

Environmental Degradation And Its Impact On Sustainable Development: An Analysis

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ABSTRACT: *The study on sustainable development has great importance in recent times and it is the approach to growth which seeks to generate present growth without in any way of disturbing and limiting the quality of life for future generations. Sustainable development allocates central importance to human beings and recognises that they are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. Environmental degradation is one of the major threats that are being looked at the world today and the ecological imbalance is the sign of environmental degradation. The aim of this paper is to analyse the impact of environmental degradation on sustainable development.*

Key Words: *Environment, Environmental Degradation, Sustainable Development,*

1. INTRODUCTION

Environment can be defined as a sum total of all the living and non-living elements and their effects that influence human life. While all living or biotic elements are animals, plants, forests, fisheries and birds, non living or abiotic elements include water, land, sunlight, rocks and air etc. The functions of the environment such as it provides the supply of resources, sustains life, enhances the quality of Life. Environment includes all those living and non living elements that affect the quality of life.

The environment is the source of life on our earth as well as environment directs and determines the existence, growth and development of mankind and all other activities. The studies of ecology and environment are essential not only for the knowledge and utilization of resources but also for their planning and protection for the sustainable development.

Sustainable Development stands for a rational and judicious use of our dwindling natural resources for improving our economic, cultural, social as well as environmental life, natural resources are to be protected, used, conserved and enriched for the benefits of both the present and future generations. It is an approach to Socio-Economic planning as well as growth that does not hinder our commitment to protect the quality of our environment. Generally, It seeks to keep a sustainable balance between human needs, the eco systems and earth's natural resources. Sustainable Development allocates vital importance to human beings as well as recognises that they are entitled to a productive and healthy life in harmony with nature.

Objectives:

- To analysis the Environmental Degradation and its impact.
- To find out the impact of Environmental Degradation on Sustainable Development.

2. METHODOLOGY

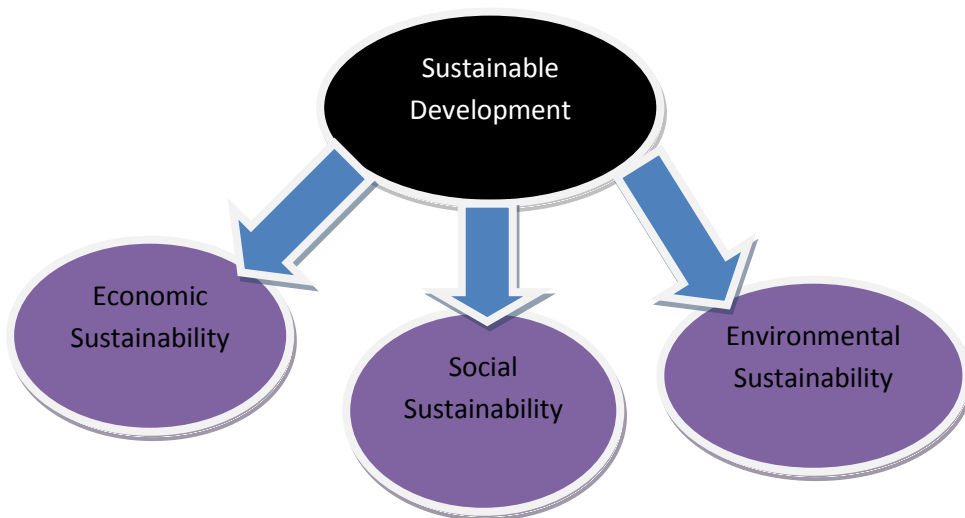
Descriptive method has been applied to conduct the present study. The data has been collected only from Secondary sources and the secondary data are collected from Books, Research Articles, etc.

Concept of Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is the management and conservation of the natural resource base and the orientation of technical and institutional inputs in such a manner as to assure the attainment and continued satisfaction of human needs for the present as well as future generation. Sustainable development as a term can be defined as economic and social development that meets the needs of current generation without undermining the ability of future generation to meet their own need.

It is the approach to development which seeks to generate present growth without in any way of disturbing and limiting the quality of life for future generations. **The Brundtland Report defines Sustainable Development as : “ Development that meets the needs of Present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”** The central focus of the concept of Sustainable Development is : “ Development which does not damage , and exists harmoniously with the eco-systems.”

Three key dimensions of Sustainable Development



Sustainable development approach is a philosophy based on human goals and on understanding the long term impact of our activities on the environment and its various elements. The study on Sustainable Development has a great importance in recent times. We should hand over a safe, healthy and resourceful environment to our future generations and this can be possible only through sustainable development if we stop over exploitation of resources, reduce waste discharge and emissions and maintain ecological balance. Wise use of nature and its resources to provide the greatest sustainable benefit to present generation while maintaining the potential to meet the needs and aspiration of future generation by---

- Living within the carrying capacity of the environment.
- Living in harmony with nature.
- Realization that the Bio- Sphere is both for us and for our descendants.

The aspects and key dimensions of Sustainable development are as below-

- Economic Sustainability.
- Poverty Alleviation.
- Securing of Justice.
- Socio-Political Sustainability.
- Environmental Sustainability.
- Inter-generational Equity
- Intra-generational Equity
- Positive use and conservation of natural resources both for the present as well as future generations.

Concept of Environmental Degradation:

Environmental Degradation is a comprehensive and wider terms that refers to lowering as well as worsening of environmental quality which is caused by natural processes and human activities from local, regional and global level. It may raise either by natural processes or man- made activities. However, the Ecological imbalance is the sign of environmental degradation.

Environmental degradation is the deterioration of the environment through depletion of resources such as soil, water, air ; the destruction of eco systems and the extinction of wildlife.

There are some causes of Environmental degradation:

- The development of modern technology
- Increasing settlement of urbanization
- Growing industries and factories.
- The high rate of exploitation on natural resources.
- There is a pressure on natural resources.
- The increase of the human population.

Impact of Environmental Degradation on Sustainable Development:

Environmental degradation is one of the major threats that are being looked at in the world today. More recently the effects of environmental degradation are becoming more and more obvious in form of a range of pollutant affecting the planet. The Ozone layer sits at about 20 to 30 k.m. above sea level. It provides a productive layer which prevents the sun's ultra –violet from reaching the earth. Environmental destruction activities such as chemical, human activities and the release of chlorofluorocarbons to the atmosphere trigger the depletion of ozone layer. Ultra –Violet rays lead to lower agriculture production, skin diseases and death of aquatic life. Emission of Greenhouse gases to the atmosphere causes global warming and Global warming leads to soil erosion, flooding , drought and rise in sea water level. The impact of environmental degradation are as below:

- **Loss of Biodiversity:** Biodiversity is important for maintaining balance of the ecosystem in the form of combating pollution , restoring nutrients, protecting water sources and stabilizing climate. Therefore, different types of environmental issues highly impact on the biodiversity of the earth.
- **Climate change and Global Warming :** Global warming can have major physical, environmental and socio-economic consequences; climate change would cause changes in precipitation patterns, ocean circulation and marine systems, soil moisture water availability and an impact on agriculture, forestry and natural eco- system like wetlands and fisheries. Also with rising temperatures, and subsequent increasing heat stress and alternation in

patterns of vector borne diseases, the global populations would face health problems, causing changes in settlement patterns and large- scale migration.

The burning issue for the human being as a whole is of sustainable development in the midst of degradation of environment. For today's world, rapid change of the environment is a serious concern. The environmental degradation resulting in global warming , climate changes and loss of bio-diversity has become the global concern. Environment and sustainable development are the two sides of the same coin. So, there is a co-relation between environment and development.

Extreme use of natural resources as well as severe pollution caused by unplanned activities tend to create environmental and social distress. Sustainable development implies the use of ecological system in a manner that satisfies current need without compromising the need or options of future generations. The aim of sustainable development should be to maximize human well being or quality of life without jeopardizing the life-support environment.

Rapid rate of Population growth is the root cause of environmental degradation and ecological imbalance. Climate change and Global Warming has taking new era for the disturbing directly affecting surviving life of the earth.

- Forests are main component of the biotic components of the natural environment and eco system or ecological balance largely depend on the status of the forest of the region concerned . The major reasons of deforestation are mainly practice of shifting or jhumming cultivations , transformation of forests into pastures, lumbering , overgrazing of forests by animals, etc.
- Release of several gases, ashes, smokes and other aerosols from the chimneys of the factories and vehicles of transportation adversely affects the environment in a number of ways.
- Global Warming and Climate Change has taking new era for the disturbing directly affecting surviving life of the earth.
- Construction of big dams is an another cause responsible for environmental hazards as well as it leads to destructions of wildlife, vegetation, birds etc as well as effects the environment.

Environment is one subject that is actually global as well as local in nature and if environment becomes polluted at local level it will impact on nature at global level in the world. So, it needs a collective effort of the entire nations to save environment from further degradation of environment for future generation of living beings. The food and shelter of the wildlife has been decreasing and the wildlife enters into the living areas of people. The man-animal conflicts are the common feature now days. In these consequences for a protective environment for future generations sustainable development is mainly necessary for living beings.

Ways and Means for Securing Sustainable Development:

- Government must initiate programmes to create public awareness with regards to relation between human rights and environmental protection and also related laws.
- Promoting environmental education and awareness.
- Stop to use materials which can pollute our environment.
- Educational institutions must introduce special lessons on sustainable development.
- Initiative should continue to plant Trees and to keep our environment green and clean.
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3. CONCLUSION

The prevention of environmental damage may have to be done by government which is mainly promoted by public welfare motive. The environmental improvement may have to be treated as a public good. Until and unless environment friendly policies are made sustainable development is incomplete.

4. REFERENCES

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