

# THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CONTEMPORARY PERIOD

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## ABSTRACT

*Environmental sustainability involves making decisions and taking action that are in the interests of protecting the natural world, with particular emphasis on preserving the capability of the environment to support human life. The notion of ecological footprint has played an important role in environmental education and in the development of awareness. An ecosystem approach to management recognizes the interrelated nature of air, land, water and living organisms. Ecosystem management develops effective partnerships that define units of management by using natural boundaries, such as watersheds, instead of geopolitical boundaries and departmental divisions. This approach considers the natural environment, society and the economy, and incorporates the broader concepts of sustainability. The paper highlighted the needs and its condition of environment sustainability in this contemporary period. Government, NGOs are taking vital role in this but need to create the environment awareness among various communities.*

**KEY WORDS:** Environment, Sustainable development, Significance, contemporary

## INTRODUCTION

Environmental issues are also a major global issue. Humans depend on a sustainable and healthy environment, and yet we have damaged the environment in numerous ways. This section introduces other issues including biodiversity, climate change, animal and nature conservation, population, genetically modified food, sustainable development. The idea of sustainable development grew from numerous environmental movements in earlier decades. Summits such as the Earth Summit in Rio, Brazil, 1992, were major international meetings to bring sustainable development to the mainstream. The concept of sustainability means many different things to different people, and a large part of humanity around the world still live without access to basic necessities.

Environmental sustainability involves making decisions and taking action that are in the interests of protecting the natural world, with particular emphasis on preserving the capability of the environment to support human life. It is an important topic at the present time, as people are realizing the full impact that businesses and individuals can have on the environment. Environmental sustainability is about making responsible decisions that will reduce your business' negative impact on the environment. It is not simply about reducing the amount

of waste you produce or using less energy, but is concerned with developing processes that will lead to businesses becoming completely sustainable in the future.

## ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY

Understanding and use of the word "environmental" quite often tends to be associated with some kind of human impact on natural systems. This context distinguishes it from the word "ecological," which can be characterized as a concept of interdependence of elements within a system. Environmental sustainability has become an imperative for our generation. As the impacts of human activity on our planet are increasingly apparent, there is heightened awareness of climate change, ecological footprints, dwindling natural resources, threats to the quality of our air, land and water, and ultimately questions about the ability to sustain our own well-being and quality of life.

These concerns about our environment led to a series of United Nation's sponsored conferences on the human environment starting in 1972. Following the World

Commissions meeting on the Environment and Development, in 1987, the Brundtland report, Our Common Future (1987) was issued. It provided the following widely accepted definition of sustainability "to

ensure development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

### **NEED FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Environmental sustainability is important because it involves natural resources that human being s need for economic or manufactured capital. Materials taken from nature are used for solutions that address human needs. Rivers, Forests, Minerals and such other resources constitute a nation's natural wealth. Every general owes a duty to all succeeding generations to develop and conserve the natural resources of the nation in the best possible way. It is in the interest of mankind. It is in the interest of the nation. Some of the issues that pose major environmental sustainability problems include:

- Destruction of the living environments (habitats) of native species
- Discharge of polluting chemicals and other materials into the environment
- Emission of greenhouses gases into the atmosphere than can cause climate change
- Depletion of low cost oil and other fossil fuels

### **PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT:**

Environmental management provides a framework for a group of people to manage its environment both opportunities and risk s and to document and communicate its environmental plans and programmes. There are five key principles for the management

the local environment. They include:

1. Local Government commitment
2. Planning and Comp liance
3. Enabling systems
4. Performance and Accountability
5. Measurement and Improvement.

### **STRATEGIC GOALS IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT:**

1. Strengthen the capacity of environmental institution at local, national and regional levels, particularly in regard to monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.

2. Improve environmental management by promoting public participation and involving all stakeholders.
3. Increase decentralization of responsibility for environmental management and provide sufficient autonomy to carry out roles.
4. Control and encouraging environmental problems by taking an integrated and holistic approach to environmental challenges.
5. Increase public awareness of environmental issues and promote changed in attitude and behavior towards greater sustainability.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES IN INDIA**

India makes up 2.4 percent of the world's land, while supporting 16 percent of the world's population. India is experiencing rapid and widespread environmental degradation at alarming rates. Tremendous pressure is placed upon the country's land and natural resources to support the massive overpopulation. Mismanagement and overuse of India's once abundant forests has resulted in desertification, contamination, and soil depletion throughout the sub-continent. This has serious repercussions for the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of Indians that live off the land.

### **ROLE GOVERNMENTS AND NGOs IN ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Valuable contributions that non-governmental organizations could and do make in promoting sustainable development through their well-established and diverse experience, expertise and capacity, especially in the area of analysis, sharing of information and knowledge, promotion of dialogue and support of implementation of sustainable development.

Sustainable development is achieved through optimizing gains from several variables, rather than maximizing those from a single one. This requires government departments, by convention spectrally organized, to work together. For this joint planning, transparency and coordination in implementation are required. Governments and Non- Government Organizations are taking an integral part of planning and implementation for sustainable development. Environmental NGOs can play a crucial role in helping to plug gaps by conducting research to facilitate policy development, building institutional capacity, and facilitating independent dialogue with civil society to help people live more sustainable lifestyles.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

We all know what we need to do to protect the environment, whether that is recycling, reducing our power consumption by switching electronic devices off rather than using standby, by walking short journeys instead of taking the bus. Businesses are regulated to prevent pollution and to keep their own carbon emissions low. There are incentives to installing renewable power sources in our homes and businesses. Environmental protection is the third pillar and to many, the primary concern of the future of humanity. Education for environmental sustainability should be a lifelong learning process which recognizes that ecological problems exist within a socio-economic, political and cultural context. Environmental education can play an important role in sensitizing and mobilizing communities and decision-makers towards sustained environmental action

## SIGNIFICANCE OF ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY

The decisive ideas for us are those of sustainable village and sustainable city, which do not mean just a difference in the specific settlement size but also differences in all the areas of consumption and distribution. Thus, these factors influence, for example, the local system of alternative or renewable energy production as well. sustainable development is 'sustainable consumption', defined by a Hungarian expert as follows: 'Sustainable consumption is the term for the use of services and products in a way that corresponds to the basic needs, results in a better quality of life but, at the same time, it reduces the use of natural resources and toxic materials to the minimum, as well as the emission of waste and pollutants during the specific service or whole lifecycle of the specific product in order not to jeopardize the needs of future generations.

### Increased water stress:

Changing the climate patterns will have important implications for water availability.

### Risks to human health:

Climate change will affect human health through variables such as changes in temperature, exposure to natural disasters, access to food and air quality.

### Threats to ecosystems and biodiversity:

Changes induced by climate change are likely to result in species range shifts and changes in tree productivity, adding further stress to forest ecosystems.

Global efforts are key to ensure environmental sustainability. Industrialized countries are historically responsible for the bulk of green house gas emissions. However, meaningful reductions in emissions today can only be achieved through an approach that includes emerging markets.

## CONCLUSION

"Environmental sustainability" is used in this document it combines the goal of protecting and enhancing the environment as described above within the role of a regional municipal level of government. Sustainable development has been presented as an important aspect of environmental management, in which participation is a major part in contemporary period. There is needs and it condition of environment sustainability in this contemporary period. Government, NGOs are taking vital role in this but need to create the environment awareness among various communities.

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