

Sustainable Development in India: Challenges and Strategies

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Abstract—Sustainable development has become an integrating concept embracing economic, social and environmental issues. Sustainable development does not preclude the use of exhaustible natural resources but requires that any use be appropriately offset. This concept is not acceptable to many developing countries since it seems to disregard their aspirations for growth and development. Further, sustainable development cannot be achieved without significant economic growth in the developing countries.

Keywords: Sustainable, development. Challenges.

1. INTRODUCTION

India is presently emerging as an economic superpower, but in contrast, there is another profile of India. We constitute around 17% of the world's population, but account for about 35% of the poor and 40% of the illiterates in the world. Experiences from the economic reform indicate that while there have been improvements in economic growth, foreign exchange, IT revolution, export growth, and so on, inequality in income distribution has been growing simultaneously (ratio of urban to rural income is Exclusion from benefits of economic revolution has been continued in terms of low agricultural growth (agriculture's share in GDP has been reduced to half, with no decrease in dependent population in the agricultural sector low quality employment growth, concentration of poverty in certain groups (SC / ST), occupation (agricultural and casual labor), and region; and inadequate development of women and children. Our sex ratio continues to remain favorable to men. Studies based on hospital statistics in South Delhi indicate that sex-ratio at birth is as low as 500 females per 1000 males; All the above factors have resulted in the widening of economic and social disparity, which is a threat to sustainable development. The present economic growth helps to create more opportunities for the more educated section of the upper and middle class, with a 'trickle-down' effect on a section of the poor.

In India around 700 million people in the rural area are directly dependent on climate-sensitive sectors (agriculture, forests, and fisheries) and natural resources (such as water,

biodiversity, mangroves, coastal zones, grasslands) for their subsistence and livelihoods. Climate change and its effects will further reduce the adaptive capacity of dry land farmers, forest dwellers, fisher folk and nomadic shepherds, which is already very low. Water, soil, and air, which are the vital environmental sources for maintaining life, have been shrinking alarmingly. Annual per capita availability of renewable freshwater has been decreasing from. The main reasons for the water crisis are increasing demand, zonal disparity in distribution, lack of ethical framework for use, inadequate knowledge and resources, major land-use changes, long-term water level decline, and increase in salinity and pollution. India, with a large percentage of its land under agriculture, is also prone to the vagaries of weather conditions and climate change. About 228 MHA of its geographical area (nearly 69%) falls within the dry land (arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid) region and 142 MHA (68% of the total cultivated area) in the country is rain fed.

2. THE PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Include fulfillment of human needs for peace, clean air and water, food, shelter, education and useful and satisfying employment. Environmental issues are important, such as ecological integrity through careful stewardship, reduction of wastes, and protection of diverse species and ecological systems. Sustainable development focuses on local people through public involvement in the definition and development of local solutions to environmental and development problems. Achievement of equity is attained through the fairest possible sharing of limited resources among contemporaries and between our generation and that of our descendants. The term 'Sustainable Development' is a broad concept and (the Brundtland Commission, 1987) define there are a number of definitions available. The World Commission on Environment and Development s it as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". This definition is perhaps the easiest and most acceptable one. Sustainable development recognizes the interdependence of

environmental, social and economic systems. It promotes equality and justice through people empowerment. In the political aspect it demands broad based participation and democratic processes. The answer to the question that why sustainable development is important lies in the fact that by providing a new framework for decision making, issues are considered from a multi-dimensional point of view. Success is measured not simply by the profit generated, but by the triple bottom line of economic prosperity, environmental stewardship and corporate adhering clouding reducing social responsibility. Besides simply making good common sense, costs and liabilities, enhancing brand image and reputation, increasing customer loyalty, encouraging innovation and stimulating growth 280 to the principles of sustainable development fulfills compelling business needs as well.

3. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES •

Economic sustainability: sustainable livelihoods and improved well-being through growth and poverty reduction • Environmental sustainability: Target agricultural land, forests, water resources, protected areas, and biodiversity, so that opportunities and options of future generations are not degraded • Fiscal and institutional sustainability: must be realistic about cost and institutional requirements of instruments • May require tradeoffs correct the over-exploitation or inappropriate use of resources by ensuring that all environmental services are correctly valued (internalize the externalities) • Establish projects and policies on appropriate levels -- community, watershed, national, regional, global – generally with corresponding implementation/ financing mechanisms • Incorporate institutional development and new technologies • Reduce risks and vulnerabilities of farming communities • Diversify cropping systems for economic and environmental resilience • Weather forecasting to aid planting correct the over-exploitation or inappropriate use of resources by ensuring that all environmental services are correctly valued (internalize the externalities) • Establish projects and policies on appropriate levels -- community, watershed, national, regional, global – generally with corresponding implementation/ financing mechanisms • Incorporate institutional development and new technologies • Reduce risks and vulnerabilities of farming communities • Diversify cropping systems for economic and environmental resilience • Weather forecasting to aid planting date and management decisions. • Weather and price crop insurance and management decisions. • Weather and price crop insurance.

4. CHALLENGES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The challenges of sustainable development and its consequences are clearly visible. It is only invisible if we not want to see.

- a. **Population;** is a major challenge for the sustainable development. In the beginning of the 21st century the population of the Earth reached 6 billion, and is expected to level out between 10 and 11 billion over the next 50 years.
- b. **Poverty And Inequality;** is another major challenge because almost 25% of the world's population lives on less than USD 1 per day continues to be a serious obstacle to sustainable development with the number of people suffering from undernourishment. The fall of food prices over the past 30 years may have contributed to increases in consumption, but in many regions of the world arable terrains are limited, and the creation of new ones has a destructive effect on the remaining ecosystems. In the future, the growth of food production should not come at the expense of nature. By 2010 the current step of biodiversity loss should be significantly slowed.
- c. **The shortage of drinking water:** in many regions of the world is a major barrier to sustainable development. It is expected that, at the current rate of development, every second person will suffer from water shortage by the year 2025.
- d. **Human health:** is also an obstacle in sustainable development. In many cases, deaths in developing countries are avoidable. Humanity should direct more attention and money in the coming years to the struggle against diseases. The imminent task is to reduce the death rate among children under five years of age by two-thirds, and the death rate of young mothers by 75% by 2015.
- e. **Consumption of energy:** is a major challenge for the sustainable development. Consumption of all forms of energy is continually rising.
- f. **Deforestation:** is particularly great challenge before the sustainable development. The world's forests diminish mainly due to expansion of agriculture. In the coming years, improving the recovery and management of the forests will be of utmost importance.
- g. **Petrol consumption:** is constantly rising. The Summit emphasized the need to realize the decisions of the Kyoto Protocol for reaching an agreement on emissions norms for greenhouse gases in developed countries.

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 so that an inter-relationship can be established among present and future generation. To attain sustainable development many probable strategies can be useful. Input Efficient Technology can be reducing the exploitation of resources. So this technology may good for sustainable development. Via Using of Environmental friendly Sources of Energy, such as LPG and CNG which are eco-friendly fuel, we can reduce the greenhouse gases from the earth. Delhi Transport Corporation's initiative to CNG Buses in Delhi is the one of the best effort to reduce CO₂ and other harmful gases.

Government should pay attention on Integrated Rural Development Programs. Through this the burden and interdependency on cities for employment can be decrease. To focus on renewable sources of energy like solar and wind for energy needs. It will be beneficial for the country like India, where is enough sun light, to Convert Sun light into solar Energy and Solar Energy in Electricity. It will create an atmosphere for green development. For attaining the sustainable development it is necessary for the government and society to control on the Tragedy of Commons. It means to stop the maximum use of easy available resources. With above these government should stimulate the organic forming and recycle the wastes. Last but not least, it is responsibility of citizens to encourage the awareness to conserve the natural assets for inter-generational equality.

Targets of the Tenth Five Year Plan Targets for Sustainable Development:

- Reduction of poverty ratio by 5 percentage points by 2007 and by 15 percentage points by 2012.
- All children in school by 2003; all children to complete 5 Years in school by 2007.
- Reduction in gender gaps in literacy and wage rates by at least 50 % by 2007.
- Reduction in population growth between 2001 and 2011 to 16.2 %.
- Increase in literacy rate to 75 % by 2007.
- Reduction of Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) to 45 per 1000 live births by 2007 and to 28 by 2012.
- Reduction of Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) to 2 per 1000 live births by 2007 and to 1 by 2012.
- Increase in forest cover to 25 % by 2007 and 33 % by 2012.
- All villages to have sustained access to potable drinking water by 2007.
- Cleaning of major polluted rivers by 2007 and other notified stretches by 2012.

5. SUGGESTION FOR STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Effective management of resources requires participation by all stakeholders. At the local level, strengthening democratic institutions generally leads to better and more sustained management of natural resources. To enhance effectiveness of people's participation in local governance, committees comprising both elected and executive members of local bodies and representatives of community groups, must be formed. Appropriate capacity building would enable them to undertake local development activities according to community priorities, monitor project implementation and manage community assets. Where the conditions for such community empowerment have already been created, as in India through the 73rd and 74th amendments of its constitution, effective implementation of the provisions should be ensured.

- All members of society are the stakeholders of sustainable development. Women make up half of this group. Affirmative action to ensure representation and power to women in local governance, and appropriate capacity building, are necessary

to make them effective and equal partners in the development process.

- Social groups which have been traditionally discriminated must be represented in local governance and empowered to ensure that they become effective in mainstream partners in development.

- Children are a valuable asset of every society. It is the responsibility not only of the parents but of the community that children realize their potential fully, growing up in a healthy, enriching and fulfilling environment. Ensuring the provision of such an environment is a major challenge of governance at the local level.

- The occupational, cultural and economic heterogeneity of population is on the whole a major asset in making development sustainable; but there are times of crisis when the same heterogeneity can become the basis of conflict and social insecurity. It is imperative to evolve participatory mechanisms of governance involving citizen groups and local authorities which will provide effective means of conflict resolution.

- Sustainable development is achieved through optimizing gains from several variables, rather than maximizing those from a single one. This requires government departments, by convention organisation, to work together, or in some cases as a single multi-disciplinary authority. For this joint planning, transparency and coordination and implementation are required.

- The richness of skills available in society must be employed through partnerships involving institutions in civil society, such as NGOs, CBOs, corporate (including private) bodies, academic and research institutions, trade unions, etc., which must be made an integral part of planning and implementation for sustainable development.

6. CONCLUSION

There is both a need and a scope for regional and global cooperation in sustainable development. Some of the areas of common concern are marine and riparian issues, trans boundary environmental impacts, and management of bio resources, technology sharing and sharing of sustainable development experiences. Efforts must be made, especially by developing countries, to work towards synergizing experiences and raising shared regional concerns as a strong united front in international forums. Mechanisms must be put in place to facilitate such international exchange of domestic and global experiences in sustainable development; Sustainable development has become an integrating concept embracing economic, social and environmental issues. Sustainable development does not preclude the use of exhaustible natural resources but requires that any use be appropriately offset. This concept is not acceptable to many developing countries since it seems to disregard their aspirations for growth and development. Further, sustainable

development cannot be achieved without significant economic growth in the developing countries.

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