

Sustainable Development: Gandhi approach

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Abstract: Sustainable development means to “fulfil the present needs without compromising the needs of future generation.” Mahatma Gandhi’s way of living is the best example of sustainable development for world. In Mahatma Gandhi words, “Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s need but not any man’s greed”.

The economic development is the most important marker of country’s growth. In order to achieve targets of development, developing and developed countries are irrationally exploiting their natural resources without concerns and understanding of how to exploit and when to exploit. Our lives are widely dependent on availability of the natural resources. If correct balanced is strike between usage of resources and availability of resources than lives of people and integrity of planet could be managed well. However when life is turned into excessive luxury and comfort this balance could break. The concept of the sustainable development is multi-dimensional and multi-modal. “Use and Throw” is not fit for the sustainable development while Reduce- Recycle - Reuse is the best concept of sustainable development as it refers to balancing of needs and usage. Instead of economic development we should focus on environmental development. Before any type of development we should check for ecology and environmental impact, good building might not be good development every time. There should be environmental, social, moral and spiritual balance without all these values development is unperfected proxy for the progress.

A specific concern is that those who enjoy the fruits of economic development today may be making future generation worse off by excessively degrading the earth, resources and polluting the earth’s environment. This is fact that environmental damage hurts people today and future. Sustainable development adopted by the world commission of environment “Present generation should fulfill their needs without compromising the ability of future generation. In my opinion without damaging environment should done any type of development with social, moral and spiritual values. With full values the development will called Sustainable development. New social ethics should be inculcated amongst the children both in school and at home, emphasizing concern for environment, personal growth and peaceful coexistence. Economic growth should mean equitable and sustainable growth. Rate of population growth should be controlled through education and awareness. Resources must be conserved through judicious use and recycled.

Keywords: Moral values; Protectionism; Reduce, Recycle, Reuse; Spiritual values; Social values

Introduction

When we think about development we reminded by developed countries. Their living standard, per capita income and gross national income. Does economics alone measure everything? Developed countries have good industrialization, good infrastructure and can be said that everything is well managed and very good than why are they researching for sustainable development. Is above development not sufficient.

Meaning of development

It is process of progress or change in current system for comfort. In literal terms, development is about improving the wellbeing of society/people .Raising living standards and improving education, health, and equality of opportunity are all essential components of economic development. Ensuring political and civil rights is a broader development goal. Economic growth is an essential means for enabling development; If development is sufficient,

modern world should be satisfied with such type of development. but in itself it is highly imperfect proxy for progress. Modern world and scientist thought that

- The world has an unlimited supply of resources for human use
- Nature is for human being and can be used any limit and any way.

We (human being) has no responsibility for Nature. We have extracted or extracting the non renewable elements from nature. Results shows that development is not appropriate. Though science and technology has developed too much in every field without taking any future concept. We have destroyed nature and natural elements. See some destruction by human beings.

- Air has polluted due to industrialisation, more uses of vehicles.
- Rivers and underground water also polluted due to ill mannered behavior of human beings.
- We have destroyed and damaged the hills due to development of roads and tunnels of railway lines result land slide and earth quake.
- Use of iron ore for arms, not for only self defense but to take possession of another country land.
- We have cut the forest for wood and for agriculture use. And agriculture land encroached by housing society and for shopping malls. We have developed concrete jungles.
- We have developed nuclear arms but for what? Either for saving NATURE or for saving humankind. Not at all. There are so many tragedies due to these advancement of science and technology. Progress is human nature but feeling of nature is something to overcome. World has fed up with such type of development because such type of development can not check the natural calamities .Environmentalists compel to think when science and technology cannot give us renewable and nonrenewable elements than why should we should destroy the nature. Environment and development are interlinked. Development can not dominate Environment. When we dominate it and want to conquer it, NATURE shows it's own reaction in response natural calamities and that cannot be checked by science and technology. Now we see what is the result of such type of development?

With this attitude towards nature technological advances increase our ability to use natural resources and thus, increase the damage, however, the realization is growing fast that we are in a world have limits, to exploit natural resources and increasing growth of materialistic consumption can only lead toward environmental damage. Therefore development should be seen as delicate balance between human needs and nature to fetch positive development and hence emerged concept of sustainable development. If seen otherwise, development may be negative for people in long run rather than positive. Poor and erroneous concept will fail and produce damages to lives of people leading to consequences like Global warming, Climatic change, Draughts & Floods, Resource depletion, Poor economy, Social and political unrest, Diseases, Dis-harmony, Mental stress, Increased crimes rates, Extinction of plants and animals.

Results have shown that development till date have been inappropriate, inadequate and improperly understood. Though one side science and technology has developed too much but on the other side degradation due to development.

World has fed up with such type of development because such type of development cannot check the natural calamities .Environmentalists compel to think when science and technology cannot give renewable and nonrenewable elements ,why should we destroy the nature with such type of development. Environment and development are inexorably interlinked .Development cannot subsist upon deteriorating environmental resources and resources. Thus the issue of environment versus development has led to the concept of sustainable development. Meaning of sustainable Development is to meet the logical needs of the present without compromising environment & also without compromising the ability to develop for future generations. So that effects of development are positive, symbiotic and lasting.

Sustainable development should be that pattern to fulfill human needs with taken into consideration of Environment, Moral Values, Social Values, Spiritual Values. So the sustainable development means to fulfill the present needs without compromising the needs of future generation .According to Mahatma Gandhi "Earth provides enough to satisfy their needs but not any men's greed. According to law of economics Resources are limited and needs are always unlimited but human being should satisfy their needs with limited resources. According to world commission of environment and development (our common future, 1987) that current generations should "meet their needs without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs" has become widely accepted and is strongly supported in this report. Turning the concept of sustainability in to policies raises fundamental questions

about how to assess the wellbeing of present and future generations. But in my opinion government and public should understand the difference between concept of development and sustainable development. Not only government but public also understand after effects of development. World commission on Environment and development has defined sustainable development as “A process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investment, the orientation of technological development and institutional change all are in harmony and enhance both current and future potential to meet human needs and aspirations.” The view of frontier society and the concept of sustainable society are different.

- The Earth has a limited supply of resources.
- Recycling and the use of renewable resources will prevent the depletion of resources.
- Life’s value does not depend on our material wealth.
- Every thing is not currency. Body is made up of five elements, air, water, soil, fire and sky. So we should care these five elements.
- We must understand nature and develop a symbiotic relationship.
- We must understand NATURE and we must all create awareness at personal level and also act to solve pressing problems.
- We should minimize the waste. Waste should be minimized by recycling as far as possible.

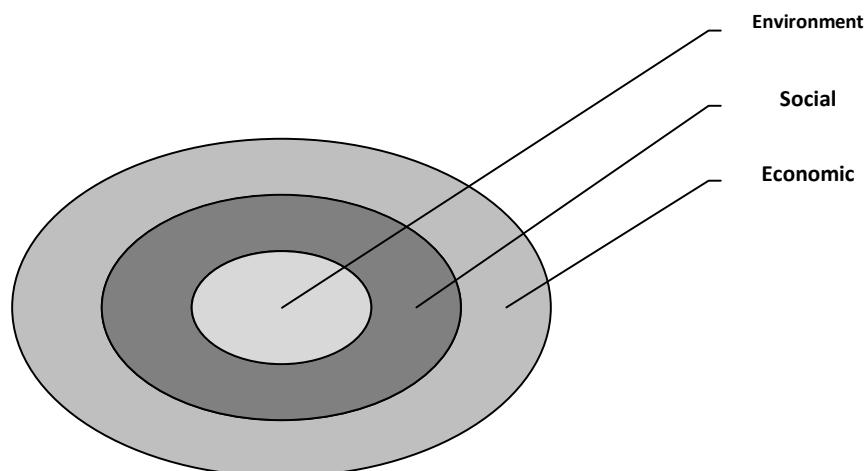
These all should be the duties of sustainable society.

Thus the concept of sustainable development provides a framework for the integration of environmental policies and development strategies having implication at international, national, regional and local levels. Development should not endanger the natural systems that support life on earth. In my opinion Environmental value should be merged with spiritual values. Indian Rishis and Munis never challenge NATURE. They called nature as PRAKRATI MAA, they were worshiped nature and inculcated it in our living system so that it does not compete with each other for survival. Rishis inculcated nature since birth to death.

The field of sustainable development can be conceptually broken in to three constituent parts.

- Environmental sustainability
- Economic sustainability and
- Socio-political sustainability.

The representation of sustainability, showing how both economy and society are constrained by environmental limits.



Some are the common factors of world for sustainability, as such ecological interactions, the irrigation practices, pesticides, fertilizers and seeds. The interdependence of various components of the earth was recognized to some extent by traditional, social systems. By social system community control over agriculture or traditional rights relating to water. Land and forest. But with the surge of technological progress the responsibilities of decision making are taken away. Interdependence is not a local phenomenon .rapid growth in production has extended it to the international plan with both physical and economic manifestations. There are growing global and regional environmental hazards such as over consumption of fossil fuels leading to global warming. We can say that our inability to promote common interest in sustainable development is often a product of the neglect of economic and social, justice within and amongst the nations. The search for common interests would be less difficult if all developmental and environmental problems are tackled in totality for the betterment of whole mankind. Our growing knowledge of the global interconnection would create a more thoughtful approach to development. From development to sustainable development, society will require policy changes at global level and basic changes in the way people interact with the environment.

We are aware that high technology has played a major role in environmental deterioration and destruction throughout the world. Although a boon to society, technology has exacted its own price. The challenge before mankind is to redirect its use to make it more energy efficient, less risky, cleaner and more humane.

The new resource consumption strategies in sustainable development are conservation, recycling, and reuse of waste material and use of renewable resources.

The emerging technology is called appropriate technology which relies basically on the use of smaller, repairable machines with production methods that use optimum energy and materials and cause less pollution. It benefits people, communities and nations helping them become more self reliant by using raw materials that are available locally.

Now the world should think and understand about appropriate technology.

- Small and medium sized machines should be used which maximize human output.
- Technology should be simple and easy to understand.
- Employees do a variety of tasks resulting in increased output.
- It is less capital intensive and maintenance is easy.
- Local resources are used, products are mainly created for local use leading to self sufficiency.
- Decentralized production and control and small –scale efficiency.
- It emphasizes the use of natural biodegradable materials.
- Small amount of energy and material input and small amount of pollution.
- The use of renewable energy resources is emphasized.
- Compatible with local culture and the environment.
- It encourages local talents and handicrafts and the products are durable.

Technology

Appropriate technology is advantageous as it increases employment and requires less investment. It is also efficient on small scale and is compatible with environment because of low energy requirement and minimum pollution. Therefore technology which is based on concepts of sustainable development is especially useful in developing countries that have neither the capital nor the energy resources for high technologies. The process of economic growth to achieve sustainable development and society must be based upon the realities of existing renewable and nonrenewable resources .But most of time it is not so. Because countries measure economy by GDP and GNI (GROSSNATIONALINCOME.)

Population

The sustainability of development is intimately linked to the dynamics of population growth. Level of energy consumption and material use are much higher with increased population. In developing countries, stabilization of the population at a level consistence with productive capacity of the ecosystem are essential.

Conservation

For the sustainable development ,earth 's natural resources must be conserved and enhanced .The shift to appropriate technology and increased use of renewable resources such as solar energy, wind energy, etc, can help us conserve our resources. Recycling and Reuse of the waste such as conversion organic waste into biogas, can help us minimize the use of our natural resources. Conservation of nature is also our moral and ethical duty for other living beings and the future generations. Now, there is general awareness of environmental impact in both rich and poor

nations. Worldwide, many organization are involved in the studies of critical issues of energy, population, resources and environmental impact in both rich and poor nations.

International economy, Environment and development to attain a sustainable economic system, it is necessary that international economic exchanges become beneficial for all. This is possible only if two condition are satisfied .One is that the sustainability of ecosystem must be ensured .Secondly, the basis of economic exchange is equitable.

Developing countries face problem in managing their environments, since their economics depend largely on the export of their natural resources like export of iron by India or timber from Brazil. For currency and better economy they destroy their natural resources. Domestic efforts in proper planning and formulation of policies for utilization of resources, control of population and reduction of poverty, are of utmost importance for environmentally sound development. Every country especially the developing countries have to choose their own environment standard.

Protectionism

Is a policy of a country helping its own industry is another link between trade and sustainable development. Protectionism in industrial countries suppresses export growth of the developing countries and prevents diversification from traditional exports such as of cotton fabrics and tea.

Exchange and transfer of technologies from one country to the other is another link in the international trade. Sustainable development requires an organized effort at global level to develop and extend new technologies worldwide, for various purposes such as agricultural production, renewable energy systems and pollution control. The "United Nations Organization has already passed a resolution called the "NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER" to work in this direction.

New Global Economic System

Some economist suggest that anew economic system at global level is necessary for long term survival of the human race. The present economic system is characterized by maximum flow of money, maximum profit, maximum production, maximum consumption, and maximum resources use .This frontier economy as it is called now, should be replaced by space ship economy. A space ship economy or sustainable economy promotes Reduce, Reuse & Recycle. Conservation, of renewable resources, product durability and a clean and healthy environment. People live within the limits imposed by earth .Future patterns of developments should be made much less material-intensive. Broken goods should repaired, rather than replaced. Sustainable economy can be achieved and succeed only with new policies, new political directions, education and awareness. The most fundamental changes would have to be an ethical shift promoted by parents, teachers, and government agencies. Government can help by framing new laws that are conducive to the attainment of sustainable society with sustainable economy can come from combination of personal and governmental efforts.

- It should be inborn responsibility of every individual or institution to play a role for social work
- Mahatma Gandhi and is best example of spiritual and sustainable development.



*"Generations to come
will scarcely believe that
such a one as this,
ever in flesh and blood
walked upon this earth"*

---Albert Einstein on Mahatma Gandhi

Conclusion

The meaning of development pertains to meaningful and resourceful growth of society which could fetch positive outcomes in long term for welfare of not only human society but also entire planet. Therefore maintaining equilibrium between development of environment, flora, and fauna. The concept of development does not lie only within frame work of increase in comfort levels of humans but depends on sustainability.

The Co-operation and Reciprocity are essential properties for the sustainability and existence and without which entire creation would reduce to nothingness. Hence, principles of interconnectedness reciprocity lies between Nature & Humankind. There should be fine balance as everything is interconnected. We are trustees of mother earth (our planet). It is the responsibility of the humankind to care and maintain our planet while obtaining required resources in response. Planet has vast recourse and biological diversity. So trustees must learn to make mindful and ethical use of the earth's natural resources (Renewable and Non-renewable). We must remember that the moderation and humility worth of the nature cannot be expressed in simple economic term. Sustainable development requires a deep understanding of the natural world and its role in society in collective development. Material world cannot establish the happiness of mankind, happiness can only be achieved when material and spiritual worlds are linked and coordinate.

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Quotes of Mahatama Gandhiji

"Be the part of change you want to see."

"Permanent good can never be outcome of untruth and violence. Live as if you were to die tomorrow and learn as if you were to live forever."

"It should be inborn responsibility of every individual of every individual and institution to play a role for social work."

"I am not against wealth but against wealth that enslaves."

