



## Dva1501 assignment 3

Development Studies (University of South Africa)



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**NAME: NOSISA NANA**

**SURNAME: MVUYANA**

**STUDENT NUMBER: 58106286**

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## **Introduction**

The term sustainable development implies a developmental path along which maximising human well-being for today's generation does not lead to declines in future well-being. Sustainable development stands for meeting the needs of present generations without jeopardizing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs the improvement of quality of life for everyone. This essay will firstly define the sustainable development including its three pillars, discuss various approaches to sustainability and environmentalism, discuss on an approach

### **Defining the concept sustainable development and its three pillars**

The concept sustainable development comes from various definition, Ndlovu et al (2021:67) state that for a better understanding of the concept of sustainable development one must first understand the two main item: sustainability and development. Sustainability is the idea that human societies must live and meet their needs within the limitations of the global environment while Development entails a significant improvement in the well-being of people.

According to United Nations WCED ( in Ndlovu et al 2021:68) states that development is sustainable if its meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs. The concept implies a development path along maximise human well-being for todays generation does not lead to declines in future well-being.

### **Sustainable development pillars**

Ndlovu et al (2021:71) indicates that the focus of sustainable development is to improve the quality of life for all without increasing the use of natural resource beyond the capacity of the environment to supply them and for the development to continue indefinitely it should balance the interest of different group of people within and across generation and do so simultaneously in three major interrelated areas which is economic, social and environmental that are also known as three pillars of sustainable development.

### ***Economic sustainability***

Ndlovu et al (2021:72) states that an economic sustainable system can produce goods and service on a continuing basis to maintain manageable levels of government and external debt to avoid extreme sectoral imbalance that damages agricultural or industrial production. Mensah (2019:9) states that economic sustainability implies a system that satisfies present consumption levels without compromising future needs, economist assumes that the supply of natural resource was unlimited placed undue emphasis on the capacity of the market to allocate resource efficiency.

### ***Social sustainability***

Mensah (2019:9) indicates that social sustainability encompasses notion of equity, empowerment, accessibility, participation, cultural identity and institutional stability this concept implies that people matter since development is about people. “a socially sustainable system achieves fairness in distribution and opportunity among all persons, along with adequate provision of such social services as health, education and gender equity, the social dimension focuses on reconciling the environment, development and governance related to the provision of social services” (Ndlovu et al 2021:72).

According to Kolk (in Mensah 2019:10) argues social sustainability is not about ensuring that everyone’s needs are met rather its aims at providing enabling condition for everyone to have the capacity to realize their needs.

### ***Environmental sustainability***

Environmental sustainable is about the natural environment and how its remains productive and resilient to support human life. Ndlovu et al (2021:72) states that environment sustainable system maintain a stable resource base and avoid the overexploitation of non-renewable resource system, it’s also maintain biodiversity, atmosphere, stability and ecosystem service which are not always looked upon as economic resource.

### **Discuss various approaches to sustainability and environmentalism**

### ***Ecocentric approach to sustainable development***

Ndlovu et al (2021:68) states that ecocentrism sees themselves as being subject to nature rather in control of it, ecocentrists will argue that the natural world should be respected for its process and products that low impact technology and self-reliance are more desirable than technological control of nature. Ecocentrism is a philosophy or perspective that places intrinsic value on all living organisms and their natural environment, regardless of their perceived usefulness or importance to human beings, Its focus on tight uses natural resources to renew all the resources that are depleted by society. It tends to preserve the little resources we have accumulated and protects the environment with the use of renewable resources, self-reliant development and appropriate technologies for future generations to come. Ecocentrists including deep ecologists, see themselves as subjects the environment rather than in control of the environment. Ecocentrism is opposing technocentrism is means of sustainability. It states that the advancement of technology is cause for the degrade of the environment. he biodiversity of the world and how we, as human jeopardizes the environment.

### ***Anthropocentric and Technocentric approach to sustainable development***

Anthropocentrism states the human life is important than any other, anthropocentrism can refer to the point of view that humans are the only, or primary, holders of moral standing, Ndlovu et al (2021:69) states that Technocentrism meaning values centred on technology, technocentric including imperialist have absolute faith in technology and industry and firmly believe that human have control over nature although technocentric may accept that environmental problem do exist, they do not see them as problem are seen as problem to be solved using science this approach see that the way forward for developed and developing countries and the solution to our environmental problem today lie in scientific and technological advancement.

Anthropocentrism is the grounding for some naturalistic concepts of human rights. The defenders of anthropocentrism argue that it is the necessary fundamental premise to

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defend universal human rights, since what matters morally is simply being human. It protects human when they tend to harm the environment. It is centred in human activity being subjected to the use of natural resources as it is their human right, these capabilities allow humans control over nature, allowing them to correct or negotiate environmental risks or problems.

### **Accommodation approach to sustainable development**

Accommodation approach holds that people have a right to exploit resource in such a sustainable way. Ndlovu et al (2021:70) states that y. The United Nations WECD holds that people have the right to exploit resources, but need to do so in a sustainable, responsible and careful way, it defends human activities that harm the environment, and it also gives them the responsibility to conserve it. Without nature we would not be living, and we need to engage in nature and participate for growth and improvement as human need nature in order to survive. e. Pollution is quite large at this instance which causes global warming and other harm to nature. This is caused by men, and we do almost nothing to try and combat the issue of pollution. Thus, we have many plants and animals going extinct. Thus, we have depletion of natural resources and we resort to technocentric for solution as carbon capture and storage systems, more efficient irrigation methods, essential medicines, household water purification devices, and manufacturing processes that minimize waste and pollution.

### **Conclusion**

Sustainable development aims at protection natural resources and ecosystems that is crucial for maintaining life cycles and preserving natural resources that will sustain both current and future generations. It encompasses a wide of aspects, achieving sustainable development is complex and depends on multifaceted factors that are interrelated. People must protect the little we have and ensure that we do not harm the environment and make use of the little of what we have but in a responsible manner and careful way

**List of reference**

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1. Have I included a table of content?	✓	
2. Does my assignment consist of the following? - An introduction - A main section (or body) with appropriate sub-headings - A conclusion	✓	
3. Have I included a list of references? - I have listed all the sources to which I referred - I have provided full details according to the guidelines given in Tutorial Letter DVAALLD/301 - The sources are listed alphabetically	✓	
4. Have I used references to acknowledge all the sources I quoted?	✓	
5. Did I write in my own words to avoid plagiarism?	✓	
6. Have I checked to see whether all my sentences follow logically and that my lecturer will be able to follow my argument?	✓	
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