

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN HAND WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

Conflict and insecurity inhibits development and diverts resources to military purposes that could be better used for human development. Successful development of education, health, governance and infrastructure, meanwhile, are key attributes that make conflict and insecurity markedly less likely. Sustainability issues can be talked about in the same regard, as well. They are generally expressed in scientific and environmental terms, as well as in ethical terms of stewardship, but implementing change is a social challenge that entails, among other things, international and national law, urban planning and transport, local and individual lifestyles and ethical consumerism. The paper aims at putting forth Sustainability, with both its political and environmental aspects

INTRODUCTION

The relationship between human rights and human development, corporate power and environmental justice, global poverty and citizen action, suggest that responsible global citizenship is an inescapable element of what may at first glance seem to be simply matters of personal consumer and moral choice."

Development had to be sustainable, not politicized for the short term, and should concentrate more on governance, security sector reform and the empowerment of civil society. These would be the keys to unlocking economic potential in developing countries. The paper further

elaborates on the many aspects of sustainability and development, with regards to the current political frame, national and global.

Sustainable Development

Researches state that the modern concept of sustainable development is derived mostly from the 1987 Brundtland Report; it is also rooted in earlier ideas about sustainable forest management and twentieth century environmental concerns. As the concept developed, the focus has mostly shifted on economic development, social development and environmental protection for future generations. It has been suggested that, the term "sustainability" should be viewed as humanity's target goal of human-ecosystem equilibrium (homeostasis), while "sustainable development" refers to the holistic approach and chronological processes that have effectively lead us to this ultimate point of sustainability".

Sustainable development is the organizing standard for achieving human development goals and at the same time, sustaining the ability of natural systems to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services upon which the economy and society depend. It desires a society where living conditions and distribution of resources meet human needs without compromising with the integrity and stability of the natural systems that we are a part of.

What exactly, is to be sustained in sustainable development, stands as an unanswered question even today? It has been argued that there is no such thing as a sustainable use of a non-renewable resource, since any positive rate of exploitation will eventually lead to the exhaustion of earth's finite stock. This perspective renders the industrial revolution as a whole unsustainable. It has also been argued that the meaning of the concept has opportunistically been stretched from "conservation management" to "economic development", and that the Brundt land Report promoted nothing but a business as usual strategy for world development, with an ambiguous and insubstantial concept attached as a public relations slogan. However, I'd like to put forth a simple question to you all, what shall you choose, if put in an powerful position, an easy life for the present or absolute conservation of resources for tomorrow?

An easy life, for me and you, shall be very different from the easier lifestyles that the more scientifically ambitious-lot foresees for themselves.

Sustainability Science- stands as the study of the concepts of sustainable development and environmental science. As we know, there is an additional focus on the present generations' responsibility to regenerate, maintain and improve planetary resources for use by future generations. Talk about politicians, economists, environmentalists or jurists, the stress on environmental conservation and concerns on resource depletion are being talked about both nationally and internationally. Issues like Global Warming, Ozone Depletion, Water Scarcity, Untimely Rains etc are not new and the need to curb our negative impressions on nature is being realized in every part of the world.

In 1980 the International Union for the Conservation of Nature put forth a world conservation strategy that included one of the first references to sustainable development as a global priority and introduced the term "sustainable development". Two years later, the United Nations World Charter for Nature raised five principles of conservation by which human conduct affecting nature is to be guided and judged. In 1987 the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development released the report, 'Our Common Future', commonly called the Brundtland Report.

As per this report, "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within itself two key concepts:

The concept of 'needs', in particular, the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and

The idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs. "

Since the above-mentioned report was published, the concept of sustainable development has developed beyond the initial intergenerational framework to focus more on the goal of

"socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable economic growth". In 1992, the UN Conference on Environment and Development published the Earth Charter, which outlined the building of a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society in the 21st century. The action plan went on to identify Information, Integration, and Participation, as key building blocks to help countries achieve development that recognizes these interdependent pillars. It emphasizes that in sustainable development everyone is a user and provider of information. It stresses the need to change from old sector-centered ways of doing business to new approaches that involve co-ordination between various sectors and the integration of environmental and social concerns into all development processes. Furthermore, Agenda 21 of this report emphasizes, that broad public participation in decision making is a fundamental prerequisite for achieving sustainable development.

Under the principles of the United Nations Charter, The Millennium Declaration has identified principles and treaties on sustainable development, including economic development, social development and environmental protection fundamentally. Broadly defined, sustainable development is being looked at as a systematic approach to growth and development and to manage natural, produced, and social capital for the welfare of their own and future generations. The term sustainable development as used by the United Nations incorporates both issues associated with land development and broader issues of humankind, including education, public health, and a basic standard of living for all and singular.

In September, 2015, the United Nations General Assembly formally adopted the "universal, integrated and transformative" 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The goals are to be implemented and achieved in every country from the year 2016 to 2030. Broadly speaking, these goals also give necessary guidelines to every member-state in order to ensure environmental safeguards and promote global-development sustainably.

Human Health

The ecological stability of human settlements and habitat is very much a part of the relationship between humans and their natural, social and built environments. Also termed as human ecology, this broadens the focus of sustainable development to include the domain of human health. Fundamental human needs such as the availability and quality of air, water, food and shelter are also the ecological foundations for sustainable development; addressing public health risk through investments in ecosystem services can be a powerful and transformative force for sustainable development which, in this sense, extends to all species.

Environmental sustainability includes how the natural environment endures and remains diverse and productive. Since natural resources are derived from the environment, the state of air, water, and the climate are of particular concern, along with various other climatic variants. The IPCC Fifth Assessment Report outlines current knowledge about scientific, technical and socio-economic information concerning climate change, and lists options for adaptation and mitigation. Environmental sustainability requires society to design activities to meet human needs while preserving the life support systems of the planet. This, for example, entails using water sustainably, utilizing renewable energy, and sustainable material supplies like, harvesting wood from forests at a rate that maintains the biomass and biodiversity.

An unsustainable situation occurs when natural capital or 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 dreadful conditions on a global scale shall mean an increase in human death rate until population falls to what the degraded environment can support. If the degradation continues beyond a certain tipping point or critical saturation threshold, it would lead to eventual extinction of humanity at large.

So, one can try to appeal to the ethics of the situation by doing the right thing as an individual, but in the absence of any direct consequences, the individual will tend to do what is best for the person and not what is best for the common good of the public, which is only fair. Once again, this issue needs to be addressed. Because, left unaddressed, the development of the commonly owned property will become impossible to achieve in a sustainable way. So, this topic is central to the understanding of creating a sustainable situation from the management of the public resources that are used for personal use. Moreover, considering the given stats, we are pretty much in a Now or Never situation when it comes to the environmental hazards that are threatening human health at an alarming rate.

A World Bank study from 1999 concluded that based on the theory of genuine savings, policymakers have many possible interventions to increase sustainability, in macroeconomics or purely environmental. A study from 2001 noted that efficient policies for renewable energy and pollution are compatible with increasing human welfare, eventually reaching a golden-rule steady state. The study, *Interpreting Sustainability in Economic Terms*, found three pillars of sustainable development, interlinkage, intergenerational equity, and dynamic efficiency. But Gilbert Rist criticized this report and wrote that, "From this angle, 'sustainable development' looks like a cover-up operation. The thing that is meant to be sustained is really 'development', not the tolerance capacity of the ecosystem or of human society."

Indian government's commitment to sustainable development is reflected in specific and pragmatic targets for a few key indicators of human development and conservation of natural resources that became part of the Tenth Five Year Plan (FYP). The EPSP includes first of all descriptions of India's conditions and resumes the developments of the past. There are also some measurable medium-term targets.

According to Herman Daly,

1. For renewable resources, the rate of harvest should not exceed the rate of regeneration (sustainable yield);
2. For pollution, the rates of waste generation from projects should not exceed the assimilative capacity of the environment (sustainable waste disposal); and

3. For nonrenewable resources the depletion of the nonrenewable resources should require comparable development of renewable substitutes for that resource.

So to achieve true sustainability we need to balance economic, social and environmental sustainability factors in equal harmony. These may be defined as:

- Environmental Sustainability:** Environmental sustainability means that we are living within the means of our natural resources. To live in true environmental sustainability we need to ensure that we are consuming our natural resources, such as materials, energy fuels, land, water...etc, at a sustainable rate. Some resources are more abundant than others and therefore we need to consider material scarcity, the damage to environment from extraction of these materials and if the resource can be kept within Circular Economy principles. Environmental sustainability should not be confused with full sustainability, which also needs to balance economic and social factors.

- Economic Sustainability:** Economic sustainability requires that a business or country uses its resources efficiently and responsibly so that it can operate in a sustainable manner to consistently produce an operational profit. Without acting responsibly and using its resources efficiently a company will not be able to sustain its activities in the long term.

- Social Sustainability:** Social sustainability is the ability of society, or any social system, to persistently achieve a good social well being. Achieving social sustainability ensures that the social well being of a country, an organization, or a community can be maintained in the long term.

Conclusion

As countries around the world continue to advance economically, they put a strain on the ability of the natural environment to absorb high level of pollutants that are created as a part of this economic or industrial growth. Therefore, solutions need to be found so that the economies of the world can continue to grow, but not at the expense of the public good. In the world of economics the amount of environmental quality must be considered as limited in supply and therefore is treated as a scarce resource. This is a resource to be protected. One

common way to analyze possible outcomes of policy decisions on the scarce resource is to do a cost-benefit analysis. This type of analysis contrasts different options of resource allocation and, based on an evaluation of the expected courses of action and the consequences of these actions, the optimal way to do so in the light of different policy goals can be elicited.

The world has learned some important truths in the conflicts of the last 25 years that bear directly on the challenges of sustainable development. One lesson is that conflict zones very quickly develop their own micro-economy. People and families continue to function by adjusting their 'normal' economic behavior to whatever can support them amidst warfare. It's time to make amends and abide by them until at-least some damage is repaired.

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