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Development Studies (University of South Africa)



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Introduction

Agenda 21 and other UN document state that sustainable development is seen to be as a wide and complex strategy not limited to pure environment protection activities. Sustainability is the process in which it is placed to improve the quality of human life in use of the scarce resources. (Mensah & Castro 2004). In so doing, the environment is not affected in any manner. Development is the betterment of human life.

Sustainable development stands for meeting the needs of present generations without jeopardizing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It the improvement of quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come whilst protecting the environment.

Three approaches to sustainable development and environmentalism.

Ecocentric approach to sustainable development

Ecocentrism is the values based on ecology. 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. This approaches focus on the biodiversity of the world and how we, as human jeopardizes the environment. (Lovelock 1987) states, "The Gaia hypothesis states that the earth (or Gaia) is self-regulating system". It 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. Ecocentrics 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.

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. Technocentrism are values based on technology and its ability to control and protect the environment. Seymour Papert (1987).

Anthropocentrism is the grounding for some naturalistic concepts of human rights. Defenders of anthropocentrism argue that it is the necessary fundamental premise to 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. Specifically, these capabilities allow humans control over nature, allowing them to correct or negotiate environmental risks or problems. This approach acknowledges that environmental problems exist, but does not believe that such problems can be solved by a reduction in technology and industry, rather environmental problems can be solved using science and technological advancements.

Accommodation approach to sustainable development

This approach holds that people have the right to use resources, as long as this is done in a sustainable way. 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. This defends human activities that harm the environment and it also gives them the responsibility to conserve it. We know that with nature we would not be living and we need to engage in nature and participate in order for growth and improvement as human need nature in order to survive. We need the air, the land and our surroundings that we constantly pollute. 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 technocentrism 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

We have the desire and love to tell stories about the world we live in. But, not only tell but also show other generations. It saddens us that we are taught and told about dinosaurs but we have never seen one with our own naked eyes. Hence, we need to preserve and conserve the environment we live in. We to protect the little we have and ensure that we do not harm the environment. Make use of the little of what we have but in a responsible manner and careful way.

Question 2

Introduction

Basic needs are necessities that every human being needs in order to carry out their daily lives. It gives us dignity, sense of belonging and enhancement of standard of living. Development is the ongoing process of the improving of the quality of human life. Basic needs are a yardstick for measuring the development stage of a country or region.

The link between basic needs and development.

Poverty is one of the biggest socio-economic issue we face globally. The UN (2008) states that poverty is a denial of choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity. It means lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in society. It means not having enough to feed and clothe a family, not having a school or clinic to go to, not having the land on which to grow one's food or a job to earn one's living, not having access to credit. It means insecurity, powerlessness and exclusion of individuals, households and communities. It means susceptibility to violence, and it often implies living on marginal or fragile environments, without access to clean water or sanitation.

Different situations entail different development just like basic needs, they differ from house to house; what you consider a need, might not be a need for your neighbour. Since most basic needs are to be paid for employment as has also become a basic need for most people in order to earn an income. Streeten (1984) and Hoadley (1981) mention food, clothing, shelter, water, sanitation, public transport, health, education, cultural facilities and security as the most basic needs people require in order to lead a dignified and fulfilling life. The availability of basic needs and people gaining full access to them is a sign of development in a country. This entails that the country is under development and is able to provide the citizens because citizens make the country to be what it is. If there is social relief for the people who live in poverty filled areas, it means that the country's economy is improving and more people will be relieved from poverty, employment is being generated which means more people will be able to provide for themselves and have their basic needs met.

As studies show that most countries that experience poverty are developing countries, this means that there is lack of information as to how the people can get access to basic needs for example, areas that do not have electricity such as rural areas are unable to have access to the media and be informed about the social grants and social distress packages provided by the government to help those in poor areas.

Challenges that have affected people's access to basic needs of food, water, and employment during the COVID19 pandemic.

Border closures, quarantines, and market, supply chain and trade disruptions are restricting people's access to sufficient/diverse and nutritious sources of food, especially in countries hit hard by the virus or already affected by high levels of food insecurity. As of now, disruptions have been minimal as food supply has been adequate and markets have been stable so far. However, we have already seen challenges in terms of logistics bottlenecks (not being able to move food from point A to point B), which have by mid-April largely resolved; and likely, there is less food of high-value commodities (i.e. fruits and vegetables) being brought to market. Some major food staples, such as maize, wheat, and palm oil, have declined. The only staple food that has seen rising prices is rice, and that's was linked to the export restrictions of a key exporter. Access to a reliable supply of clean water is a fundamental human need that, in a global health emergency, becomes crucial to survival. But, despite this essential need for clean water to cope in a pandemic, 2 billion people do not have safely managed water, meaning they struggle to access a clean, reliable supply close to the home. These are caused by intermittent power supplies; under investment in service continuity; poor cost recovery; understaffing; and dependence on ageing, dilapidated infrastructure. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought further challenges, with key service-provider staff struggling to attend work because of illness or transportation issues, and supply chains for crucial treatment chemicals (such as chlorine) disrupted. The crisis has already transformed into an economic and labour market shock, impacting not only supply (production of goods and services) but also demand (consumption and investment). Prospects for the economy and the quantity and quality of employment are deteriorating rapidly. ILO estimates indicate a rise in global unemployment of between 5.3 million ("low" scenario) and 24.7 million ("high" scenario) from a base level of 188 million in 2019.

Though these estimates remain highly uncertain, all figures indicate a substantial rise in global unemployment.

Conclusion

The availability of basic needs has been troublesome for a very long time. Very few countries can provide basic needs adequately for their citizens. Adding on to the present crisis of lack of basic needs for citizens, is the pandemic. This did not lessen any problems but instead it has affected a lot of people, in all perspectives, irrespective of their country of stay. COVID 19 has been brought more poverty for underdeveloping and undeveloped countries, causing a major setback for the development for many countries and it's economy.

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Annexure A

HONESTY DECLARATION: MAY/JUNE EXAMINATIONS 2020

1. I know that plagiarism means taking and using the ideas, writings, works or inventions of another as if they were one's own. I know that plagiarism not only includes verbatim copying, but also the extensive use of another person's ideas without proper acknowledgement (which includes the proper use of quotation marks). I know that plagiarism covers the use of material found in textual sources and from the Internet.
2. I acknowledge and understand that plagiarism is wrong.
3. I understand that my portfolio must be accurately referenced.
4. This portfolio is my own work. I acknowledge that copying someone else's assignment or portfolio, or part of it, is wrong, and that submitting identical work to others constitutes a form of plagiarism.
5. I have not allowed, nor will I in the future allow, anyone to copy my work with the intention of passing it off as their own work.
6. I understand that I can be awarded 0% if I have plagiarized.
7. I confirm that I have read and understood UNISA's Policy for Copyright and Plagiarism -
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