

# Sustainable Development: An Analytical Study



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## Abstract

Sustainable development could be termed as holistic development which is for future generation. There are ample of challenges which prove as an obstacle in way of it. First and foremost is poverty as millions of people sleep empty stomach each day because extreme of wealth and poverty is there. A recent report shows that 500 companies share 42% of world's wealth. Poverty is directly a result of rise in population. The population is said to be double on African continent in 2050. Next, illiteracy and unemployment are also raising ugly heads. Many of underdeveloped as well as developed nations are not able to absorb young population that is why they are moving to affluent nations in search of jobs, good lifestyle and secured future which is leading to migration. Exclusive example is Africa considering to lead India and China in next few years in terms of birth rate. Slowdown in emerging market economies is acting as hindrance supported by consequences of fragile states. Not only economic downturn is responsible but commodity-driven surge is also a major issue Another problem is apathy and short term thinking. Another problem cropping up these days is genetic modification. Carbon fuels are also creating havoc on earth in form of pollutions. UN's dream of no poverty, zero hunger, quality education, good health can easily be achieved till 2030 via certain efforts. Gravity of these challenges need to be estimated so that world will remain a place of comfort for everyone. Although human kind is blessed with certain renewable resources like sun, water and wind so that energy can be harnessed in order to slump down carbon emission rate. Sustainable energy is clean and can be used for long period of time and produce far less pollution. Solar energy is already harnessed in form of solar heaters, solar cooker, solar lights, etc. which is itself the abundant way of providing energy.

**Keywords:** Global Warming, Illiteracy, Population, Sustainable Development.

## Introduction

Sustainable development could be termed as holistic development which is for future generation. There are ample of challenges which prove as an obstacle in way of it. First and foremost is poverty as millions of people sleep empty stomach each day because extreme of wealth and poverty is there. A recent report shows that 500 companies share 42% of world's wealth. Poverty is directly a result of rise in population. The population is said to be double on African continent in 2050. Next, illiteracy and unemployment are also raising ugly heads. Many of underdeveloped as well as developed nations are not able to absorb young population that is why they are moving to affluent nations in search of jobs, good lifestyle and secured future which is leading to migration. Exclusive example is Africa considering to lead India and China in next few years in terms of birth rate. Slowdown in emerging market economies is acting as hindrance supported by consequences of fragile states. Not only economic downturn is responsible but commodity-driven surge is also a major issue Another problem is apathy and short term thinking. Another problem cropping up these days is genetic modification. Carbon fuels are also creating havoc on earth in form of pollutions. UN's dream of no poverty, zero hunger, quality education, good health can easily be achieved till 2030 via certain efforts. Gravity of these challenges need to be estimated so that world will remain a place of comfort for everyone. Although human kind is blessed with certain renewable resources like sun, water and wind so that energy can be harnessed in order to slump down carbon emission rate. Sustainable energy is clean and can be used for long period of time and produce far less pollution. Solar energy is already harnessed in form of solar heaters, solar cooker, solar lights, etc. which is itself the abundant way of providing energy. Wind power's usage has also expanded quickly with its usage at

3.1% at the end of 2014. Water conservation can be done to pave a way for safe and secure future of coming generation. As per economist E.F.Schumacher concept of "small is beautiful" has to be channelised in terms of usage of technology. Modern day proponents have also emphasised technology as people centred. Educational institutions can be opened in every nook and corner. Stringent laws can be enacted in areas especially in African and some of asian countries which are becoming epitome of hindrance in way of sustainable development. Threats associated to sustainable development can be eliminated via active engagement of public and private sector to impart education which is considered engine of development. Business and industries need to advance their corporate social responsibility. They should actually know the real cost of depletion of natural capital. Through global ethics we could enable ourselves to take responsible environment action. Media could also be an eye opener. International and national forums could also set up to gift next generation a peaceful and comfortable world.

#### **Gandhian Way of Development**

M.K.Gandhi popularly known as Bapu once said "the earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need but not every man's greed." This saying of Gandhi seems totally justified as world today is struggling hard to balance nature and needs. The word 'development' has such a heavy influence on mindset of people that they forget the actual essence of it and do whatever they wish to, for sake of development. Does the word development only means economic development, improved infrastructure and achieving standard of living or does it means something else. Is this development only confined to single country. Development and sustainable development are two different aspects. Sustainable development could be defined as development which satisfies needs of presents without compromising the ability of future generations to satisfy theirs. Such kind of development insists on need to protect diversity of genes, species and all terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in nature. It signifies fulfilment of several conditions like preserving the overall balance, respect for environment and prevention of exhaustion of natural resources. This term came into limelight when united nations conference on the human environment held in Stockholm in 1972 and gave birth to first true ideology of sustainable development which used to be called as economic development in those days .The founding conference held in an atmosphere of conflict between ecology and economy with thanks to professors and scholars incorporated economic development models for north and south. This resulted into creation of united nations environment program (UNEP) and united nations development program (UNDA). Little by little, media made these topics more accessible to the general public. The concept of sustainable development remained virtually unnoticed until Gro HARLEM Brundtland's report, 'our common future' published in 1987. Since, then the concept has been accepted all over the world. In actual sense we are just running the race of

development, but somewhere we are forgetting our duty for mother nature and future generation. Sustainable development could be termed as holistic development which is for future generation. There are ample of issues and challenges which prove as obstacle in way of it. World's population is doubling every single minute and the day is not far when there will be only human on earth without presence of plants and other natural features, struggling hard to survive. We are digging pits for ourselves to fall into it since human is just running on the path of development. This massive rise in population is creating evils such as poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and so on. One such challenge is burgeoning population. People on entire globe are lacking to meet all basic needs such as food, cloth and shelter. Central African Republic has the least GDP per capita which is just 652. Democratic Republic of Congo topped the list of poorest countries. Common man's lifestyle is just a fairytale as they just dream to get 3 meals a day. Acute food shortage is one of the world's biggest problem. Fred Davies , senior science advisor for the agencies Bureau of Food Securities, says "for the first time in human history food production would be limited on a global scale by the availability of land, water and energy. Davies further says that the world's population would increase 30% to 9 billion people by mid century(2050). The would call for a 70% increase in food to meet demand . Agriculture productivity, food security, food safety, the environment, health, nutrition and obesity. They are all interconnected. 1 in 8 people worldwide are already suffering from chronic under nourishment. It's an eye opener fact that world's severely impoverish are in mid-income nations like China, India, Brazil and Philippines. What does unemployment signifies? Does it only signifies the people able and willing to work but do not find gainful opportunities. Rather it also means employment, instability rise due to recession. Zimbabwe has 95% unemployment rate. This is a shocking fact but its more shocking to hear that Philippines unemployment rate is almost double the level of neighbouring countries. Despite relatively fast employment growth. It is widely held view that problem of unemployment arise mostly in developing and undeveloped nations, but the view is not totally true as industrialised nations also face it during recession time. The great recession in the US in 2008 which rose from 4.7% to peak of 10% and the trough was reached in second quarter of 2009. Gandhi introduced Khadi and Charkha which people merely symbolise nationalism. In actual sense his motive was to provide long term employment to so many people. Khadi and cottage industry got boom in India just due to efforts of Gandhi. If Gandhi would have not tried hard then Khadi and cottage industry would just be a dream in India. Entire print and electronic media is raising voice against global warming and climate changes. While surfing on internet we come across thousands of pictures related to global warming and climate changes along with lengthy written material. Whenever we turn a page of national daily, a column on environment catches our glimpse. The matter of

the fact is that if everybody knows everything about sustainable development, environment changes and all the topics alike, then where we all are lacking to sustainably develop. Is this the race we are aiming to win or the ignorance. Refrigeration, the finest way to preserve food and also a part of lifestyle seems good, but its shocking that this meagre thing has affected environment. We cannot even imagine a single day without A.C. which actually is not good for environment in a way. We all have heard saga of eco-tourism, but is this actually environment friendly. We take eco-tourism packages but litter around a lot by throwing plastic. Was the scenario in past the same. Rather we were happy by living in mud houses without any need of refrigerated water, cool air and so on. Gandhi used to walk on foot a lot. He even carried freedom movement on feet. Fine example is Dandi March. He used to eat in earthen pots and was a believer of self help. He spent his entire life in single dhoti still he is known as Father of Nation(India). So, can't we alter lifestyle to sustainably develop in our approach. After the Rio conference of 1992, related to the matter concerned, most countries started drawing up a national strategy but those turned out to be tricky it has to address very serious issues within economic and political contexts that are marked by strong inertia. The first and foremost is poverty as according to recent report 500 companies occupy world's 42% wealth. There is a tremendous difference between affluent and poor nations as well as stratus of society. People are struggling hard to earn bread and butter. Even many families still sleep empty stomach as are able to earn their livelihood. This evil is directly linked to burgeoning population day by day and could be directly termed as result of over population as resources are limited and population is unlimited, proving burdensome for development. So, poverty is product of population. It is leading to social inequality because rich are becoming richer but poor are becoming poorer day by day. Obviously earth does not have limitless resources especially since construction has been increasing because less developed, countries wish to catch up with the industrialised economies. Another devastating fact is of African continent where population is said to lead India and China in next year few years in the terms of population growth. Next illiteracy and unemployment are also raising ugly heads. Many undeveloped and developing countries along with developed nations too are not able to absorb young population. The resulting fact is coming up in form of migration for better lifestyle, jobs and secured future. Greenhouse gas emissions are one of the main consequences of human activity that accelerate global warming which carries risks of shortage and disruption of natural cycles. Such as fresh water, impoverished agricultural soil, deforestation and reduced biodiversity which signifies that future that future generation is under carbon fuels are creating havoc on earth in form of pollution like air, water, soil and so on slowdown in emerging market economics is also acting as hindrance supported by consequences of fragile states. Not only economic downturn but commodity driven surge is also a major issue. Another problem is

apathy and short term thinking. Genetic modification is a new terminology cropping up in form of challenge for sustainable development. There are many initiatives in favour of sustainable development but are scattered sometimes not well known as there is little exchange between public and private sectors. Initiatives which are rarely part of long term plan are conducted by wide variety of players like NGO'S, associations educational institutions, public bodies, etc. Many policies and actions need to be coordinated and conducted by the state and by civil society because sustainable development relies on economic, social and environment foundations in the framework of coordinated worldwide governance. Gravity of these challenges need to be understood and estimated make world, sustainably developed. UN's dream of zero hunger, no poverty, good health and well being, responsible consumption and production, life on land can be achieved till 2030 via certain efforts. At primary level, energy constitutes a key factor to alleviate poverty and to improve living condition. Humankind is blessed with ample of renewable resources like wind, water, sun, etc. Energy from such resources can be harnessed to slump down carbon emission. Also by using renewable energy sources, production of electricity can be decreased by traditional and nuclear power plants which directly eliminate production of radioactive waste, which future generation will be obliged to deal in any case. The very catastrophic accident at Fukushima power plant on 11 march, 2011 has just shown that it's not the ultimate solution for energy crisis. Bio fuel is not an acceptable option for sustainable development as they consume a great deal of water, pesticide and much more. Sustainable energy is clean and can be used for long period of time and produce for less pollution. Solar energy is already harnessed in form of solar cooker, solar water heater, etc. which is itself an abundant way of energy. Wind energy's usage has also expanded quickly with its usage at 3.1% at the end of 2014. Wind forms would also serve the purpose. Taking technology into consideration, as per economist EF Schumacher which simply means usage of technology only upto the desired level and not excessively. Modern day proponents have also emphasised technology as people centred. Business and industries need to advance their corporate social responsibility. They should really known the concept of ethics charter which is an initiative implemented by professionals to be used as references just to give meaning to actions by choosing several solutions. Manufactures will serve a role in this development by developing innovative solutions that favour are to be designed and constructed. Even common man will serve a purpose by several practices just like switching off lights when not in use, buying environment friendly appliances, recycling waste. It is therefore, particularly profitable to apply all necessary measures. For education needs schools can be opened in every nook and corner specifically, in rural, semi-rural and remote areas. International and national forums could also set up to gift next generation a peaceful and comfortable world. Ideology of scholars would also

pave a way to attain it. Other than that stringent laws can be enacted in areas which are becoming epitome of threat related to it links between environment and health obviously fits in with the principles of sustainable development and eco design. Planetary level development has to be fostered. Green buildings naturally attributes a great deal of importance to the carbon balance. For sustainable development media will also play a crucial role to focus upon such kind of development. With joint efforts of institutions, public and private sectors and common man the day is not far when our future generation will prosper by living a comfortable and desired life.

#### **Conclusion**

To wrap up, Gandhi believed simple living and high thinking. He was a far sighted man. We all have to follow Gandhian way to sustainably develop. It's high time for all to walk should to shoulder so as to preserve mother earth and leave something for future generation otherwise results would be catastrophic to human civilisation. If Gandhi followed simplicity, then why can't we? Rather than becoming greedy, we need to become needy so as to take benefits from our planet. Over dependence on non-renewable resources will put everybody in danger zone. So, more use of renewable resources can be done. Plus merely spending money is not enough, but what is required is to re-plan our policies for not putting our lives at stake. Gandhi said that "the ultimate solution for fighting poverty in India was not mass production but production by the masses." This wording of Gandhi could also be applied in world. Even after 60 years of his demise programs designed by him are

implemented. We cannot completely nip the problem of poverty, global warming, food shortage, etc. into bud, but one thing we all can do is to lower down its severity. Gandhian way of living simply means simple lifestyle which we can also follow by keeping all the comforts aside. Since Gandhian values have worldwide appeal, so his ideology can be opted by every nation for ecology and sustainability.

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