

Sustainable Development

INTRODUCTION

- The term “sustainable development” first came to prominence in the world Conservation Strategy (WCS) in 1980.
- It achieved a new status with the publication of two significant reports by Brundtland on: North and South: a programme for survival and common crisis (1985) and Our Common Future (1983) and has gained even greater attention since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.

DEFINITION

- Sustainable development can be defined as an approach to the economic development of a country without compromising with the quality of the environment for future generations.
- In the name of economic development, the price of environmental damage is paid in the form of land degradation, soil erosion, air and water pollution, deforestation, etc.
- This damage may surpass the advantages of having more quality output of goods and services.

HOW SUSTAINABILITY WORKS

- Sustainability encourages businesses to frame decisions in terms of environmental, social, and human impact for the long-term, rather than on short-term gains such as next quarter's earnings report. It influences them to consider more factors than simply the immediate profit or loss involved. Increasingly, companies have issued sustainability goals such as commitment to zero-waste packaging by a certain year, or to reduce overall emissions by a certain percentage.
- These companies can achieve their sustainability needs by cutting emissions, lowering their energy usage, sourcing products from fair-trade organizations, and ensuring their physical waste is disposed of properly and with as small a carbon footprint as possible.

OBJECTIVES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Economic growth
- Environmental protection
- Social inclusion

IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. Provides Essential Human Needs

- The explosion of population means people will have to scramble for the limited life essentials like food, shelter, and water. Adequate provision of these basic needs almost entirely hinges on infrastructure capable of sustaining them for a longtime.
- If governments insist on utilizing fossil fuel-based sources of energy instead of renewable and sustainable options, the cost and environmental effects of supplying these basic needs would become a tall order.

2. Agricultural Requirement

- A growing population means agriculture must catch up. Finding ways to feed more than 3 billion people can best staggering. If the same unsustainable cultivation, planting, irrigation, spraying, and harvesting techniques are utilized in the future, they might prove to be financially burdening considering fossil fuel resources are projected to run out.
- Sustainable development focuses on sustainable agricultural methods such as effective seeding techniques and crop rotation to promote high yields while maintaining the integrity of the soil, which produces food for a large population.

3. Manage Climate Change

- Climate change can be mitigated by sustainable development practices. Sustainable development practices seek to reduce the use of fossil-based sources of fuel like oil, natural gas, and coal. Fossil fuel sources of energy are unsustainable since they will deplete in the future and are responsible for the emission of greenhouse gasses.

4. Financial Stability

- Sustainable development practices have the ability to create more financially sustainable economies across the globe. Developing countries that can't access fossil fuels can leverage renewable forms of energy to power their economies.
- From the development of renewable energy technologies, these countries can create sustainable jobs as opposed to finite jobs based on fossil fuel technologies.

5. Sustain Biodiversity

- Unsustainable development and overconsumption practices greatly impact biodiversity. The life ecosystem is designed in such a way that species depend on one another for survival. For instance, plants produce oxygen that humans need for respiration.
- Humans exhale carbon dioxide that plants need for growth and production. Unsustainable development practices like emission of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere kill many plant species resulting in the reduction of atmospheric oxygen.

EXAMPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Wind Energy

Wind energy is energy harnessed from the motion of wind using wind turbines or windmills. Wind energy is renewable, which means it's never-ending and can be used to substitute energy at the grid. This makes it a good sustainable development practice.

Solar Energy

This is energy harnessed from the sun using solar panels. It's advantageous since it's absolutely free and its supply is infinite. These factors make it beneficial to consumers and good for Mother Nature because it doesn't contribute to the emission of greenhouse gasses.

Green Space

Green spaces are locations where plants and animals are left to flourish. Parks also fall into the category of green spaces. Green spaces provide people a remarkable opportunity to take pleasure in outdoor recreation, more so in big cities, where resting space is hard to come by.

Crop Rotation

Crop rotation, in contrast, is defined as "the successive planting of different crops on the same land to improve soil fertility and help control insects and diseases." This way of farming is not a new practice, but rather a more ancient way of farming chemical-free, whilst maximizing the long-term growth potential of land.

WHAT PREVENTS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FROM HAPPENING?

- **The first is that**

for many aspects of development, using sustainable methods and materials is expensive. While the long-term cost of sustainability does prove to be less expensive than traditional development, the creation of a sustainable project may be far more expensive in the first phase.

- **The second major issue**

is that there is not a generally accepted need for sustainable development. This is an education issue that may take many years to resolve.

CONCLUSION

Sustainable development is largely about people, their well-being, and equity in their relationships with each other, in a context where nature-society imbalances can threaten economic and social stability.

- Because climate change, its drivers, its impacts and its policy responses will interact with economic production and services, human settlements and human societies, climate change is likely to be a significant factor in the sustainable development of many areas (e.g., Downing, 2002).

- Simply stated, climate change has the potential to affect many aspects of human development, positively or negatively, depending on the geographic location, the economic sector, and the level of economic and

social development already attained (e.g., regarding particular vulnerabilities of the poor, see Dow and Wilbanks, 2003).

All Credit goes to Prof Farah Aslam