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Sustainable development and growth: an environmental issue

Dr. Renu¹ and Ms. Snehlata²

Abstract

In contemporary environmentalism, the concept of sustainable development is becoming the major issue with the environmental perspective as well as economic. People consume the natural resources for fulfillment of their basic and commercial needs. These all human activities need to be reconsidered in a way which will allow the regenerative capacity of these resources to function. The main environmental issues are deforestation, soil erosion, air pollution from industrial effluents, air pollution from vehicle emissions, water pollution, huge and growing population and greenhouse effect etc. These issues have all contributed to the present deterioration of environmental systems. Present Economic production influences the environment in many ways. Mismanagement and overuse of India's once abundant forests has resulted in desertification, contamination, and soil depletion throughout the sub-continent. India's population growth adds pressure to environmental issues and its resources. There are two closely connected dimensions that need to be addressed in concert: first is the environmental dimension, that the environment must be recognized as an integrated part of the economic process and not treated as a free good. Second is the sustainable development that phrased in general, qualitative terms, and includes such things as economic growth, the equal distribution of wealth within and between generations.

Keywords: Sustainable development, environment.

Introduction:

In 1987, the United Nations released the Brundtland Report, which included what is now one of the most widely recognized definitions: "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

According to the same report, the above definition contains within it two key concepts:

1. The concept of 'needs', in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and
2. The idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs.

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Sustainable development refers to a mode of human development in which resource use aims to meet human needs while ensuring the sustainability of natural systems and the environment, so that these needs can be met not only in the present, but also for generations to come.

Healthy ecosystems provide vital goods and services to humans and other organisms. There are two major ways of reducing negative human impact and enhancing ecosystem services and the first of these is environmental management. This direct approach is based largely on information gained from earth science, environmental science and conservation biology. However, this is management at the end of a long series of indirect causal factors that are initiated by human consumption, so a second approach is through demand management of human resource use.

Management of human consumption of resources is an indirect approach based largely on information gained from economics. Herman Daly has suggested three broad criteria for ecological sustainability: renewable resources should provide a sustainable yield; for non-renewable resources there should be equivalent development of renewable substitutes; waste generation

should not exceed the assimilative capacity of the environment.

At the global scale and in the broadest sense environmental management involves the oceans, freshwater systems, land and atmosphere, but following the sustainability principle of scale it can be equally applied to any ecosystem from a tropical rainforest to a home garden.

is the process of making sure current processes of interaction with the environment are pursued with the idea of keeping the environment as pristine as naturally possible based on ideal-seeking behaviour. Thus, environmental sustainability demands that society designs activities to meet human needs while indefinitely preserving the life support systems of the planet. This, for example, entails using water sustainably, only utilizing renewable energy, and sustainable material supplies.

An "unsustainable situation" occurs when natural capital (the sum total of nature's resources) is used up faster than it can be replenished. Sustainability requires that human activity only uses nature's resources at a rate at which they can be replenished naturally. Inherently the concept of sustainable development is intertwined with the concept of carrying capacity. Theoretically, the long-term result of environmental degradation is the inability to sustain human life. Such

degradation on a global scale should imply extinction for humanity.

Literature Review

Kimberly, K.(2012) *Triple Wings for Sustainable Development; case studies of sustainable development in practice*, Bhutan's experience shows that it is possible for lower-middle income countries to combine robust national environmental conservation efforts with rapid economic growth and poverty reduction. Doing so requires leadership, and a national governance framework capable of integrating economic, environmental, and social development priorities.

Sachiko,M. and Zaelke, Durwood (2007) *Rule of Law, Good Governance ,and Sustainable Development(year)* shows that there is a consensus that the rule of law and good governance are the foundation for achieving sustainable development goals. Various institutions have taken initiatives in promoting the rule of law and good governance throughout the world and have made considerable progress over the years. However, despite these efforts and the growing number of environmental laws and regulations, environmental quality and public health continue to deteriorate due in significant part to lack of implementation, enforcement, and compliance with existing laws. A strengthened focus on compliance

and enforcement efforts could overcome these problems and would be a critical investment for advancing sustainable development.

Role of government in sustainable development:

The nine indicators of UNDP recognize the following core characteristics of role of government in sustainable development which are:

Rule of Law: According to rule of law everybody is equal before the law and there should be economic, social and political justice system through the process of law for all. It means that all the citizens in similar circumstances i.e. legal frameworks should be fair and enforced impartially, particularly the laws of human rights.

India is a democratic country and Indian constitution ensures that everybody is equal before the law but present scenario against of this;

- Sex ratio is 940/1000(women are missing). Government has made fundamental rights & duties to parent to provide education.
- Women literacy rate is 65.46%and men literacy rate is 82.14%.
- The rate of Dropped cases of girl students is higher than boy students.

Participation: All men and women should have a voice in decision-making either directly or through legitimate intermediate institutions that with present their interest. Such broad participation is built on freedom of association and speech, as well as capacities to participate constructively.

- Work participation ratio (WPR) of women is less than WPR in formal sector is declining but in Informal sector is rapidly increasing while there is not job and social security in Informal sector.
- WPR of women in agriculture sector 60% is more than WPR of men and MNREGS has given 43% (approximately) employment for women.
- Participation ratio of women in decision-making is very low. Only, in rural areas, 26% women think about their health and other aspects but 7.6% women do not participate in their home decisions.
- 33% reservation is in pending in lower house of parliament but in current only 60 women are in Loksabha out of 543 seats and in Rajyasabha 24 women are playing their role out of 240 seats. In Supreme Court only 2 females are there out of 26 judges.

Transparency:

The attributes of transparency requires that information is freely available and the decisions are taken or enforced in a manner that adheres to the rules

regulations. In India, in the presence of knowledge deficit, communication gap is taking place. To bring transparency, in working of institutions CAG, RTI, RTE, Government are playing crucial role because of communication gap these are not thriven.

Equity:

All men and women have equal opportunities to improve or maintain their well-behind. To bring up all people on the same table India is giving reservation on national, state and local level.

- Reservation in parliament, for women is 33% that is pending. The Panchayati Raj Act is ensure, reservation for women, is differentiated among states: Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh have 1/3 but Bihar, M.P., Rajasthan have 50%, Utrakhand has up to 50%, in West Bengal should not be less than 1/3.
- Right of children to Free and Compulsory Education Act provides for free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen, but literacy rate of women is 16.68% less than men literacy rate.
- And Tendulkar committee has estimated that 37.2% population is living below poverty line.
- Gender wage discrimination is also taking place.

Accountability:

Decision-makers in government, the private sector and civil society organizations are accountable to the public, as well as to institutional stakeholders. India is suffering from corruption and parallel economy is increasingly replacing parent economy and different sartorial growth rate has led income disparity. In India Gini coefficient was 0.31 in 2005 that indicates organizations are not accountable to Indians.

Effectiveness and efficiency:

Efficiency means best utilization of given resources. Effectiveness means doing things effectively focusing on the results that should put positive impact on well-being of society, economics, environment and eco-system.

India is largest democratic country but only few households are converting our public economy into capital economy that generates exploitation of resources. Indian government is allocating public funds in unproductive sectors that should allocate in productive sector such as subsistence sector. Approximately 80% population depends on Agriculture and its oriented works but Government is allocating very low package on Agriculture and economy is not moving on optimal path,

Consensual in Orientation:

Good Governance must ensure that there is a regular and dynamic process of

consensual making that is first of all there should be consultation between the government functionaries, NGOs and the public; second stage should be consideration of different views; third stage should be taking their consent on broad area; and finally consensus should be attempted after conflict resolution.

According to Wagner's law, Indian economy is booming and burden of government is highly increasing in this situation Government use PPP (Public Private Partnership) so that organization can be thrive.

Life Security:

Government and Administration have to provide protection to all citizens. Who do not differentiate on caste and gender basis but present scenario of India states in opposite, all kinds of crime are taking place and it varies according to gender and caste.

1. India's National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reveals that since 1971, there has been an increase of 87.3% in India's rape related crime.
2. Feticide (the killing of women and girls because of their gender) is the second fastest increasing crime in India. Every year 10, 00,000 girls face feticide problem, resulting sex imbalance.

Sustainable development and India: World is looking for Millennium

Development Goals. India is venturing into 12th Five year plan (1st April 2012 to 31st March 2017) with fast, sustainable and inclusive growth agenda. Thus main focus is sustainable development of 21st century that ensures our common future. There is no sustainability in India. World is suffering from unsustainable development those are states below.

- 45000 square miles of forest are lost across the world each year.
- 60% of the world's major rivers have been dammed or diverted.
- 34%; the amount by which the world's population has grown in the last 20 years.
- 75000 people per year are killed by natural disasters.
- 50%; the percentage by which population of fresh-fish have declined in 20 years.
- 20% energy requirements of developed countries such as the United States have increased in the period.

Indicators of sustainable development:

Indicators of sustainable development links among a community's economy, environment and society, are described below:

Gross National Happiness (GNH):

It is an attempt to define quality of life in a more holistic and psychological terms

than Gross National Product (GNP). And its nine principal domains are time use, living standards, good governance, psychological wellbeing, community vitality, culture, health, education and ecology.

Human Development Index (HDI): It is measure of life expectancy, Literacy rate and standard of living for countries worldwide.

$HDI = (\text{Standard of living index} * \text{Life expectancy at birth index} * \text{Education index}) / 3$

HDI of India was 0.547 and 0.519 and rank was 134 and 119 in 2011 and 2010 respectively.

The Happy Planet Index (HPI): It is an index of human well-being and environmental impact.

$HPI = (\text{Experienced well-being} * \text{Life expectancy}) / \text{Ecological footprint}$.

HPI of India was 42.46, 53.0 and 50.9 in 2006, 2009 and 2012 respectively.

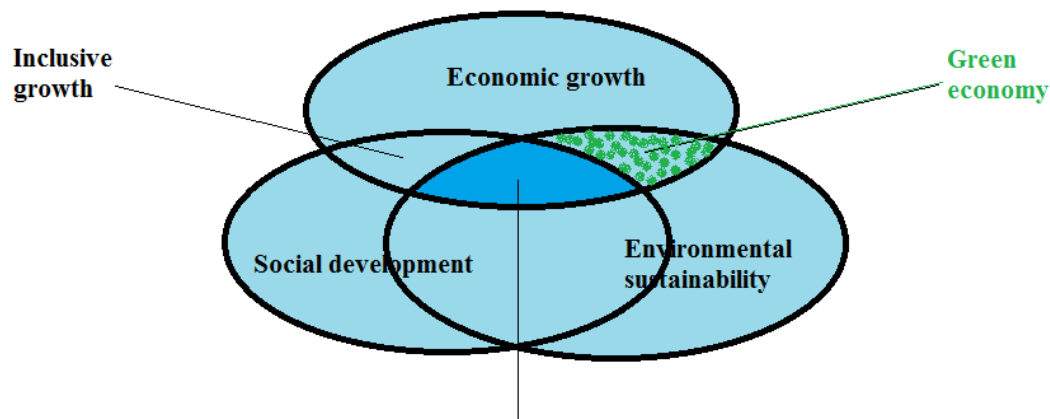
Ecological Footprint (EF): It compares human consumption of natural resources with Earth's ecological capacity to regenerate them.

$EF = \text{Consumption (kg or tones per year)} / \text{Yield (kg or tones per hectare per year)}$

Ecological footprint of India was 0.9 in 2012.

Relationship between Good Governance and Sustainable Development:

According to 'Three Pillars basic model' economic growth, environment sustainability and social development are consequently interrelated to each other.



Triple win' out comes that strengthen all three strands of sustainable development

And domains of sustainable development (time utilization, Living standard, good governance, psychological well-being, community vitality, culture, health, education and ecology) also show a crucial interrelationship between good governance and sustainable development. Good governance ensures that rule of law, transparency, equity, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness, consensual orientation and life security will take place thus under the shade of good governance consumption and production would be sustain, we might optimally utilize natural and human resources which result fast, inclusive and sustainable development. When everybody will be familiar with his/her fundamental rights and duties than

organizations might be thrive and protects core values of society and environment.

Concluding observation:

Government honest administration is not taking place therefore many kinds of economic, social and environmental challenges are occurring. Indicators of sustainable development are indicating serious concern about environment so we have to control pollution to protect ecosystem so that Eco cycles can move smoothly preserve bio-diversity. Socio-economic inequalities are increasing i.e. poor is becoming poorer and rich is becoming richer which resulting crimes (corruption, naxalism, murders, robbery, female feticide, rape etc.) are occurring day by day. Government and administrations are losing people trust.

The good governance and sustainable development come out from the strong commitment of everybody, government, political, social and economic organizations where all commitment is made with keeping people and environment as central focus. Education, Information- communication technology and Institutions of democracy have to efficiently and effectively perform than these might build utopian state where in good governance, well-being society, sustainable development, economic, social and environmental justice will prevail.

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