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A environmental and geographical view of sustainable development

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Abstract

This study presents the relationship between geography, environment and sustainable development. The main objective of this research paper is to present sustainable development from a geographical perspective. As we can understand sustainable development provides a basis for the national agricultural development policy in the context of general spatial perspective and specific development. Today, science and technology have been included in sustainable development, with the use of GIS technology, we are becoming aware of the ground reality. The main purpose of this paper is to bring to light a new perspective of development by the contribution of science and technology in the geographical and environmental perspective through various dimensions of sustainable development.

Keywords: Genomic development, ecological health, deteriorating environmental situation, healthy grassland and Sustainable Construction

Introduction

Land is an important resource from a geographical point of view and a geographer are familiar with the landscape approach to land assessment leading to land potential classification and characterization of different land units according to their limits and potential for alternative uses. For fruitful results, we have to focus on efficient use of water and land resources.

Water and land are at the core of sustainable development and is critical for socio-economic development, healthy ecosystems and for human survival itself.

Sustainable development provides a basis for the national agricultural development policy in the context of general spatial perspective and specific development. Today, science and technology have been included in sustainable development, with the use of GIS technology, we are becoming aware of the ground reality. Few case studies have been attempted in identifying spatial gaps in land productivity arising out of mismatch among physical, Economic and institutional factors in selected regions. Impacts of land degradation leading to a chain reaction on rural development brought to light. The main objective of this research paper is to present sustainable development from a geographical perspective.

As a researcher of social sciences, we all know and believe that various factors of nature of interconnected, and same with the case of environment and it cannot be dealt with in isolation. As human beings aspire to make a valuable contribution to the critical problems of humanity thereby furthering and its strengthening sustainability with special reference to the environment in all aspects of life.

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is defined as “Utilization of resource endowment to meet their current needs of the population without affecting the requirement of the future generation.”(Stockholm Conference Declaration).

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Ecological environment and development, Ecosystem, Ecology and Bio-diversity were among the expression that has been related to this concept for almost two decades before this declaration, but there are very loosely defined or interpreted by various disciplines in the field of social science and Natural science and liberally used by planners and administrators. They appear as platitudes in the formulation and refinement of National Policies of Environment, Urban and Industrial policy, forest planning of land and water use, regional development drought and floods, population disparities and poverty. Horizontal and Vertical linkages and holistic spatial view from local to regional and national level hardly find their imprint in the planning process which for all purposes has a bottom-up & top-down approach using a political administrative framework as a proxy to regional development framework. Rapidly growing population and fast-depleting resources have led to environmental degradation in both rural and urban areas, a crisis situation that has always required a radical change in our outlook and development process. The concept of sustainable development has different connotations – social, geographical, political demographic and in other related fields.

An integrated view is the landscape approach of geography e.g. resource region, physical landscape, population/demographic region, landscape of forest, industrial and urban landscape, economic landscape and so on. Interaction and interrelationships among different attributes in their spatial distribution contribute to spatial differentiation.

Le Play's formula Place-Work-Environment-Eco-activities-People and the valley section of Patrie Geddes convey the holistic and dynamic aspect rooted to physical landscape resource and human response over time. It should be noted that environment is defined as "The sum total of all conditions and influences that affect the development and life of organisms" (MC Graw Hill encyclopaedia of environmental science 1975).

This man is a living organism. Plants are part of the species community in a wide variety of forests, and agriculture includes livestock, crops, and hay. Such an approach widens the scope of geography further. For which a deep understanding of the concept of sustainable development in the Indian context becomes an important requirement.

If seen from a historical point of view, Chanakya had said during the reign of Chandragupta Maurya that "The stability of an empire depends on its environment".

It took us hundreds of years to see a strong link (sustainable development) between deteriorating environmental systems and socioeconomic decline from the past. At present, the deteriorating environmental situation, population pressure and pollution are threatening people's lives and living conditions. That's why sustainable development is the need of the hour.

Dimension of Sustainable Development

T.N. Khoshoo 1986 has identified and critically analysed the following dimensions related to sustainable development. All of these have a significant impact on research and teaching in social science.

1. Conservation of Biodiversity
2. Updating environmental law
3. Dimensions of national security
4. Environmental awareness and Education
5. Healthy grassland and cropland

6. Integrated land use planning
7. Control of population in air and water
8. Population stabilisation
9. Development of a non-polluting renewable energy system

Sustainable Development and Geography- Evaluation of land quality and potential classification based on underlying characteristics is an important topic of research to be carried out from micro to meso level-village, watershed with a cluster of villages is in line with the concept of planning extended to sub-district and district. Identifying spatial gaps in water and land use intensity, cropping patterns and productivity in a decentralized planning process is the next step to reach the sector's potential Agriculture grassland, livestock, renewable energy employment generation and diversification, infrastructure and facilities need for integration of space, market centre's, agro-processing and allied activities.

There is an urgent need to assess the social, cultural and economic conditions in order to develop an environmentally sound and socioeconomically viable balancing strategy. Long-term spatial potential and area to be identified and location-specific programs to be prepared. The design of such an integrated survey is required for which the geographer today has only partial knowledge. Some dimensions are qualitative and need to be quantified using the latest technology derived from the use of large-scale maps, secondary data, thematic maps, GIS as a tool for spatial analysis and synthesis now we would like to suggest focusing on the following interlinked and interdependent thematic cluster from a geographical angle-

1. The geographical perspective of Global Health population and sustainable livelihoods.
2. Geonomic development with special reference to security peace good governance and human rights.
3. Global change in innovation society science and technology and sustainable development.

The geographical perspective of Global Health, population and sustainable livelihoods

Problems affecting human health such as contaminated water sources, inadequate nutrition, infectious diseases and viral diseases can transcend national boundaries and have profound economic and political implications on a global scale. In severe cases, such major problems can significantly affect the stability of life in any particular area or force the human race to change its lifestyle or migrate elsewhere in an effort to survive.

It is therefore imperative to improve human life by reducing inequalities between and within nations and by protecting against transnational threats that hinder people's ability to stay healthy, work and care for their families.

Topics to focus on by this cluster are

- a) Population change and migration
- b) Food and nutrition for Human being and social development
- c) Combating Covid/Encephalitis/HIV
- d) Global Health

Geonomic development with special reference to security peace good governance and human rights: International peace and security are generally seen in terms of the

stability of the nation and the absence of inter-state conflict, although recent years have seen most conflicts within the state inter-ethnic conflicts, violent extremism as well. Apart from these, the threat to peace and human security is not only of military nature but human rights can also be violated on a large scale, whereas in times of peace, human rights can be fully ensured.

The topic of focus in this cluster are-

- a) Gender equality and mainstreaming
- b) Human security and conflict resolution
- c) Peacekeeping and building.
- d) To give a new dimension to the dialogue between civilizations, religions and cultures.

The process of socio-economic development is assessed on the basis of employment opportunities, average per capita income, life expectancy, literacy rate, freedom of association and extent of participation in civil society.

Topic of focus in this cluster are-

- a) Leadership management and entrepreneurship.
- b) Good governance
- c) Social and cultural development
- d) Enhancing educational capacity
- e) Growth and economic development

Global change in innovation society science and technology and sustainable development-

We all depend on the natural environment and natural resources for our life and livelihood. Yet changes are being observed on a global scale, due in large part to human activities and interference.

Disasters and complex global factors are increasingly disrupting human activities and creating new risks. The result of global change is not only environmental change but it is also taking place at the socio-economic and cultural level. Our focus should be on the implications for sustainable development between human activities and the natural environment.

Topics to focus this cluster are

- a) Biodiversity and ecological health
- b) Green Economy
- c) Sustainable land, agricultural and natural resource management
- d) Climate change

To compete in today's global economy, nations must have the ability to develop and utilize innovative systems. There should also be facilities for scientific research and advanced technologies for leading development of the nation. Scientific and technological advances today can have positive as well as negative social effects. We should focus on the social and moral implications of advances in science and technology and the wider society.

The topic of focus within this cluster are-

- a) Science, technology and innovation.
- b) Sustainable construction and housing.
- c) Sustainable energy futures.

In conclusion, it would not be wrong to say that there is a special place of sustainable development in environmental and geographical studies, which expands the subject of environmental and geographical studies, as well as develops new dimensions of development.

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