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A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Lokesh .K.N

Associate Professor & HOD, Govt. First Grade College, Bilikere, Hunsur Taluk, Mysore District

ABSTRACT

Sustainable development provides the foundation for fulfilling human development goals while ensuring that natural systems are capable of providing the resources and ecosystem services crucial for both the economy and society. The aim is to reach a societal state where resource use and quality of life meet human needs while preserving the ecosystem's integrity and stability. Sustainable development is defined as advancement that meets present needs without compromising the capabilities of future generations.

The modern concept of sustainable development mainly stems from the 1987 Brundtland Report, though it is also rooted in earlier notions of sustainable forest management and environmental concerns of the twentieth century. As the concept developed, it shifted to focus on economic advancement, social development, and environmental protection for upcoming generations. It has been suggested that "the idea of 'sustainability' should be seen as humanity's primary goal of attaining equilibrium between humans and ecosystems (homeostasis), while 'sustainable development' relates to the all-encompassing approach and time-specific methods that lead us toward the sustainability goal." Modern economies are working to align their goals of significant economic growth with the duty of preserving natural resources and ecosystems, which are frequently seen as fundamentally opposed. Instead of viewing climate change commitments and sustainability measures as hindrances to economic expansion, embracing and leveraging them as market chances will result in greater advantages. Managed Sustainable Development (MSD) signifies the economic advancement realized through systematic principles and practices in an economy.

The concept of sustainable development has encountered—and still encounters—criticism, especially concerning what exactly ought to be preserved within sustainable development. It is argued that the sustainable use of a non-renewable resource cannot be achieved, since any degree of extraction will eventually lead to the exhaustion of the Earth's finite supplies. A global conference was conducted by the United Nations in Stockholm, Sweden, from June 5 to June 16 in 1972.

Keywords :- The term Sustainability should be viewed as humanity target goal of human-ecosystem equilibrium while sustainable development.

INTRODUCTION

Based on the principles outlined in the United Nations Charter, the Millennium Declaration acknowledged principles and agreements related to sustainable development, including economic growth, social improvement, and environmental protection. Sustainable development, generally speaking, is a systems-based approach to progress and improvement, emphasizing the stewardship of natural, built, and social resources for the advantage of both present and future generations. The United Nations defines sustainable development as encompassing issues linked to land use, along with broader elements of human development such as education, health services, and overall quality of life.

Sustainability is the continuous effort to maintain productive processes—whether man-made or natural—by replacing used resources with those of equal or greater value, all while ensuring that natural biological systems remain unharmed or unthreatened. Sustainable development links the

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understanding of the limits of natural systems with the social, political, and economic challenges faced by humanity. Sustainability science entails exploring the concepts of sustainable development along with the domain of environmental science. A greater focus is given to the present generations' responsibility to recover, maintain, and improve Earth's resources for the advantage of future generations.

Sustainable development stems from the ideas of sustainable forest management that arose in Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries. Recognizing the declining timber resources in England, John Evelyn argued that "sowing and planting trees must be regarded as a national duty of each landowner, to avert the damaging over-exploitation of natural resources" in his 1662 publication Sylva. In 1713, Hans Carl von Markowitz, a leading mining official for Elector Frederick Augustus I of Saxony, published Sylvicultura oeconomica, a 400-page volume dedicated to forestry. Inspired by the ideas of Evelyn and French Minister Jean-Baptiste Colbert, von Carlowitz developed the concept of managing forests for continuous yield. His contributions influenced individuals like Alexander von Humboldt and Georg Ludwig Hartig, eventually leading to the creation of forestry as a scientific field. This eventually influenced figures like Gifford Pinchot, the first chief of the US Forest Service, whose forest management strategy hinged on the idea of resource stewardship, and Aldo Leopold, whose land ethic notably contributed to the development of the environmental movement in the 1960s.

Following the publication of Rachel Carson's Silent Spring in 1962, the nascent environmental movement emphasized the relationship between economic advancement and the decline of the environment. In his significant 1966 essay The Economics of the Coming Spaceship Earth, Kenneth E. Boulding emphasized the need for the economic system to be compatible with the ecological system, which has limited resources. One of the first modern instances of the term sustainable was found in the 1972 seminal report on the Limits to Growth by the Club of Rome, written by a group of scientists headed by Dennis and Donella Meadows from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Defining the desired "global equilibrium state," the authors noted: "We aim for a model result that embodies a world system capable of self-sustenance without sudden and uncontrolled collapse and can satisfy the essential material requirements of all its residents."

In 1980, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature published a global conservation strategy that included one of the first references to sustainable development as a global imperative and introduced the term "sustainable development." Two years later, the United Nations' World Charter for Nature suggested five conservation principles designed to direct and assess human actions affecting nature. In 1987, the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development released the document Our Common Future, commonly known as the Brundtland Report. The report included what is presently one of the most recognized definitions of sustainable development.

Sustainable development means advancing in a way that meets present requirements without compromising future generations' ability to meet their needs. It encompasses two fundamental concepts:

The idea of 'needs', particularly the essential needs of the global poor, which must take precedence over everything else; and The idea of limitations imposed by technology and societal frameworks on the environment's ability to meet present and future demands. World Commission on Environment and Development, Our Common Future (1987)

After the Brundtland Report, the concept of sustainable development has shifted from its initial focus on intergenerational equity to prioritize "socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable economic growth" as a main goal. In 1992, the UN Conference on Environment and Development issued the

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Earth Charter, which outlines the establishment of a just, sustainable, and balanced worldwide community in the 21st century. The action plan Agenda 21 for sustainable development emphasized information, integration, and participation as crucial elements to help nations achieve development that recognizes these interrelated pillars. It emphasizes that in sustainable development, all individuals are both users and suppliers of information. It highlights the importance of moving away from old sector-specific business practices to new approaches that encourage collaboration between sectors and integrate environmental and social concerns into all development processes. Furthermore, Agenda 21 emphasizes that extensive community participation in decision-making is essential for achieving sustainable development.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly formally adopted the "universal, integrated and transformative" 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The goals are to be implemented and achieved in every country from 2016 to 2030.

Sustainable development, often referred to as sustainability, is defined by three areas, aspects, zones, or pillars: the environment, the economy, and society. The three-sphere model was initially presented by economist René Passet in 1979. It has also been expressed as "social, ecological, and economic" or "equity, economy, and environment". Certain scholars have expanded this concept to include a fourth pillar related to culture, governance, or institutions, or have reorganized it into four realms of the social: ecology, economics, politics, and culture, thus reintegrating economics within the social realm and interpreting ecology as the intersection of the social and the natural.

Environmental (or ecological)

The ecological stability of human settlements is part of the relationship between humans and their natural, social and built environments. Also termed human ecology, this broadens the focus of sustainable development to include the domain of human health. Fundamental human needs such as the availability and quality of air, water, food and shelter are also the ecological foundations for sustainable development; addressing public health risk through investments in ecosystem services can be a powerful and transformative force for sustainable development which, in this sense, extends to all species.

Agriculture

Sustainable agriculture consists of environment friendly methods of farming that allow the production of crops or livestock without damage to human or natural systems. It involves preventing adverse effects to soil, water, biodiversity, surrounding or downstream resources as well as to those working or living on the farm or in neighboring areas. The concept of sustainable agriculture extends intergeneration ally, passing on a conserved or improved natural resource, biotic, and economic base rather than one which has been depleted or polluted. Elements of sustainable agriculture include perm culture, agro forestry, mixed farming, multiple cropping, and crop rotation. It involves agricultural methods that do not undermine the environment, smart farming technologies that enhance a quality environment for humans to thrive and reclaiming and transforming deserts into farmlands

Economic

It has been suggested that because of rural poverty and overexploitation, environmental resources should be treated as important economic assets, called natural capital. Economic development has traditionally required a growth in the gross domestic product. This model of unlimited personal and

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GDP growth may be over. Sustainable development may involve improvements in the quality of life for many but may necessitate a decrease in resource consumption. According to ecological economist Malte Faber, ecological economics is defined by its focus on nature, justice, and time. Issues of intergenerational equity, irreversibility of environmental change, uncertainty of long-term outcomes, and sustainable development guide ecological economic analysis and valuation.

As early as the 1970s, the concept of sustainability was used to describe an economy "in equilibrium with basic ecological support systems". Scientists in many fields have highlighted The Limits to Growth, and economists have presented alternatives, for example a 'steady-state economy'; to address concerns over the impacts of expanding human development on the planet. In 1987 the economist Edward Barbier published the study The Concept of Sustainable Economic Development, where he recognised that goals of environmental conservation and economic development are not conflicting and can be reinforcing each other.

Energy

Sustainable energy is clean and can be used over a long period of time. Unlike fossil fuels and biofuels that provide the bulk of the worlds energy, renewable energy sources like hydroelectric, solar and wind energy produce far less pollution. Solar energy is commonly used on public parking meters, street lights and the roof of buildings. Wind power has expanded quickly, its share of worldwide electricity usage at the end of 2014 was 3.1%. Most of California's fossil fuel infrastructures are sited in or near low-income communities, and have traditionally suffered the most from California's fossil fuel energy system. These communities are historically left out during the decision-making process, and often end up with dirty power plants and other dirty energy projects that poison the air and harm the area. These toxicants are major contributors to health problems in the communities.

As renewable energy becomes more common, fossil fuel infrastructures are replaced by renewables, providing better social equity to these communities. Overall, and in the long run, sustainable development in the field of energy is also deemed to contribute to economic sustainability and national security of communities, thus being increasingly encouraged through investment policies.

Technology

One of the core concepts in sustainable development is that technology can be used to assist people meet their developmental needs. Technology to meet these sustainable development needs is often referred to as appropriate technology, which is an ideological movement originally articulated as intermediate technology by the economist E. F. Schumacher in his influential work, Small is Beautiful. and now covers a wide range of technologies.

Both Schumacher and many modern-day proponents of appropriate technology also emphasise the technology as people-centered. Today appropriate technology is often developed using open source principles, which have led to open-source appropriate technology (OSAT) and thus many of the plans of the technology can be freely found on the Internet. OSAT has been proposed as a new model of enabling innovation for sustainable development.

Transport

Transportation is a large contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. It is said that one-third of all gasses produced are due to transportation. Motorized transport also releases exhaust fumes that contain particulate matter which is hazardous to human health and a contributor to climate change.

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Sustainable transport has many social and economic benefits that can accelerate local sustainable development. According to a series of reports by the Low Emission Development Strategies Global Partnership (LEDS GP), sustainable transport can help create jobs, improve commuter safety through investment in bicycle lanes and pedestrian pathways, make access to employment and social opportunities more affordable and efficient. It also offers a practical opportunity to save people's time and household income as well as government budgets, making investment in sustainable transport a 'win-win' opportunity.

Politics

A study concluded that social indicators and, therefore, sustainable development indicators, are scientific constructs whose principal objective is to inform public policy-making. The International Institute for Sustainable Development has similarly developed a political policy framework, linked to a sustainability index for establishing measurable entities and metrics. The framework consists of six core areas, international trade and investment, economic policy, climate change and energy, measurement and assessment, natural resource management, and the role of communication technologies in sustainable development.

The United Nations Global Compact Cities Programme has defined sustainable political development in a way that broadens the usual definition beyond states and governance. The political is defined as the domain of practices and meanings associated with basic issues of social power as they pertain to the organisation, authorisation, legitimation and regulation of a social life held in common. This definition is in accord with the view that political change is important for responding to economic, ecological and cultural challenges. It also means that the politics of economic change can be addressed. They have listed seven subdomains of the domain of politics:

- Organization and governance
- Law and justice
- Communication and critique
- Representation and negotiation
- Security and accord
- Dialogue and reconciliation
- Ethics and accountability

This accords with the Brundtland Commission emphasis on development that is guided by human rights principles

Themes - Progress

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD; also known as Rio 2012) was the third international conference on sustainable development, which aimed at reconciling the economic and environmental goals of the global community. An outcome of this conference was the development of the Sustainable Development Goals that aim to promote sustainable progress and eliminate inequalities around the world. However, few nations met the World

Wide Fund for Nature's definition of sustainable development criteria established in 2006. Although some nations are more developed than others, all nations are constantly developing because each nation struggles with perpetuating disparities, inequalities and unequal access to fundamental rights and freedoms.

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Education

Education must be revisited in light of a renewed vision of sustainable human and social development that is both equitable and viable. This vision of sustainability must take into consideration the social, environmental and economic dimensions of human development and the various ways in which these relate to education: 'An empowering education is one that builds the human resources we need to be productive, to continue to learn, to solve problems, to be creative, and to live together and with nature in peace and harmony. When nations ensure that such an education is accessible to all throughout their lives, a quiet revolution is set in motion: education becomes the engine of sustainable development and the key to a better world. Higher education in sustainability across education streams including engineering, finance, supply chain and operations is gaining weight-age. Multiple institutes including Wharton, Columbia, CASI Global New York offer certifications in Sustainability. Corporate prefer employees certified in sustainability.

Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good health and well being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Decent work and Economic Growth
8. Reduced in quality
9. Climate Action
10. Life below water
11. Life on land
12. Peace, Justices and strong institution
13. Responsible Consumption and production
14. Sustainable and cities and communities
15. Industry innovation and infrastructure
16. Clean Energy
17. Partnership for the goals

These 17 Goals build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals, while including new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among other priorities. The goals are interconnected – often the key to success on one will involve tackling issues more commonly associated with another.

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UNDP's role

The SDGs came into effect in January 2016, and they will continue to guide UNDP policy and funding until 2030. As the lead UN development agency, UNDP is uniquely placed to help implement the Goals through our work in some 170 countries and territories.

Our strategic plan focuses on key areas including poverty alleviation, democratic governance and peace building, climate change and disaster risk, and economic inequality. UNDP provides support to governments to integrate the SDGs into their national development plans and policies. This work is already underway, as we support many countries in accelerating progress already achieved under the Millennium Development Goals.

Our track record working across multiple goals provides us with a valuable experience and proven policy expertise to ensure we all reach the targets set out in the SDGs by 2030. But we cannot do this alone.

Achieving the SDGs requires the partnership of governments, private sector, civil society and citizens alike to make sure we leave a better planet for future generations

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