

SHIV SHAKTI

**International Journal of in Multidisciplinary and
Academic Research (SSIJMAR)**

Vol. 4, No. 3, June 2015 (ISSN 2278 – 5973)

**The Concept Of Sustainable Development: Indian
Perspective**

RAHUL MISHRA¹

Assistant Professor, Amity Law School, Amity University, Jaipur (Rajasthan) (India)
E-Mail: rahulmishra904@gmail.com

**Impact Factor = 3.133 (Scientific Journal Impact Factor Value for 2012 by Inno Space Scientific
Journal Impact Factor)**

Global Impact Factor (2013)= 0.326 (By GIF)

Indexing:



Abstract:

As far as India is concerned, sustainable development has become ever more important. In keeping with United Nations report, India's population is currently near about 1.2 billion and is expected to grow in the coming years by another 300 million. With mega cities generating two thirds of countries economic out put, an alarming number of Indians are leaving remote areas to seek bread and butter in mega cities. May be, by the end of next forty years from now, it is envisaged that sixty eight Indian cities will have more than one million inhabitants and six mega cities with more than ten million each. The constant growth of metropolis causes a large number of unforeseen predicaments including less power supply, discomforted public transport, so called access to inadequate medical treatment. In order to meet such complexities of continuing growth, without hazarding an atmosphere and social integrity, planning eco-friendly city culture has become the need of the hour. So much so, the rural area is also got to be developed but not at the cost of environmental hazards. For example- basic amenities like good schooling, good primary health facilities, good sanitation, and adequate supply of drinking water must be taken care of. As far as the agriculturists are concerned, they should get remunerative price for their production. There is a constant demand for wheat, rice vegetables and fruits not only in the cities overseas as well. Therefore, it would be advisable if they get right cost for their production. Ultimately onus lies on the government as to how to make both ends meet in this regard. The researcher explores all possibilities in the light of sustainable development in the said article at length.

Key Words: Law, Legislation, Parliament, Sustainable Development, Virtual World

1. Introduction:

"Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" - Maha Upanishad (Chapter 6, Verse 72)

Well, truth be told, it was well depicted in the United Nation's conference on Environment at Stockholm by Late Prime Minister of India *Smt. Indira Gandhi* that sustainable development is one of the goals to be achieved by the international community. The issues pertaining to Mother earth with regard to global citizenship, poverty eradication, sustainable use of natural resources etc can not be restricted to be discussed under the domain of Environmental studies only. If we go down the memory lane we will find that past activities have also given rise to inequalities keeping aside almost 3-4th of the world population residing in least developed or developing countries. So much so 1-5th of the population is still being living below poverty line. The long

lasting effect of industrialization, so called use of natural resources has ill-affected not only the nature but inhabitants too. The issues of this sort are multiplying day by day. In order to reach the consensus, the international community has to shoulder responsibilities together as to how to tackle such issues with grit and wisdom. As far as human development in India is concerned, various steps have already been taken in order to improvise the human dignity along with the use of the resources available at present. Below mentioned are some observations in this regard.

2. Sustainable development: Creating better life style:

This is very much known to us that poverty and polluted environment can be intimately related. As the poor has to survive too therefore, sometimes he/she degrades the environment more and more by harnessing the same to meet his/her daily needs. So removal of poverty is prerequisite for the protection of environment. As far as hunger and malnutrition are concerned, poverty is the main issue to create such dangers. The problem gets aggravated when there is inadequate access for the poor for the basics amenities being provided by the government from time to time. The Food Security Act, 2013² is a massive step taken by the government to ensure justified mechanism to ensure proper health to the masses in this regard. It is also necessary to solidify public distribution in our country to overcome the inequality to access.

It has also been noticed that lands of the poor is being taken for the economic upliftment of the country. Such a move also deprives the poor of its right to access the same land for his livelihood. Though he is compensated for the same but not adequate cost is paid to him. Market forces have also many a time and opt led to the elimination of crops which have been an integral part to the morsels of the poor section of the Indian society thereby putting food security and nutrition at stake. Therefore, the growth of sustainable development³ should be guided by principles of inclusive social development and protection and conservation of the universe as such. This can only be done when the displaced segment is rehabilitated and is provided with numerous opportunities to sustain their lives more effectively. Literacy and basic education amenities are also got to be provided especially for the poor to not only be in touch with the policy initiatives of the government from time to time but also to encash them as well in order to become the part of the main stream section. Therefore, basic/elementary education is the back bone of sustainable development.

2.1 Excessive Consumerism: A stumbling block for sustainable development

Excessive consumerism has also given rise to unsustainable development thereby putting the available resources at risk be it a developed country or developing country. In several areas. There has to be desirable limit and standards for consumption and should be applied through appropriate mechanisms. Since time immemorial, myriad of practices which are sustainable and eco-friendly still continue to embellish the lives of the people in developing countries. We have also seen that the modern life style has also given rise to various health hazards which can as much as possible be overcome by traditional way of living and such a venture need support from the govt , public/private organizations and people from all walks of life. As the per capita income in India have also grown manifold therefore, which has also given rise to the consumption perspectives because of which it can not be said that the coming generations shall be able to have long life spans, healthy environment, food for thought⁴ too.

2.2 Nature based resources: How to preserve for the coming generations:

It would be suffice to say that that the incorporation of farming along with water and terra firma coupled with solid eco-system conservation stuff is the need of the hour for both environmental sustainability and comprehensive agricultural production. There is a need to have environmental protection assessment perspective which must inspire the evaluation of all developmental projects, which are giving due recognition to the pivotal role being played by natural resources in locales where poor people have been living⁵. The recognition of all stake holders and their active involvement in the protection of natural resources is a must. We have some indigenous communities like people living below poverty line as well as the women section who do not have the same empowerment as there opposite counterpart are having as of now. In spite of having too many laws for the protection of such underprivileged section, still there is a lack with regard to enforcement machinery to uplift the standards of their living. Furthermore, there has to be a sensitization amongst masses in this regard. The water management system in our country should also be pro-active to protect or restore the ecological integrity of all natural water protection bodies. Doing so will certainly give rise to the maintenance of ecological services which will ultimately minimize the hazards which are blocking the pathways to sustainable development in India.

As far as bio-mass⁶ is concerned, it is going to be the major source of fuel efficiency and energy for the rural areas. In doing so, effective steps must be taken to make such consumption of bio-mass sustainable by way of both resource management and efficient polluting technology alternatives. By doing so, there will be a minimum up thrust on bio-mass mechanism, which causes environmental degradation. We can also follow time tested technique such as protection of mangroves, ponds, water harvesting⁷ methods in order to revitalize the ecological balance.

3. The impact of Globalization⁸ on sustainable development:

The impact of globalization has increasingly created a divide in between the rich and the poor. It should rather balance the commercial as well as social interests. Global business encourages and imposes high levels of homogeneity in the habits of the consumers whereas the global product availability must be there for all strata irrespective of any disparity in India. Globalization in India⁹ is sustained by globally spread manpower. The security of which is sometimes threatened by global distortions. In this regard, effective steps must be taken to safeguard trade across the border thereby recognizing the hidden potential of the manpower of the country like India at international arena.

As far as health of an individual is concerned, he should be made to have an access to a balanced diet, safe drinking water, clean air, good sanitation, environmental hygiene, primary health care etc. People belonging to developing countries become victims to a double burden of diseases. So much so, people are also falling prey to modern ailments like AIDS and Cancer as well as mantle disorders which need to be tackled. Many of such ailments amongst lower strata are employment related and are confronted during the work done. As we know that good health gives rise to ultimate satisfaction, therefore, there has to be preventive steps to be taken by the government to ensure the same in the developing countries like India. There has to be a mass sensitization in order to make India epidemics free of this sort.

3.1 Implementation Process: To be made more effective

The commitments¹⁰ which were made by industrialized countries at Earth Summit¹¹ in the Rio have remained unfulfilled. Which has become a matter of great concern? In view of the declining trend of Overseas Development Assistance, developing countries must explore as to how they can finance their projects pertaining to sustainable development. In spite of many laws, there is a need to strongly implement them so as to attain above mentioned objectives. As far as trade regimes are concerned, they must also be pro-active in this regard by coming out with imperatives with regard to eco-friendly trade ensuring sustainable development across nations.

In India, 1220 millions of people are more of a liability and so much of logistic support is required to be given to them. Once they are at least given basic education, they can be made part of the mainstream.

3.2 Governance¹² at all levels to be made more effective:

Social groups¹³ which have been outclassed or discriminated against must be made part of the local governance and empowered to ensure that they play pivotal role in the developmental process. The occupational, cultural and economic diversity of the population¹⁴ is the major asset in making the developmental process sustainable. Therefore, it becomes important to involve participatory mechanism of governance involving citizen groups and local authorities which will provide effective means of conflicting resolutions. The expertise available in the Indian Society must be harnessed through partnership of all kinds of organizations.

4. Conclusion: All said and done, there has to be a kind of full fledged effort for monitoring the compliance by the developing countries to their commitments including India under various environmental conventions. The mother earth and inhabitants on it can only be saved by being practical rather than being theoretical thereby providing enough sustainable space for the coming generations.

References:

¹ Official Address.

² The Food Security Act, 2013 .Retrieved from (<http://indiacode.nic.in/acts-in-pdf/202013.pdf>).

³ Sustainable Development in India: Stocktaking in the run up to Rio+20 by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, 2011.Retrieved from http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/Sust_Dev_Stocktaking.pdf).

⁴ National Policy on Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy 2002 by Ministry of Ayush, Ayush- Bhawan, B Block, Gpo Complex, Ina, New Delhi – 110023: Retrieved from <http://www.indianmedicine.nic.in/writereaddata/linkimages/7870046089Ayush%20%20n%20policy%20ISM%20and%20H%20Homeopathy.pdf>.

⁵ Helping the poor (n.d), Retrieved from <http://www.foodforthepeople.org/about/contact.html>.

⁶ Alternative Energy (n.d) Retrieved from <http://www.altenergy.org/renewables/biomass.html>.

⁷ Meaning explained (n.d),it means capturing rain where it falls or capturing the run off in your own village or town. And taking measures to keep that water clean by not allowing polluting activities to take place in the catchment. Therefore, water harvesting can be undertaken through a variety of ways: Capturing runoff from rooftops, Capturing runoff from local catchments, Capturing seasonal floodwaters from local streams, conserving water through watershed management. These techniques can serve the following the following purposes: Provide drinking water, Provide irrigation water, Increase groundwater recharge, Reduce storm water discharges, urban floods and overloading of sewage treatment plants ,Reduce seawater ingress in coastal areas. In general, water harvesting is the activity of direct collection of rainwater. The rainwater collected can be stored for direct use or can be recharged into the groundwater. Rain is the first form of water that we know in the hydrological cycle, hence is a primary source of water for us. Rivers, lakes and groundwater are all secondary sources of water. In present times, we depend entirely on such secondary sources of water. In the process, it is forgotten that rain is the ultimate source that feeds all these secondary sources and remain ignorant of its value. Water harvesting means to understand the value of rain, and to make optimum use of the rainwater at the place where it falls. Retrieved from <http://www.rainwaterharvesting.org/whatiswh.htm>.

⁸ Globalization defined (n.d) Retrieved from <http://www.investopedia.com/terms/g/globalization.asp>.

⁹ Subhankar Chatterjee, (2009) “Globalization in India: Effects and Consequences”, Retrieved from <http://www.daldrup.org/University/International%20Management/Globalization%20in%20India.pdf>.

¹⁰ Millennium Developmental Report,(2012),UN,Retrieved from <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG%20Report%202012.pdf>.

¹¹Earth Summits details (n.d), The Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro were unprecedented for a UN conference, in terms of both its size and the scope of its concerns. Twenty years after the first global environment conference, the UN sought to help Governments rethink economic development and find ways to halt the destruction of irreplaceable natural resources and pollution of the planet. Hundreds of thousands of people from all walks of life were drawn into the Rio process. They persuaded their leaders to go to Rio and join other nations in making the difficult decisions needed to ensure a healthy planet for generations to come. Retrieved from <http://www.un.org/geninfo/bp/enviro.html>.

¹² Good Governance defined (n.d), Good governance is about the processes for making and implementing decisions. It's not about making 'correct' decisions, but about the best possible process for making those decisions. Good decision-making processes, and therefore good governance, share several characteristics. All have a positive effect on various aspects of local government including consultation policies and practices, meeting procedures, service quality protocols, councilor and officer conduct, role clarification and good working relationships,. Retrieved from <http://www.goodgovernance.org.au/about-good-governance/what-is-good-governance/#sthash.cpv56h7q.dpuf>.

¹³ K.Sundaram., & Suresh D.Tendulkar. (2008).Poverty among Social and Economic Groups in India in the Nineteen Nineties. Working paper no-118.Retrieved from <http://www.cdeds.org/pdf/work118.pdf>.

¹⁴ Sunderlal Bahuguna, (2006).Sustainable Development in India: Perspectives. Retrieved from http://envfor.nic.in/divisions/ic/wssd/doc4/consul_book_persp.pdf.