agreements and to act as a forum for the ongoing negotiation of international policies on environment and development. Agenda 21 has been the basis for action by many national and local governments. For example, over 150 countries have set up national advisory councils to promote dialogue between government, environmentalists, the private sector and the general community. Many have also established programmes for monitoring national progress on sustainable development indicators. At the local government level, nearly 2000 towns and cities worldwide have created their own Local Agenda 21 plans. Since the Earth Summit, sustainable development has been a key theme at a series of conferences discussing pathways to development. These conferences have shown that the interdependent links between environment and development are not simply about conservation and economics, but also include a concern for issues such as human rights, population, housing, food security, and gender that are important parts of sustainable human development.

4- DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

One of the most important outcomes of Our Common Future was the realization that environment and development issues are inextricably linked and therefore worrying about either environment or development on its own was inappropriate. The World Commission concluded that: Environment and development are not separate challenges. Development cannot subsist on a deteriorating environmental resource base;

the environment cannot be protected when growth leaves out of account the costs of environmental destruction. These problems cannot be treated separately by fragmented institutions and policies. They are linked in a complex system of cause and effect. Source: World Commission on Environment and Development (1987) *Our Common Future*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, p. 37. The WCED therefore argued for an approach to development that would take into account the relationship between ecological, economic, social and technological issues. The WCED called this approach 'sustainable development', defining it as: development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Source: World Commission on Environment and Development (1987) *Our Common Future*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, p. 43.

The ultimate goal of sustainable development is to improve the quality of life for all members of a community and, indeed, for all citizens of a nation and the world – while ensuring the integrity of the life support systems upon which all life, human and non-human, depends. There is sometimes confusion about the meanings of 'sustainable development' and 'sustainability' and the relationship between them. A report on Education for Sustainable Development in India proposed the following explanation: Sustainability is the goal of sustainable development – an unending quest to improve the quality of peoples' lives and surroundings, and to prosper without destroying the life-supporting systems on which current and future generations of humans depend. Like other important concepts, such as equity and justice, sustainability can be thought of as both a destination and a journey.

5- A DYNAMIC BALANCE

The special contribution of the concept of sustainable development is that it emphasizes respect for cultural values and, thus, does not see economic indicators as the sole measure of development. Rather, sustainable development represents the balanced integration of social and environmental objectives with economic development. These three aspects of sustainable development – society, environment and economics – were named as the three pillars of sustainable development at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. In relation to Education for Sustainable Development, these three pillars of sustainable development involve: Society an understanding of social institutions and their role in change and development, as well as the democratic and participatory systems which give opportunity for the expression of opinion, the selection of governments, the forging of consensus and the resolution of differences. Environment awareness of the resources and fragility of the physical environment and the affects on it of human activity and decisions, with a commitment to factoring environmental concerns into social and economic policy development. Economy skills to earn a living as well as a sensitivity to the limits and potential of economic growth and its impact on society and on the environment, with a commitment to assess personal and societal levels of consumption out of concern for the environment and for social justice.

However, politics and culture is also a key dimension of sustainable development, which influence the interactions of and between the three pillars. They are concerned with the values we cherish, the ways in which we perceive our relationship with others and with the natural world, and with how we make decisions. The values, diversity, knowledge, languages and worldviews associated with culture and politics strongly influence the way issues of sustainable development are decided and, thus, provide it with local relevance. As a result of the close relationships between the

four these dimensions of sustainable development, achieving this goal requires a dynamic balance between: Production and consumption, Ecology and economics; Development and conservation; Culture and ecology; and Democracy and economics. However, the particular nature of the balance between these factors will vary between the developing countries of the South and the industrial countries of the North.

6- CONCLUSION

Since from introduction of concept of Sustainable Development, till now it will be of great discussion, as now we are thinking of the plan that whole earth is ours, what we are doing, all of our actions are directly and indirectly influencing life of one and others, living nearby or sharing ecosystem. A lot of research work is going on the topic to reach to such point, by which we can say that moving on the plan will lead us to the desired results, but still a lot of work in the field has to be done. All previous suggestions and agendas were discussed and are also floated for benefit of mankind. In my view the major obstacle in sustainable development is society, as previously also I have stated that whatever we are planning of suggesting, its just only on papers, but to see its results not any individual can do anything, it is work of all of us to set our minds for small to small things and to think "What we are doing". In Indian society everybody is thinking that what we will have to do for that, what we can do in the matter, this mentality of our society has to be changed, because "together we can". Once we all understand that a small step of us will lead to a better future for our generations and they can enjoy nature in same zest as we are enjoying. We all should have felt of "VASUDEV KUTUMBAKAM".

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