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## A study on Policies for Sustainable Development

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*Received on: 16 May, 2024*

*Revised on: 20 June, 2024*

*Published on: 30 June, 2024*

### **Introduction:**

In recent years, an important question rolls in the one's mind. Whether the level of development in many developing countries is fairly low? Whether they are facing the problem of increasing population? On the other hand in the developed countries main worries is about sustainability of development in terms of wasteful consumption. So, the important question that emerges from this view is what is sustainable development? Is of resent origin.

### **Meaning:**

The term 'Sustainable development' was first used by the 'World Conservation Strategy' presented by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in 1980. According to Brundtland Report, Sustainable development means meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising with the needs of the future generations. Thus sustainable development refers to development which should keep going. It is the creation of sustainable improvements in the quality of life of all people through increase in real income per capita, improvement in education, health and general quality of life and improvements in quality of natural environment resources. In other words, it is a situation in which economic development does not decrease over 'time. It can modify as path of development in which options of future generations are not compromised by the path taken by the present generation. Sustainable development is development that is everlasting. It contributes to the quality of life through improvements in natural environments. In turns, it supply utility to individuals, inputs to the process of economic and service that support human life. However, to quote Pearce and War ford who says, "Sustainable development in a process in which natural resource base is not allowed to deteriorate. It emphasizes the hitherto unappreciated role of environmental quality and environmental inputs in the process of rising real income and quality of life."The world development report of 2000 emphasizes the creation of sustainable improvements in the quality of life for all people as the principal goal of development policy.

### **Objectives:**

1. Creation of sustainable improvements in the quality of life for all people.
2. Increasing economic growth through meeting basic needs i.e raising the standard of living.
3. Providing chance to participate in public life and helping clean environment.
4. Promoting inter generational equity.

5. Aiming at maximizing the net benefits of economic development subject to maintaining the stock of environmental and natural resources and assets.

**Methodology:** On the basis of the above-mentioned objectives, the following methodology will be adopted in this study.

**Data Source:** This study is depended on the secondary data source. The secondary data is collected from the RBI bulletin, RBI websites, articles, published journals etc.

### **Measures for sustainable development:**

Generally it is difficult to measure sustainable development. It involves the valuation of environmental damage and comparing with the cost of preventing it. It faces many problems like measuring the capital stock, natural resource accounting, and the use of an appropriate discount rate between the use and preservation of natural resources. However here we discuss conditions for the attainment of sustainable development.

#### **1. Natural capital stock:**

The stock of natural resources assets all of environmental assets includes "Soil fertility, forests, fisheries, the capacity waste, oil, gas, coal, the ozone layer at biochemical cycles." The requisite condition for sustainable development is that the natural capital stock should be conserve and improve. It means that the natural capital stock at least should remain constant. It can be measure in term of the cost benefit analysis of changes in the natural capital stock.

Some economics are of the view that no importance should be given to natural capital rather to man-made capital and human capital. They feel sustainable development relates to the conservation and improvement comprising naturally of the overall capital stock man-made and human capital. This view is forwarded with efficiency and intergenerational equity. Considering overall capital stock which means that natural and man-made capital can be substituted for each other. This can be done on the basis of social rate of return. But this seldom happens because the proceed for environmental degradation are consumed and not invested. Another problem is valuation of the proceeds from natural capital and their investment on man-made capital. It is not desirable to evaluate the environmental damage on the basis of market prices. In short, use of shadow prices is not an accurate measure of environmental services.

#### **1. Natural Resources or Green Accounting:**

Thus it needs that adjustment should be made in the system of national income accounts in terms of stock of natural assets. The computation of Gross National Product (GNP) would be replaced by measure of national output that includes the economic cost of degrading natural resources. It required producing goods and services directly and indirectly. GNP would include where DN is depreciation of monetary value of natural assets in the year. But the computation of such measure of sustainable income is very difficult. This happens specially in computation of monetary valuation of non marked natural assets and externalities. There are numerous controversial computations and valuations in the green accounting.

#### **2. Measuring Environmental Values:**

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In measuring environmental values, another problem occurs during comparison with the cost of preventing it. It concerns comparing the benefits of environmental protection with the costs incurred on it. Economists have suggested four approaches for economic valuation of environmental damages in World Development Report of 1992. These are: I. Market Prices: In the case of adverse health effects and loss in productivity due to environmental damage, market prices are to evaluate them. The procedure is to evaluate damages due to soil erosion, deforestation and air and water pollution. For this, the ecological relationship between the environmental damages and its effects effect on the production or health are calculated on the basis of prices to get monetary values. Welfare losses relating to health risks due to polluted environment are measured by income foregone due to illness or premature death. In real life such estimates are difficult to compute as they depend on loss of income.

## **II. Costs of replacements:**

People and firms invest in the installation of alternate devices, to avert environmental damages to air, water and land. These investments can provide an estimate of environmental damage. In fact, effects of damages are difficult to measure.

## **III. Surrogate Markets:**

The effect on environmental damage on other markets like property value and wages of workers are also taken in to account. In the case of property valuation is based on risks. Generally, jobs with high environmental risk will have high wages with high risk premium. But this method is not workable as worker are not familiar with the damages occurred due to environment.

## **IV. Surveys:**

Still another method which is used to evaluate environmental damage is the survey. This method is adopted to know the effect of environment developing countries. It helps "To determine the amenity of value of species or landmarks"

## **3. Social Discount Rate:**

Generally, it is believed that environmental degradation leads to costs. It also improves benefits on resources users. But the problem is how to measure cost and benefits of environmental effects on the present and future generation. For this purpose rate of discount is needed for discounting all costs and benefits. However, it also creates a lot of confusion among economists in discounting environmental costs and benefits.

## **Policies for sustainable development:**

Everyone is of the confirmed view that all round development is agriculture, industrial sector, urbanization, as well infrastructure along with population growth led to environmental degradation. In other words, environmental degradation harms human health, reduces economic productivity and leads to the loss of amenities.

## **1. Reducing Poverty:**

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The foremost policing is to reduce poverty. Therefore such projects should be started which provide greater employment opportunities to the poor class. Government should expand health, family planning and education services, that will help reduce population growth. Investments in civic amenities like the supply of drinking water, sanitation facilities, alternate habitats in place of slums, etc. will go long way improving environment of country.

## **2. Removing Subsidies:**

To reduce environmental degradation at no net financial cost to the Government, subsidies for resources use by the private and public sector should be removed. In fact, the subsidies use of electricity, fertilizers, pesticides, diesel, petrol, gas, irrigation water etc. lead to their wasteful use which, in turn, creates environmental problems. Removing or reducing subsidies will bring benefits to the country from all sides.

## **3. Market Based Approaches:**

There is an urgent need for adopting market based approaches for the protection of environment. They point-out to consumers and industries about the cost of using natural resources on environment. The Market Based Instruments (MBIs) approach is the best policy. It is of two types i.e Quality based and price based. They are in the form of environmental taxes and include: pollution charges (emission tax/pollution taxes), marketable permits, depositor fund system, input taxes/ product charges, differential tax rates and user administrative charges.

## **4. Classifying and Expanding Property Rights:**

Lack of property rights over excessive use of resources leads to degradation of environment. This leads to overgrazing of common or public lands, deforestation and over exploitation of minerals; fish etc. clarifying and assigning ownership titles and tenure right to private owners will solve environmental problems. Thus, the ownership right should be properly clear in the records of the Government.

## **5. Economic Incentives:**

Economic incentives regarding price, quantity and technology can also help to greater extent. Incentives are usually given in the form of variable fees to resource users for the quantity of pollutant in air, water and land use. They are given rebates if less waste or pollution is generated than the emission standards laid down by the Government.

## **6. Regulatory Policies:**

Regulatory policies are another weapon to be used in reducing environmental degradation. Regulators have to make decisions regarding price, quantity or the price of pollution or resource use or technologies. The regulating authority decides whether policies should target the environmental problem directly and indirectly. It lays down technical standards and regulation and charge on air, water and land pollutants.

## **7. Trade policy:**

Trade policy in relation to environmental has two implications Concerning domestic policy reforms; and (ii) relating to international trade policy. Domestic trade policy stresses on

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the establishment of less polluting industries away from the cities and the use of environmental friendly process for polluting industries by adopting cleaner technologies.

#### **8. Public Awareness:**

Public awareness and participation are highly effective in improving environmental conditions. Conducting formal and informal education programs relating to environment management and environment awareness programs can go a long way in participation can also render useful assistance in afforestation, conservation of wild life, management of parks, improvements of sanitation and drainage system and food control.

#### **9. Participation in Global Environmental Efforts:**

In modern times, it is felt that participation in global environmental efforts can help minimize damages made by degradation of environment. Therefore, efforts should be made to mistake agreement on environmental protection. They include the Montreal Protocol in phasing out of ozone-depleting chemicals.

#### **Conclusion:**

The major applications of sustainable development activities in agriculture in rural development, the role of geology, and the role agriculture and climate change adaptation for sustainable development of India was described by thoroughly described by researchers. The overall status regarding existing research in this area is that there is ample scope for research in this area for researchers. However this research is limited to a single source of Web of Science and it's a limitation for this study and readers should consider other sources before going into a conclusion.

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