

Globalisation And Sustainable Development In Indian Context

¹Dr. Brajesh Srivastava

¹Asst. Professor – Economics, Government Degree College, **Manikpur, Chitrakoot (UP)**

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Abstract

In this time of globalisation, people are now focusing on developing a safer and more beautiful world for the future generation, demanding sustainable development. Sustainable development is a concept that has been developed to fulfil the current needs without harming the future ability.

This is a critical issue of the present time. Due to regular changes in climate, economics, culture, and society, the world environment is getting affected severely. Therefore, all the countries should focus on sustainable development that prevents further adverse effects on the environment. Our future generation is affected drastically by environmental pollution. So, if the countries fail to maintain sustainability, it may destroy the future world.

Keywords- Climate change, energy saving, sustainability, pollution

Introduction

Sustainable development can be defined as a dynamic process designed to meet today's need without compromising the ability of future generations to fulfil their own needs. However, the concept of sustainable development moves beyond the environment.

The term sustainable development was coined by Eva Balfour and Wes Jackson. The concept was developed by World Commission on Environment and Sustainable Development, commonly known as the Brundtland Commission in 1987, under the chairmanship of Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway. The commission document was the title 'Our Common Future.'

The commission highlighted its goals and objectives which are still relevant today. It strived to achieve, long term environmental strategies for achieving sustainable development; greater co-operation among developing countries and between countries at different stages of economical and social development so that they lead to the achievement of common and mutually supportive objectives that take account of the interrelationships between people, resources, environment and development.

Objectives of Sustainable Development

The most important objective of sustainable development is to balance our economic, environmental, and social needs, allowing prosperity for now and future generations. This concept is often defined as *"development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."*

In simpler terms, the importance of sustainable development can be explained by considering it as a three-legged stool. One leg represents our economy, another represents the environment, and the third

represents our society. If one leg is shorter or longer, the stool will tip over. So, we need to make sure all three legs are balanced, so our world can be stable and prosperous.

For example, when we use natural resources like oil and gas, we need to do it in a way that doesn't harm our environment or our society. We need to make sure there's enough left for future generations, and we need to make sure that everyone has fair access to these resources. This is the core objective of sustainable development.

It also aimed to discover ways and means by which the international community can deal more effectively with environmental concerns, share perceptions of long term environmental issues and the appropriate efforts needed to deal successfully with the problems of protecting and enhancing the environment, a long term agenda for action during the coming decades and aspirational goals for the world community.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the UN as the 2030 agenda of sustainable development came into force on 1st January 2016. These goals are the efforts uniting all the nations on a universal level to mobilise efforts to end all forms of poverty, inequality and global environment issues which ensure the benefits sloop downs and touches all.

Though the goals are not internationally binding, all countries are free to take ownership of the planning and establish a national framework for the achievement of these goals. As the implementation and success of these goals rely on the national process and plans each country has a vital role to play. All stakeholders that are the government, civil society, private sector and others are expected to contribute to the realisation of a new agenda.

The concept of sustainable development has however met through constant criticism as it has been accused by many governments and businesses of 'cosmetic environmentalism' under an umbrella of the concept. Some people or groups are of the view that the term sustainable development was used as an alibi rather than as guidance for stronger action.

Another criticism of the concept has been that its political acceptability will be actualised only when a particular country can respond to social or economic problems first.

India is a typical case in this context. In the climate talks, we have been classified as a developing country and there is no binding target on us as compared to the industrialised countries. Similarly in the WTO talks in the Doha round and Bali round, we have resisted the pressure by the West to open our economy and compromise on public procurement policy.

Sustainable Development, therefore also calls for a more nuanced and balanced view thereby ensuring the development of all the sectors and not just being biased for environmental sustainability.

Requirements Of Sustainability In India's Development

Achieving economic development is an essential factor for a country. However, if it comes at the cost of the environment, then it can affect the overall outcome. Hence, India is developing its economic vision and target while maintaining its stand on protecting the comprehensive ecosystem. However, there are certain issues that pose a threat to the sustainable development of India. Some of those issues are:

Environmental issues

- Biodiversity loss
- Himalayan urbanisation
- Lack of waste management
- Resource depletion
- Air quality issues
- Environment degradation
- Hamper in the ecosystem

Economic issues

- Low income per capita
- Dependency of huge population
- Heavy population
- Unemployment
- Slow improvement
- Lack of industries
- Poor human capital

Social issues

- Corruption
- Illiteracy
- Poverty
- Women's safety
- Sanitisation
- Lack of education
- Healthcare issues

Cultural issues

- Caste system
- Gender inequality
- Communism
- Child abuse

These are the few issues India is trying to address with appropriate measures.

Sustainable Goals

The sustainable development goals are also known as SDGs, which the United Nations adopted in 2015. This idea has been developed for protecting the planet, ending poverty, and ensuring that people enjoy prosperity and peace by 2030. There are 17 SDGs, and those goals are:

GOAL 1: No Poverty

GOAL 2: Zero Hunger

GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being

GOAL 4: Quality Education

GOAL 5: Gender Equality

GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality

GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

GOAL 13: Climate Action

GOAL 14: Life Below Water

GOAL 15: Life on Land

GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions

GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

India's progress in sustainability

India has taken various actions in order to achieve all 17 goals and sustain its development. Some of the proactive initiatives are the Swachh Bharat mission for sanitation and cleanliness; and the green skill development program, Namami Gange Program, CAMPA, and National Mission for Green India, for keeping the environment green. There are also national river conservation programs and schemes on the conservation of natural resources and ecosystems.

India is taking significant actions to implement the approach of sustainable development. Since 2015, the Indian government has launched several effective and flagship programs to achieve the SDGs. Above all, India has always supported the idea of sustainable development by engaging various stakeholders.

As citizens of India, we have a responsibility to adopt sustainable lifestyle economy changes to create a better future for ourselves and the planet.

Here are 50 ideas for sustainable changes we can make in our daily lives :

1. Switch to LED light bulbs – they use less energy and last longer than traditional bulbs.
2. Use public transportation or carpool to reduce carbon emissions from transportation.
3. Walk or cycle short distances instead of using motorized transportation.
4. Plant a tree in your community to improve air quality and reduce the heat island effect.
5. Use reusable bags instead of plastic bags when shopping.
6. Invest in a reusable water bottle to reduce plastic waste.
7. Use a cloth napkin instead of paper napkins to reduce waste.
8. Reduce food waste by planning meals and storing leftovers properly.
9. Choose local and seasonal produce to reduce the carbon footprint of transportation.
10. Compost food waste to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills.
11. Use energy-efficient appliances to reduce energy consumption.
12. Turn off lights and appliances when not in use to save energy.
13. Install solar panels or use renewable energy sources to power your home.
14. Choose products with minimal packaging to reduce waste.
15. Use a reusable coffee cup instead of disposable cups.

16. Use a clothesline instead of a dryer to save energy and reduce emissions.
17. Repair or repurpose items instead of throwing them away.
18. Donate unwanted items to charity instead of throwing them away.
19. Choose second-hand clothing and furniture to reduce waste and support the local economy.
20. Use a rain barrel to collect water for gardening and other outdoor uses.
21. Use a low-flow showerhead to save water.
22. Install water-efficient toilets and faucets to reduce water consumption.
23. Use non-toxic cleaning products to reduce chemical exposure.
24. Use a refillable pen instead of disposable pens to reduce waste.
25. Print double-sided to reduce paper usage.
26. Use a bike to commute to work or school to reduce carbon emissions.
27. Choose green cleaning products to reduce chemical exposure.
28. Use a reusable razor instead of disposable razors to reduce waste.
29. Use a bidet instead of toilet paper to reduce waste.
30. Take shorter showers to reduce water consumption.
31. Choose cloth diapers instead of disposable diapers to reduce waste.
32. Use a menstrual cup instead of disposable sanitary products to reduce waste.
33. Use natural and organic beauty products to reduce chemical exposure.
34. Buy products made from sustainable materials, such as bamboo or hemp.
35. Choose products made with recycled materials to reduce waste.
36. Use a laptop instead of a desktop computer to save energy.
37. Turn off the tap when brushing teeth or washing hands to save water.
38. Reduce paper usage by paying bills online.
39. Use a reusable lunch box instead of disposable containers.
40. Choose biodegradable products to reduce waste.
41. Use a programmable thermostat to save energy.
42. Choose furniture made from sustainable materials, such as reclaimed wood.
43. Use a reusable menstrual pad instead of disposable pads to reduce waste.
44. Choose a vegetarian or vegan diet to reduce the carbon footprint of food production.
45. Use a reusable straw instead of plastic straws to reduce waste.
46. Use a cloth shower curtain instead of plastic curtains to reduce waste.
47. Choose products made with organic cotton to reduce chemical exposure.
48. Choose products made with natural dyes to reduce chemical exposure.
49. Use a reusable shopping bag instead of disposable bags to reduce waste.
50. Use a natural air freshener, such as essential oils, instead of chemical air fresheners to reduce chemical exposure.

By adopting these 50 ideas, individuals can contribute towards sustainable living, reduce their environmental impact, and build a better future for themselves, their communities, and the planet. It is up to each and every one of us to make a conscious effort towards a sustainable future.

Conclusion

In brief, sustainable development needs Democratic thinking but it can also help strengthen democratic institutions through consensus-based public participation. It therefore can be concluded that sustainable development is considered a means and not an end in itself. Therefore, it is a process and not a product.

Sustainable development in the Indian context is becoming popular, and India's initiatives have encouraged many other countries as well. In a nutshell, the world is facing significant issues, which can be addressed only by developing sustainable ideas and programs.

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