

Sustainability and sustainable development

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Abstract:

The ability to “maintain some thing, outcome, or process over time” is the precise definition of the phrase “sustainability”, which also refers to the practice of engaging in activities that do not deplete the resources upon which that capacity is dependent. At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), often known as the Rio Conference, which took place in 1992, a clear discussion on sustainable development evolved. A solution should be provided by sustainable development in terms of providing fundamental human needs, integrating environmental development and conservation, attaining equality, ensuring social self-determination and cultural variety, and preserving the integrity of the natural system.

Introduction:

The traditional view of development considers economic expansion to be synonymous with development. It views the transition from a traditional agrarian civilization to an industrialized society with high consumption as a sign of development and emphasises this movement. The overall rise of humanity over the past few decades, humanity's overall rise has had a severe influence on the environment and has led to conflicts and instability on political, socioeconomic, and economic fronts (Endress et al., 2005; Ramsey et al., 2015; Purvis et al., 2019). It has created a threat to the continued existence of the human species on this planet. Because of this, we have been forced to rethink our approach to the concept of development (Dasgupta, 2007). In today's parlance, "development" refers to a process that should result in improving people's overall quality of life and an expansion of the ability of economies to support themselves. Since the 1970s onward, people have been making efforts to manage resources in a more rational and efficient manner, with the goal of reducing the strain and influence they have on the environment. Within the context of the notion of sustainable development, this mode of development is understood to refer to an approach that will guarantee the productive use of resources over the long term without

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putting the wellbeing of future generations at risk (Barbier, 1987; Williams et al., 2004; Shulla et al., 2020).

The Brundtland Report, which the World Commission compiled on Environment and Development, is the document that is credited with being the first to introduce the idea of sustainable development (1987). Brundtland gave the definition of sustainable development as "development that meets the demands of the present without sacrificing the ability of future generations to satisfy their own needs." Brundtland was a Norwegian politician. The United Nations Environment Programme published another definition of sustainable development in 1991. This definition states that sustainable development is "Improving the quality of human existence while living with the carrying capacity of the supporting mechanisms." At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), often known as the Rio Conference, which took place in 1992, a clear discussion on sustainable development evolved. It asserted that human beings have the right to a healthy and fruitful life and that they should be placed at the centre of concerns regarding sustainable development. It did so by adopting Agenda 21, a worldwide action agenda for sustainable development in social, economic, and political contexts.

Concepts of Sustainability

The basic objective of sustainable development is to reach a level of economic prosperity that is both reasonable and fairly distributed throughout the world (Schleicher et al., 2018). It is founded on three different ideas.

- # The idea of progress or advancement (socio-economic development in line with ecological constraints),

- # The idea that one has needs (redistribution of resources to ensure the quality of life for all) and

- # The idea of having children and grandchildren in the future (the possibility of long-term usage of resources to ensure the necessary quality of life for future generations).

The ability to "maintain some thing, outcome, or process over time" is the precise definition of the phrase "sustainability," which also refers to the practice of engaging in activities that do not deplete the resources upon which that capacity is dependent. The core of the idea of sustainable development is derived from the Triple bottom line concept, which emphasizes the importance of striking a balance between the following three pillars of sustainability: economic, social, and environmental.

- # The concept of environmental sustainability centers on the upkeep of environmental quality, which is essential for people's ability to engage in productive economic activities and to have a high standard of living (environmental protection, reduced emissions of pollutants, rational use of resources, etc.)

- # A social sustainability that works toward the goal of ensuring human rights and equality, the maintenance of cultural identity, respect for the plurality of cultural expressions, including race and religion, and

The maintenance of the natural, social, and human capital required for income and living standards was contingent on economic sustainability.

Finding a balance between each of these pillars is necessary in order to achieve comprehensive sustainable development. However, establishing the necessary condition is not as simple as it may seem. This is because for each pillar of sustainability to achieve its goals, it must respect the interests of the other pillars and not throw them out of balance in the process. Therefore, even when one pillar of sustainable development achieves sustainability, others may be heading in the opposite direction and become unsustainable. The amount of resources that may be harvested from the earth is finite and cannot continue to increase endlessly. Even while we cannot make accurate predictions regarding the outcomes of certain types of economic development, all forms of economic development will inevitably have to take place within the carrying capacity of the ecosystems that support it. Consumption shouldn't go over regeneration, and changes shouldn't be permitted to go past the system's tolerance level. Both of these things should be avoided at all costs (Endress et al., 1994). The three pillars that make up sustainable development are the generation of equal resources, the promotion of socio-economic development, and the conservation of the environment. Sustainable development assures consistent economic and long-term development. It recognizes that the demands of humans and the requirements of the environment are interdependent in some way.

The following is a list of the fundamental tenets that are stated under the notion of sustainable development:

- # Ensuring the community's requirements and providing for its future generations
- # Constant enhancement of equality and general quality of life
- # Keeping the environment, biodiversity, and ecosystems safe and intact
- # Utilizing renewable resources wisely and reducing the use of non-renewable resources to protect and preserve natural resources
- # A shift in production and consumption that takes environmental limits into account
- # Reducing the harmful effects on the environment through the use of innovative technologies and renewable energy, fostering global collaboration at the national, regional, and local levels
- # Establishing an institutional framework with a broad stakeholder base engaged in putting the idea of sustainable development into practice, etc.

Sustainable Development Goals

The term "sustainable development" has gained popularity today, and hundreds of projects are operating under its banner. The concept's execution has involved participation from numerous international organizations. The world committed to achieving the eight anti-poverty Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. These goals were approved in 2000. Slashing poverty, hunger, sickness, gender inequality, and access to

water and sanitation were some of the challenges it addressed. The MDGs had made great strides, but the goals had not yet been fully attained. The gap between wealthy and impoverished nations has widened and many nations are not even close to sustainable development. The degree of socioeconomic development that many nations have not yet attained, linked to a lack of financial resources and technology, as well as the diversity of political and economic goals on a global scale, are the fundamental obstacles to the implementation of the concept of sustainable development.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which contains a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, combat inequality and injustice, and address climate change by 2030, was endorsed by world leaders at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on September 25, 2015. The framework for achieving a better, more sustainable future for everybody is found in the Sustainable Development Goals. The 17 objectives are:

- 1) No Poverty
- 2) Zero hunger
- 3) Good health and well-being for people
- 4) Quality education
- 5) Gender equality
- 6) Clean water and sanitation
- 7) Affordable and clean energy
- 8) Decent work and economic growth
- 9) Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
- 10) Reducing inequalities
- 11) Sustainable cities and communities
- 12) Responsible consumption and production
- 13) Climate action
- 14) Life below water
- 15) Life on land
- 16) Peace, justice and strong institutions
- 17) Partnerships for the goals

Sustainability is the ultimate objective for protecting the environment and improving people's lives worldwide. The understanding that humans and nature are intertwined and that one's prosperity depends on another's is developing (Dyllick et al., 2002 ; Geissdoerfer et al., 2017).

Real progress has been made in resolving local, regional, and global environmental challenges as a result of numerous beneficial improvements in perception and policy. Only when human resource demand is within Earth's carrying capacity and resource harvest is at sustainable levels is sustainable development conceivable (Heal et al., 2009). However, quantifying these criteria is challenging and frequently causes dispute amongst many stakeholders. There are still billions of people who do not have access to decent housing, food, or medical care. A stable human population that is aware of the finite capacity of the earth's systems to create resources and absorb waste must shift as quickly as feasible to a sustainable civilisation. Sustainable development is achievable when average folks are knowledgeable, sensitive, mobilized, and involved in direct action for their environment (Basiago et al., 1995).

Following the publication of the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) report, "Our Common Future," in 1987, the idea of sustainable development—the integration of economic and ecological systems—became popular.

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the second worldwide environmental conference, took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992. More than a hundred heads of state were present. Several publications were produced by UNCED, notably Agenda 21, a comprehensive action plan for sustainable development in the twenty-first century.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), the subsequent summit, which took place in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002, signaled a change from agreements on principles to a more modest but tangible plan of action.

The world's leaders gathered once more in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 & they signed a document titled 'The Future We Want' in which they reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable development objectives and supported concerns related to the global green economy.

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which outlines 17 development goals to be attained by 2030, was published by the UN Sustainable Development Summit 2015 in New York.

Conclusion

Meeting fundamental human needs, integrating environmental development and conservation, establishing equality, safeguarding social self-determination and cultural variety, and protecting ecological integrity should all be addressed by sustainable development. Even though sustainable development goals have changed, they have helped people behave more conscientiously and tailored to environmental constraints. Additionally, other worldwide discussions and agreements deal with particular environmental problems, including ozone layer loss, biodiversity loss, climate change, and others. As a result, environmental awareness and activities are increasing from a local to a

global scale. To address environmental issues, many governments are creating laws and regulations. Additionally, environmental education is becoming more significant, and our knowledge of environmental systems is expanding.

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