



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Commerce

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IN INDIA

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Dr. Manjula A. Soudatti

Assistant Professor In Commerce SSCA, Govt. First Grade College, K.K.Koppa, Belagavi Karnataka.

ABSTRACT

It has been rightly said that sustainable development is meant to secure a balance between developmental activities for the benefits of the people and environmental protection and therefore, "it is a guarantee to the present and bequeath to the future generations." The well recognized principle of sustainable development for the protection and improvement of environment has been unanimously accepted by the world countries as a strategy that caters to the needs of the present without depriving the future generations of their right to available natural resources. The principle of sustainable development seeks to harmonise the conflict between development which may be industrial, economic or social, and right to healthy environment. In other words, the balance between environmental protection and developmental activities could only be maintained by strictly adhering to the principle of sustainable development. Encouragement and boost to developmental activities is in the socio-economic interest of a nation but this should not be at the cost of environmental degradation, because this will not only affect the present generation but have its adverse impact on the future generations. Therefore, sustainable development is the need of time so that development and environmental protection, both proceed maintaining a balance. Environmental studies have shown that the environment related problems of developed countries are mainly due to industrial and technological development whereas undeveloped countries have environmental problems because of poverty, over-population and illiteracy. Undoubtedly,

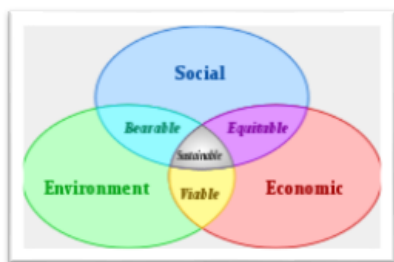
Introduction :

"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

The concept of sustainable development can be interpreted in many different ways, but at its core is an approach to development that looks to balance different, and often competing, needs against an awareness of the environmental, social and economic limitations we face as a society.

All too often, development is driven by one particular need, without fully considering the wider or future impacts. We are already seeing the damage this kind of approach can cause, from large-scale financial crises caused by irresponsible banking, to changes in global climate resulting from our dependence on fossil fuel-based energy sources. The longer we pursue unsustainable development, the more frequent and severe its consequences are likely to become, which is why we need to take action now.

Scheme of sustainable development: at the confluence of three constituent parts



Sustainable development is an organizing principle for meeting human development goals while simultaneously sustaining the ability of natural systems to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services on which the economy and society depend. The desired result is a state of society where living conditions and resources are used to continue to meet human needs without undermining the integrity and stability of the natural system. Sustainable development can be defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainability goals, such as the current UN-level Sustainable Development Goals, address the global

challenges, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice.

While the modern concept of sustainable development is derived mostly from the 1986 Brundtland Report, it is also rooted in earlier ideas about sustainable forest management and twentieth-century environmental concerns. As the concept of sustainable development developed, it has shifted its focus more towards the economic development, social development and environmental protection for future generations.

Scope of Sustainable Development

To understand the concept of sustainable development in its entirety, it is imperative to begin with its scope. Sustainable development broadly focuses on the following, which encompasses underlying objectives like the use of various resources, preservation, identification of sustainable sources, sustainable usage, etc.

- Planning of economic growth to ensure least environmental impact.
- Meeting current economic needs without compromising global environmental conditions for the generations to follow.

However, in its entirety, scope of sustainable development definition can also be said to encompass the need to better this earth's environment for its prolonged sustenance.

What are the Features of Sustainable Development?

To fulfill the scope and objectives of sustainable development, these features discussed below must be implemented while planning economic development. Essentially, these are the defining characteristics of sustainable development.

- Minimising the release of greenhouse gases which directly contribute towards global warming and air pollution.
- Emphasis on eco-friendly building and developmental practices like green architecture.
- Emphasis and implementation of renewable energy sources like the Sun, wind, water, etc.
- Preservation of natural resources while respecting and protecting natural habitats of life forms and organisms.
- Containing the rate of consumption from surpassing that of production of renewable sources, as well as that of salvation.

- Promoting environment-friendly and biodegradable products, while also making sustainable planning for replacement or replenishment of resource usage.

Importance of Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is a hard topic to nail down because it consists of a wide range of things. Due to the technicality and complexity of this topic, it's best to check out its importance holistically to be able to grasp it easily.

The population is the main factor driving up sustainable development campaigns. So, the importance of sustainable development can be viewed from this perspective:

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 long time.

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 be 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.

This is not good for humans. Sustainable development practices encourage the use of renewable energy resources

and organic farming practices that do not emit any greenhouse gas to the atmosphere.

Sustainable Development Examples

Listed below are some sustainable development examples, few of which do not just have minimal effect on the environment, but are also economical over an extended period of usage.

- Hydro energy as used in turbines.
- Wind energy as often employed in wind mills.
- Solar energy which is finding wider implementation with innovations in solar cells and allied technologies.
- Efficient and recycled use of water.
- Green architecture and other sustainable constructions.
- Crop rotation and similar agricultural methods.
- Maintenance and growth of sustainable green spaces.

Importance of Sustainable Development: Battling Environmental Crisis

Importance of sustainable development lies in its attempt to battle the environmental crisis which can be traced to unchallenged economic growth. Environmental crisis refers to a situation where nature is unable to sustain life forms or perform basic functions which are essential for the sustenance of life.

As per sustainable development definition, it attempts to contain resource extraction so that it does not exceed resource generation rates. Furthermore, it also tries to restrict waste generation to ensure that it remains below natural absorption capacities of the environment.

What are the Reasons Leading to the Environmental Crisis?

Understandably, noting the reasons leading to environmental crisis is vital in formulating a sustainable development project. Some of these reasons are discussed below in detail.

1. Rising Use of Chemical and Artificial Products: Use of chemicals like pesticides, chemically developed fertilizers, etc., has led to a poisonous effect on the crops. While a number of crops have been found to contain traces of these chemicals, these have also directly led to the development of health issues for farmers and other users. This too has adverse effects on this planet's environment, including soil contamination and other issues.

2. Fast-paced Urbanization: Economic and industrial development leads to fast-paced urbanization, which often compels large populations to relocate to urban spaces. This often leads to excess burden on existing infrastructures. Furthermore, such populace is often forced to relocate to slum areas that are congested and unhealthy.

3. Reduction in Greenery: Deforestation to support economic development has been rampant on this planet for decades now. It has led to unparalleled reduction of greenery on the face of this planet which has led to environmental changes and degradations. Among its major effects, the most prominent has been global warming since purification of greenhouse gases has been hindered with deforestation.

4. Continuous Growth of Economic Activities: It has a two-pronged effect on this planet's environment. While on one hand, there is greater consumption of natural resources, on the other this is also accompanied with greater volume of waste. Consequently, taming this issue can reduce depletion along with increased processing of waste materials.

5. Increasing Rate of Population Growth: Rise in population leads to higher use of natural resources for their sustenance. It includes natural resources like oxygen, water, etc. along with artificial products which are also dependent on environmental

resources. Another common issue with an ever-increasing population is that of misuse of these natural resources.

6. Industrialization: Industrialization has had a rippling effect on this planet's environment in one of the most drastic fashions. It is responsible for numerous environmental issues, among which foremost is the depletion of resources along with deforestation. Additionally, industrial waste often contains toxic materials. These, in turn, have also been greatly responsible for pollution with effects like water contamination, air pollution and even noise pollution.

Subsequently, the nature and scope of sustainable development primarily focuses to curb these issues which are a major drain on the environmental conditions. As students of commerce, it is vital to keep these reasons in mind while planning for economic development.

Conclusion:

to make sustainable development the norm, we have to change the vision of the cultures of each country. To change the vision of the culture two things have to occur.

The culture must value a global benefit more than a local one.

A responsibility towards providing and sustaining resources for the future must be of more value than profit in the present must be developed.

Both of these are very hard to do because it requires an element of self-sacrifice to be adopted by the present society. The value of the future is something that is not held in high esteem when it comes to creating a profit, or to living with convenience.

The general self-focus of each generation is understandable, but as history has shown in other areas – it can be expanded to include a sense of responsibility towards futures unknown that will allow for different choices to be made in the present.

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