**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

*“Treat the earth well. It was not given to you by your parents. It was loaned to you by your children.”*

The above quoted is a Kenyan proverb which aptly marks the pungent need of the hour, i.e. the need of a sustainable society, a society comprising practices and developments aimed at efficient utilization of the available resources so as to preserve the same for the upcoming future generations.

The above mentioned ideology is more commonly known as “Sustainable Development”.

Sustainable development refers to the use of natural and non-renewable resources in a way that it meets the current human requirements while also preserving them at the same time so that it can also meet the demands of the upcoming generations.

The primary objective of sustainable development is to bring stability in our economic, social and environmental requirements which further leads to prosperity and availability of resources for present and future generations.

For too long, economic growth and technological advancements have come at an environmental and social cost.

Since the dawn of industrialisation, the world has been witnessing an accelerated pace of development beyond which the earth’s natural resource’s ability to sustain is endangered..

The industrial revolution is believed to be the rise of the idea of sustainable development. From the second half of the 19th century, Western societies started to discover that their economic and industrial activities had a significant impact on the environment.

Throughout the 1900s, several social crises such as the 1923 American hyperinflation, the 1968 protests against bureaucratic elites, the 1973 and 1979 oil shocks and the 1982 debt shock of the developing countries raised awareness that a more sustainable model for the following development methods was needed. Yet, this wasn’t enough. Many more ecological mishappenings such as the 1954 Rongelap nuclear fallout, the 1984 Bhopal Disaster and the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster increased the concerns of the need of a more environment friendly development plan.

Additionally, many more current issues as that of global warming, loss of biodiversity. air/water pollution etc are requiring our urgent action.

Today’s framework on sustainable development is quite strong although there is still a huge way to go. The latest IPCC report demonstrated that big changes will need to happen quickly regarding the reduction of CO2 emissions to keep the Earth’s temperature below 2ºC and prevent its devastating impacts.

There is still time to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, and as engineers, there is much that we can do.

The role of engineers in saving environments and affecting sustainable development is very important because we can use creativity, technology and scientific knowledge to solve practical problems.

We should seek to minimise adverse impact on the environment during both construction and operation phases and should try and encourage a user-friendly attitude from the project team towards the community, placing emphasis on environmental measures that affect quality of life, such as noise, dust and traffic.

Through our contributions and respective actions, we can inspire the people around us, be it out colleagues, friends or family to ponder about the current world scenario and the adverse effects that would follow if these issues are not acted upon.