

Review Article

Significance of Sustainable Development Goals

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ABSTRACT

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In the beginning of 21st century, the international society recognized the value of sustainable development. It now firmly feels that we need to foster through education and lifestyles required for a sustainable future. The Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) is development which meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The important aspects of sustainable development are equality between countries, religions and genders to ensure a fair distribution of resources. Sustainable development favors for a better quality of life within the carrying capacity of the supporting ecosystem. Sustainable development was first adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect our earth and ensure that people enjoy love, peace and prosperity. The development must balance society, economy and environment. Overall sustainable development can be achieved through a balance between all these pillars. The main challenges to sustainable development are poverty and unemployment, climate change and water conflicts. At present, India is witnessing major environmental degradation at alarming rates. High pressure is developed upon the land and natural resources to support over population. In this paper we focus on strategies for sustainable development that is necessary for survival of our present generation as well as future generation. Any developmental activities must not degrade the quality of environment and can be carried on for a long period of time. At present sustainable development has become a main issue in the state, national and international level.

Keywords: Sustainable Development, Climate Change, Environment, Sustainable Development Goals, Lifestyle, Development Activity

Introduction

The basic root of the concept of sustainability¹⁻⁴ which guards both the capacity of earth and future generations. In the 21st century, sustainability refers to the capacity of biosphere and human existence together. In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of development

process which cannot be in isolation from it. Eradicating disparities in living standards in different parts of the world is essential to achieve sustainable development and meet the needs of majority of people. One of the central principles of sustainable development is living within the limits of consumption of natural resources. The UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 resolved to promote the 3 pillars of SD, namely

Economy, Society and Environment. To achieve SD, these pillars need to come together [5-7]. The economic, social and environmental sectors are all critically important and interdependent. A healthy prosperous society relies on a healthy environment to provide food and resources, safe drinking water and clean air for the people. In the past few years, overall development of humanity has led to the increasingly unfavorable climate changes and natural disasters, but also wars and socio-economic instability. Through their action, humans have negatively impacted on the environment, endangering the survival of the Earth and the future generations. These conditions have indicated changes in the behavior aiming towards more efficient management of all resources that will allow less pressure and environmental impact.

The concept of sustainable development can be classified into three categories: Environmental, Social and economic sustainability [8-10]. There is need to balance these pillars to attain sustainable development.

- Environment sustainability is concerned with environment protection and maintaining environmental quality. Ensure that they continue to be available for future generations.
- Social sustainability includes preserving society, maintaining cultural identity, human rights and ensuring environment is suitable for all the people.
- Economic sustainability is the ability of the economy to support people economically and support economic production.



Figure 1. Sustainable Development Goals

The 17 sustainable development goals (Figure 1) are as follows:

1. No Poverty: From the survey, it was appeared that over 700 million people still live in extreme poverty.
2. Zero Hunger: This goal aims at ending world hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture.
3. Good Health and Well-Being: This goal aims at increasing life expectancy, reducing maternal and

child mortality, controlling disease, making health services that is accessible to all people.

4. Quality Education: This goal provides everyone quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.
5. Gender Equality: This goal is devised to achieve gender equality thereby to empower all women and girls.
6. Clean Water and Sanitation: This goal aims to improving water quality, reducing water pollution etc. Each person on this world has the right to access to clean drinking water. However, this is still not a reality. A huge part of the population lacks basic water.
7. Affordable and Clean Energy: Energy is very essential in life. However, statistics show that almost 1.8 billion people have no electricity and that 2.8 billion people globally depend on traditional biomass as a source of energy. This goal is to promote sustainable renewable energy services with promoting use of renewable sources and increasing energy efficiency.
8. Decent work and Economic growth: This goal promoting economic growth, productive employment and pleasant work for all people by creating decent jobs.
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: This goal purpose is to develop infrastructure, promoting industry that will increase employment possibilities.
10. Reduced Inequalities: This goal aims at reducing inequalities that limit the opportunities.
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities: This goal aims at making cities are safe and sustainable by reducing the pollution in cities and making safe for all people.
12. Responsible consumption and production: The world population is drastically increasing with time. This results huge demand for resources. The goal aims at achieving targets of sustainable of waste through 3R policy.
13. Climate Action: The changes in weather patterns, increasing emissions of harmful greenhouse gases, increased use of chlorofluorocarbons, increase in the global temperature are all posing challenges which exploits the nature. This goal targets at preserving the nature and increasing awareness on environmental issue thereby implementing methods to tackle climate change.
14. Life below water: Increase in water pollution has become a serious threat to aquatic organisms. Large scale dumping of plastic waste has affected the quality of life of marine life. This goal aims at the conservation of water resources.
15. Life on Land: This goalies about conservation of biodiversity of our planet by protecting and promoting ecosystems by reducing poaching and hunting.
16. Peace, Justice and strong Institutions: A peaceful environment in any place enhances possibilities of

growth and development. This goal aims at promoting society with peace, joy and harmony.

17. Partnership for the Goals: A strong global partnership would help the globe to achieve the target of sustainable development.



Figure 2. Sustainability for the future

Challenges of sustainable development (figure 2) which include:

- Research Challenges: Lack of research in the area of sustainable development and higher education. It is essential to inspire research on environment, research activity and economic growth to resolve problems of society by establishing relation between economy and research institutions
- Cultural challenges: Initiatives must be taken to inspire the public about sustainability through cultural diversity through higher education
- Social challenges: Growing population and lack of environmental awareness act as social challenges which hamper in realizing goal of sustainable development. Public needs to be made aware of the scientific basis for sustainability and its benefits
- Financial challenges: For economic growth and development of the country, industrialization is increasing by ignoring nature, people, resources and environment. There is a need to spread awareness and make people realize that economy is part of environment
- Deforestation is particularly great challenge in attainment of sustainable development. The world's forests diminish mainly due to expansion of agriculture. In the coming years, improving the recovery and management of the forest will be of utmost importance

Strategies for Sustainable Development

The conceptual meaning of sustainable development is not to create an obstacle in development process but this concept belongs to how we utilize our resources. To attain sustainable development many probable strategies can be useful.

Technology

Using clean and green technology must be adaptable. The

technology should use less of resources and should produce minimum waste.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Approach

The 3R approach reduces pressure on our resources and reduces waste generation and pollution.

Promoting Environmental Education and awareness

Making environmental education will greatly help in changing the thinking pattern and attitude of people towards our earth and the environment. 'Earth thinking' will gradually get incorporated in our thinking and action which will greatly help in transforming our life styles to sustainability.

Conclusion

Any developmental activities like dams construction, making highways etc., can damage and disturb the ecosystems. They are constructed by clearing large areas of forests. Forests are important for maintaining renewable resources, checking the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and maintaining the level of oxygen in the atmosphere. Loss of forests impact climate change and puts the future generations at-risk. There is a need for sustainable development. Toxic and nuclear waste from many industries resulting in environmental degradation since they pollute air, soil and water resources. Hence the environment impacts should be studied carefully with the economic growth. Sustainable development is a vision and a way of thinking and acting so that we can secure the resources and environment for our future generation. There are numerous challenges to achieve sustainable development. Today the major challenges that our country faces comprising rising population and urban lifestyle which pose serious environmental and social problems. Efforts must be taken by offering to give proper quality education and ethics are required to make sustainable development reality. The concept of Sustainable development has become crucial for our future. Sustainable development should provide a solution in terms of meeting basic human needs, integrating environmental development and protection, achieving equality, ensuring social and cultural diversity. Although the concept of sustainable development has undergone certain changes during the past, its fundamental principles and goals have contributed for the protection of environment. Ultimately, the vision will become reality only if every individual contributes to a world where economic freedom, social justice and environmental protection go hand in hand.

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