

Sustainable Development : What it means

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ABSTRACT

Sustainable development is advancement that meets the necessities of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within it two key concepts ie. The concept of 'needs', in particular the indispensable needs of the world's poor, to which paramount priority should be given; and the idea of confines forced by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's potential to meet present and future needs. Thus the goals of economic and social development must be defined in terms of sustainability in all countries ; developed or developing, market-oriented or centrally designed Interpretations will vary, but must share certain general features and must flow from a consensus on the basic concept of sustainable development and on a broad strategic scheme for attaining it.

Keywords : Sustainable, Milieu, Scarcity

I. DISCUSSION

Advancement involves a progressive reformation of economy and society. A development path that is sustainable in a physical sense could supposedly be followed by even in rigid social and political milieu. But material sustainability cannot be secured unless expansion policies give consideration to such matters as changes in access to resources and in the distribution of costs and proceeds. Even the narrow notion of physical sustainability implies a concern for social impartiality between generations, a concern that must logically be extended to equity within each generation. The fulfillment of human needs and aspirations are in the major objective of development. The essential needs of vast numbers of people in developing countries for food, clothing, shelter, jobs are not being met, and beyond their basic needs these people have legitimate aspirations for an improved quality of life. A world in which poverty and inequity

are endemic will always be prone to environmental and other crises. Sustainable development requires meeting the basic needs of all and extending to all the opportunity to satisfy their aspirations for a better life. Source of revenue values that go beyond the basic bare minimum are sustainable only if consumption standards everywhere have regard for enduring sustainability. Yet many of us live beyond the world's environmental means, for instance in our patterns of energy use. Apparent needs are socially and culturally strong-minded, and sustainable development requires the promotion of values that promote consumption standards that are within the limits of the environmental probable and to which all can sensibly wish. Meeting essential needs depends in part on achieving full growth probable, and sustainable development clearly requires economic growth in places where such needs are not being met. In another place, it can be consistent with economic growth, provided the content of growth reflects the broad

ethics of sustainability and non-exploitation of others. But growth by itself is not enough. High levels of industrious activity and extensive poverty can go along, and can jeopardize the surroundings. Hence sustainable development requires that societies meet human needs both by escalating productive potential and by ensuring balanced opportunities for all.

A development in numbers can increase the strain on means and slow the rise in living standards in areas where scarcity is extensive. Though the issue is not merely one of population size but of the allocation of resources, sustainable development can only be pursued if demographic developments are in accord with the changing creative potential of the environment.

A society may in many ways compromise its ability to meet the essential needs of its people in the future - by overexploiting wealth, for example. The direction of industrial developments may solve some direct problems but lead to even greater ones. Large sections of the population may be marginalized by ill-considered development. Established agriculture, the diversion of watercourses, the drawing out of minerals, the discharge of heat and lethal gases into the environment, commercial forests, and genetic management are all examples of human intrusion in natural systems during the course of development. Until recently, such interventions were small in scale and their impact limited. Today's interventions are more drastic in scale and impact, and more intimidating to life-support systems both in the neighborhood and worldwide. This need not happen. At a minimum, sustainable development must not put in danger the natural systems that support life on Earth: the atmosphere, the waters, the soils, and the living beings.

Growth has no set limits in terms of population or resource use beyond which lies biological disaster. Different limits hold for the use of energy, materials, water, and land. Many of these will manifest themselves in the form of rising costs and dwindling returns, rather than in the form of any sudden loss of

a base. The accumulation of knowledge and the development of technology can enhance the moving capacity of the source base. But final limits there are, and sustainability requires that long before these are reached, the world must ensure equitable access to the constrained resource and reorient technological efforts to relieve the pressure.

Economic growth and expansion obviously involve changes in the physical flora and fauna. Every ecosystem everywhere cannot be conserved unharmed. A forest may be used up in one part of a watershed and extended elsewhere, which is not a bad thing if the misuse has been planned and the effects on soil erosion rates, water regimes, and genetic losses have been taken into account. In general, renewable resources like forests and fish stocks need not be depleted provided the rate of use is within the limits of regeneration and natural growth. But most renewable resources are part of a multifaceted and interlinked ecosystem, and maximum sustainable yield must be defined after taking into account system-wide effects of exploitation. As for non-renewable means, like fossil fuels and minerals, their use reduces the stock available for future generations. But this does not mean that such resources should not be used. In general the rate of depletion should take into account the criticality of that resource, the availability of technologies for minimizing depletion, and the likelihood of substitutes being available. Thus land should not be corrupted beyond rational recovery. With minerals and fossil fuels, the rate of depletion and the emphasis on recycling and economy of use should be calibrated to ensure that the resource does not run out before acceptable substitutes are available. Sustainable development requires that the rate of depletion of non renewable resources should be shut out as few future options as possible. Development tends to simplify ecosystems and to reduce their diversity of species. Species, once extinct, are not renewable. The loss of plant and animal species can greatly limit the options of future generations; so sustainable development requires the

conservation of plant and animal species. So-called free goods like air and water are also resources. The raw materials and energy of production processes are only partly converted to useful products. The rest comes out as wastes. Sustainable development requires that the adverse impacts on the quality of air, water, and other natural elements are minimized so as to sustain the overall integrity of ecosystem.

In nut shell sustainable development is a process of change in which the abuse of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development; and institutional change are all in synchronization and augment both current and future potential to meet human needs and aspirations. So sustainable development is a process of alteration in which the abuse of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technical development; and institutional change are all in accord and enhance both existing and future upcoming to meet human needs and aspirations. Sustainable development has been described here in broad-spectrum. How are individuals in the real world to be influenced or made to act in the common interest? The answer lies partly in education, institutional development, and law enforcement. But many problems of resource diminution and environmental pressure arise from disparities in economic and political power. An industry may get away with undesirable levels of air and water pollution because the people who bear the burden of it are poor and unable to complain successfully. A forest may be ruined by excessive felling because the people living there have no other choice or because timber contractors generally have more influence than forest dwellers.

Ecological interactions do not respect the margins of personality ownership and political sway. Thus: In a division, the ways in which a farmer up the slope uses land directly affect run-off on farms downstream. The irrigation practices, pesticides, and fertilizers used on one farm affect the output of neighboring ones, in particular among small farms. The competence of a factory boiler determines its rate of secretion of soot

and toxic chemicals and affects all who live and work more or less it. The hot water discharged by a thermal power plant into a river or a local sea affects the catch of all who fish in the vicinity. Traditional social systems acknowledged some aspects of this interdependence and enforced community control over agricultural practices and customary rights relating to water, forests, and land. This enforcement of the general concern did not basically encumber growth and development despite the fact that it may have limited the reaction and diffusion of manufacturing innovations.

II. CONCLUSION

Local interdependence has, if anything increased because of the technology used in modern agriculture and manufacturing. Yet with this gush of technical progress, the growing field of common lands, the corrosion of common rights in forests and other resources, and the spread of business and production for the market, the tasks for decision making are being taken away from both groups and individuals. This shift is still under way in many developing countries like India. If the desert is on the increase, forest vanishing, malnutrition mounting, and people in urban areas living in very appalling conditions, it is not because we are lacking resources but the kind of policy implemented by our authorities, by the privileged group.

III. REFERENCES

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