

“Sustainable Development”: Challenges and Suggestions

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ABSTRACT

As the fastest growing major economy of the world today, India is uniquely placed to deliver on its commitments to inclusive and sustainable development. Externally, the country has played a key role in shaping the SDGs and ensuring the balance among its three pillars – economic, social and environmental. Internally, it has launched many programmes to make progress towards these goals. India has played an important role in shaping the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Therefore, it is no surprise that the country’s national development goals are mirrored in the SDGs. As such, India has been effectively committed to achieving the SDGs even before they were fully crystallized. The expression “Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas,” which translates as “Collective Effort, Inclusive Growth” and has been popularized by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, forms the cornerstone of India’s national development agenda. To fast track this agenda, the Government of India has just released a draft Three-Year Action Agenda covering years 2017-18 to 2019-20. Sustainable development is the need of hour in every country as the over usage and wastage of resources at large extent has made this very concept an urgency to be implemented. Faster progress towards the sustainable development will require new models in which the people must have a much greater say in governance. This paper thus tries to analyze the various challenges and the broad sustainable suggestions which need to be emphasized on priority basis.

INTRODUCTION

The question of how the world can end extreme poverty and improve human wellbeing takes on new urgency in 2015, as the millennium development goals (MDGs) expire and a new set of goals—the proposed sustainable development goals (SDGs)—are finalized. The SDGs are a realization that humanity cannot postpone much longer the development of new strategies for the management of the commons. Sustainable development refers to a mode of human development in which resource use aims to meet human needs while ensuring the sustainability of natural systems and the environment, so that these needs can be met not only in the present, but also for generations to come. Sustainability has always been a core component of Indian culture. Its philosophy and values have underscored a sustainable way of life for example, the yogic principle of aparigraha, which is a virtue of being non-attached to materialistic possessions, keeping only what is necessary at a certain stage of life. Humans and nature share a harmonious relationship, which goes as far as a reverence for various flora and fauna. This has aided biodiversity conservation efforts.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

1. To define the various aspects of sustainable development.
2. To study the various challenges of sustainable development.
3. To find out the different sustainable suggestions which requires immediate implementation?

WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

The United Nations explains sustainable development as “development that meets the needs of the present without

compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. Earlier dialogues on sustainability are largely fixed on climate change and environmental issues, leaving the other new aspects of it, which includes all efforts towards an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and the planet. Agenda titled “Transforming Our World: the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development” was adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit which defines that There is a major removal from the earlier framework to currently consisting of a “harmonising” of three essentials: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. “Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,” the UN has said.



CHALLENGES

- ✓ Natural **ecosystems** are under stress and decline across most of the country; some 10 per cent of the country's wildlife is threatened with extinction; agricultural biodiversity has declined by over 90 per cent in many regions; well over half the available water bodies are polluted beyond drinking and often beyond even agricultural use; two-thirds of the land is degraded to various levels of sub-optimal productivity; air pollution in several cities is amongst the world's worst; 'modern' wastes including electronic and chemical are being produced at rates far exceeding our capacity to recycle or manage.
- ✓ The measurement of national gross domestic product leaves sustainability and Environment degradation, the basis for this view is the idea that environmental quality comes only after basic needs such as food and housing are met. So, countries should focus initially on economic growth even if it comes at the expense of environmental quality.
- ✓ Plethora of Carbon Emitting Industries: After three years of a relatively stable carbon emission globally, it is now estimated to rise by about 2 per cent by the end of 2017. A small group of companies across the world is responsible for one-third of global annual emissions of these dangerous gases.
- ✓ Over-population and over consumption: The better management of population and improvement in formal education system in the country are essential to ensure sustainable development of environment. Rapidly growing population and increasing development all putting pressure on food security and ecosystem health. Generally, people from poor economic backgrounds are the ones who have to pay the price for development.
- ✓ Pollution: environmental degradation is threatening the gains of recent decades. The failure to manage population in the Gangetic plains of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand could lead to the disruption of natural resource management in Himalayan region.
- ✓ Nuclear Arms: The complete elimination of nuclear weapons is necessary but making a total global ban possible will demand more dialogue, trust and cooperation. This trust can be built only through dialogue that is truly directed to the common good.
- ✓ Using forest areas for construction: forest and green area has been growingly used for construction activities to handle the over burgeoning population. Many industries and offices are built which further deteriorated the environment.
- ✓ United States of America (USA) exits from Paris climate agreement: at the international level the

cut out of the global power USA from the climate change agreement have a very bad impact. Crying foul that the Paris Climate Agreement favours world's leading polluters like India and China, while being unfair to the United States, USA President Donald Trump on announced the country's withdrawal from the global climate deal. The USA is not only the largest historical emitter of greenhouse gases, but also one of the major current emitters. Without the active and ambitious contribution from the US, any action to combat climate change under the Paris Agreement will be insufficient by a huge margin. Even if other countries, including developing countries, raise their ambition, they would not be able to fill in the void left by the US.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Role of local Government: Wisdom emerging from the local community is a better method for sustainable development. Governance when mixed with people participation gives best results which are pro people and pro society.
2. Self sufficiency: People need to be reliable upon self sufficiency as it made a person self dependent and self producer thereby helping in sustainable development.
3. Produce > consume, creating values is a process of production, only 12% people create what the other 88% want, thus the key of sustainability is searching for alternatives and creating and producing by self.
4. Necessity of Reducing wants: by reducing ours wants and greed one can contribute lot for the society as a whole as the over usage and wastages can be eliminated. Reducing the unnecessary wants, people can also help others to live a dignified life as they live.
5. Gandhian principles of *sarvodaya*, *swadeshi* need to be implemented: In order to achieve sustainable development, nations should adopt Gandhian model of development rather than a centralized capitalist model.
6. As the World Bank's World Development Report 2016: Digital Dividends—states: 'Technology can be transformational'. Technology is being used to address the unique challenges that the world faces today, and to help that change reach the last denominator.
7. Awareness Programmes need to be implemented: Various awareness programmes like street plays, organizing rallies are required to be implemented to aware people about the need of preserving and reusing things to eliminate wastages.
8. Implementation of "*The Great 3Rs*": The 3Rs reduce, recycle and reuse should not remain only buzzword and required to be implemented both t commercial and individual level. Things which have entirely no value, such as old newspapers and

- books, or utensils, can be easily sold off to scrap dealers to be re-used or re-cycled. Bucket baths, sun-drying clothes, and hand-washing dishes are other widespread, sustainable practices. Culturally, there is also an aversion to wasting food.
9. The policies should not be based on the “pollute-first; clean-up-later” approach: The level of pollution moved at its peak and suffered its worst air pollution on record due to the development model of “pollute first, clean up later” approach. Thus, we could start by refusing to sweep the dirt under the carpet and instead explicitly acknowledge the ecological costs.
 10. Businesses need to pursue social and environmental sustainability: The private sector need to play an important role in energy, agriculture, and urban development, including transport and water systems that can drive innovation and economic opportunity.
 11. New and creative partnerships can make progress on complex problems that governments, civil society, or the private sector cannot or will not solve alone. For example, the GAVI Alliance (formerly the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization), a partnership comprising international organizations, philanthropies, governments, companies, and research organizations, has immunized 440 million children since 2000 and helped avert more than six million deaths.
 12. Balanced Development + Inclusive Growth: To integrate measures of growth, social impact and environmental sustainability. Inclusion and sustainability must be achieved along with growth. Balanced scorecards should be used by leading nations too. Sustainable and inclusive innovations need to be focused on as too much focus on existing products is the key internal barrier to innovation. Ensuring ecosystem Viability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
 13. Renouncing modern development style and Searching Alternatives: like electric vehicles and Distribution of 28 crore LED bulbs in India in three years has saved \$2 billion and 4 GW of electricity.
 14. True Decentralization and People Participation: “Government by the people”, which is the essence of good, democratic governance, requires government executives to work with local communities to improve the commons. Faster progress towards the SDGs will require new models of enterprises in which the people must have a much greater say in governance. the design of cooperative institutions—of the people, by the people, for the people—are required to reconcile the democratic principle of equal human rights, with the capitalist principle of sacrosanct property rights.
 15. Foundation of **International solar alliance**: The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and then French President Francois Hollande at the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Paris on November 30, 2015. The idea was to form a coalition of solar resource-rich countries to collaborate on addressing the identified gaps in their energy requirements through a common approach. Towards this, the ISA has set a target of 1 TW of solar energy by 2030, which current French President Emmanuel Macron said would require \$1 trillion to achieve. Apart from being a founding-member, India plays a significant role in the alliance in terms of being a host as well as a major contributor to the achievement of the target. The ISA is the first international body that will have a secretariat in India. India, with a target to produce 100 GW of solar energy by 2022, would account for a tenth of ISA’s goal. India will produce 175 GW electricity from renewable sources by 2022 and 100 GW will be from solar energy

CONCLUSION

The idea of sustainable development cannot be mere rhetoric; it must be accompanied by transparent, participatory mechanisms that allow for meaningful discussion of the development paths that make growth truly sustainable. To find out the sustainable solutions of the demands of the growing global middle class, the effects of shifting political and economic power, and the challenges of environmental sustainability, including climate change. Solving a complex problem requires many independent initiatives—several experiments need to be performed; the successful ones scaled up while learning from the failures. Environmental impact has to be factored into all actions. The good news is that there are solutions that have been tried and tested in other countries that India can quickly adapt and make considerable progress.

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