



Facing Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Development: The Gandhian Way

Dr. Alluri Venkata Nagavarma , Head, P.G. Dept. of Economics , P.G .Courses & Research centre, D.N.R.College(Autonomous) Bhimavaram-534 202

M.L.N.Raju, Head, Dept. of Economics, D.N.R.COLLEGE(Autonomous), Bhimavaram-534 202

Ch.Jhansi Lakshmi P.G.Dept. of Social Work, P.G.Courses & Research centre D.N.R.College(Autonomous), Bhimavaram-534 202

Dr. J.S.P.Rao, Head, Dept. of Economics, K.G.R.L.College (Autonomous) Bhimavaram

Abstract: Sustainable development means to “fulfill the present needs without compromising the needs of future generation.” Mahatma Gandhi’s way of living is the best example of sustainable development for world. In Mahatma Gandhi words, “Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s need but not any man’s greed”. The economic development is the most important marker of country’s growth. In order to achieve targets of development, developing and developed countries are irrationally exploiting their natural resources without concerns and understanding of how to exploit and when to exploit. Our lives are widely dependent on availability of the natural resources. If correct balanced is strike between usage of resources and availability of resources than lives of people and integrity of planet could be managed well. However when life is turned into excessive luxury and comfort this balance could break. The concept of the sustainable development is multi-dimensional and multi-modal. “Use and Throw” is not fit for the sustainable development while Reduce-Recycle - Reuse is the best concept of sustainable development as it refers to balancing of needs and usage. Instead of economic development we should focus on environmental development. Before any type of development we should check for ecology and environmental impact, good building might not be good development every time. There should be environmental, social, moral and spiritual balance without all these values development is unperfected proxy for the progress.

Keywords: Moral values; Protectionism; Reduce, Recycle, Reuse; Spiritual values; Social values.

Introduction:

When we think about development we reminded by developed countries. Their living standard and per capita income and gross national income. Does economics alone measure everything? Developed countries have good industrialization, good infrastructure and can be said that everything is well

managed and very good than why are they researching for sustainable development. Is above development not sufficient. Development is process of progress or change in current system for comfort. In literal terms, development is about improving the wellbeing of society/people .Raising living standards and improving education, health, and equality of opportunity are all essential



components of economic development. Ensuring political and civil rights is a broader development goal. Economic growth is an essential means for enabling development; if development is sufficient

Modern world should be satisfied with such type of development. But in itself it is highly imperfect proxy for progress. Modern world and scientist thought that

The world has an unlimited supply of resources for human use.

Nature is for human being and can be used any limit and any way.

We (human being) have no responsibility for Nature. We have extracted or extracting the non renewable elements from nature. Results show that development is not appropriate. Though science and technology has developed too much in every field without taking any future concept. We have destroyed nature and natural elements. See some destruction by human beings.

Air has polluted due to industrialization, more uses of vehicles.

Rivers and underground water also polluted due to ill mannered behavior of human beings.

We have destroyed and damaged the hills due to development of roads and tunnels of railway lines result land slide and earth quake.

Use of iron ore for arms, not for only self defense but to take possession of another country land.

We have cut the forest for wood and for agriculture use. And agriculture land encroached by housing society and for shopping malls. We have developed concrete jungles.

With this attitude towards nature technological advances increase our ability to use natural resources and thus, increase the damage, however, the realization is growing fast that we are in a world have limits, to exploit natural resources and increasing growth of materialistic consumption can only lead toward environmental damage. Therefore development should be seen as delicate balance between human needs and nature to fetch positive development and hence emerged concept of sustainable development. If seen otherwise, development may be negative for people in long run rather than positive. Poor and erroneous concept will fail and produce damages to lives of people leading to consequences like Global warming, Climatic change, Draughts & Floods, Resource depletion, Poor economy, Social and political unrest, Diseases, Dis-harmony, Mental stress, Increased crimes rates, Extinction of plants and animals.

Results have shown that development till date has been inappropriate, inadequate and improperly understood. Though one side science and technology has developed too much but on the other side degradation due to development.

World has fed up with such type of development because such type of development cannot check the natural calamities .Environmentalist compel to think when science and technology cannot give renewable and nonrenewable elements ,why should we destroy the nature with such type of development. Environment and development are inexorably interlinked .Development cannot subsist upon deteriorating environmental resources and resources. Thus the issue of environment versus development has led to the concept of



sustainable development. Meaning of sustainable Development is to meet the logical needs of the present without compromising environment & also without compromising the ability to develop for future generations. So that effects of development are positive, symbiotic and lasting.

Sustainable development should be that pattern to fulfill human needs with taken into consideration of Environment, Moral Values, Social Values, and Spiritual Values. So the sustainable development means to fulfill the present needs without compromising the needs of future generation. According to Mahatma Gandhi "Earth provides enough to satisfy their needs but not any men's greed. According to law of economics Resources are limited and needs are always unlimited but human being should satisfy their needs with limited resources. According to world commission of environment and development (our common future, 1987) that current generations should "meet their needs without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs" has become widely accepted and is strongly supported in this report. Turning the concept of sustainability in to policies raises fundamental questions.

About how to assess the wellbeing of present and future generations. But in my opinion government and public should understand the difference between concept of development and sustainable development. Not only government but public also understand after effects of development. World commission on Environment and development has defined sustainable development as "A process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investment, the orientation

of technological development and institutional change all are in harmony and enhance both current and future potential to meet human needs and aspirations." The view of frontier society and the concept of sustainable society are different.

The Earth has a limited supply of resources.

Recycling and the use of renewable resources will prevent the depletion of resources.

Life's value does not depend on our material wealth.

Everything is not currency. Body is made up of five elements, air, water, soil, fire and sky. So we should care these five elements.

We must understand nature and develop a symbiotic relationship.

We must understand NATURE and we must all create awareness at personal level and also act to solve pressing problems.

We should minimize the waste. Waste should be minimized by recycling as far as possible.

These all should be the duties of sustainable society.

Thus the concept of sustainable development provides a framework for the integration of environmental policies and development strategies having implication at international, national, regional and local levels. Development should not endanger the natural systems that support life on earth. In my opinion Environmental value should be merged with spiritual values. Indian Rishis and Munis never challenge NATURE. They called nature as PRAKRATI MAA; they



were worshiped nature and inculcated it in our living system so that it does not compete with each other for survival. Rishis inculcated nature since birth to death.

Some are the common factors of world for sustainability, as such ecological interactions, the irrigation practices, pesticides, fertilizers and seeds. The interdependence of various components of the earth was recognized to some extent by traditional, social systems. By social system community control over agriculture or traditional rights relating to water. Land and forest. But with the surge of technological progress the responsibilities of decision making are taken away. Interdependence is not a local phenomenon .rapid growth in production has extended it to the international plan with both physical and economic manifestations. There are growing global and regional environmental hazards such as over consumption of fossil fuels leading to global warming. We can say that our inability to promote common interest in sustainable development is often a product of the neglect of economic and social, justice within and amongst the nations. The search for common interests would be less difficult if all developmental and environmental problems are tackled in totality for the betterment of whole mankind. Our growing knowledge of the global interconnection would create a more thoughtful approach to development.

From development to sustainable development, society will require policy changes at global level and basic changes in the way people interact with the environment.

We are aware that high technology has played a major role in environmental deterioration and destruction throughout the world. Although a boon to society, technology has exacted its own price. The challenge before mankind is to redirect its use to make it more energy efficient, less risky, cleaner and more humane.

The new resource consumption strategies in sustainable development are conservation, recycling, and reuse of waste material and use of renewable resources.

The emerging technology is called appropriate technology which relies basically on the use of smaller, repairable machines with production methods that use optimum energy and materials and cause less pollution. It benefits people, communities and nations helping them become more self-reliant by using raw materials that are available locally.

Now the world should think and understand about appropriate technology.

Small and medium sized machines should be used which maximize human output.

Technology should be simple and easy to understand.

Employees do a variety of tasks resulting in increased output.

It is less capital intensive and maintenance is easy.

Local resources are used; products are mainly created for local use leading to self-sufficiency.

Decentralized production and control and small –scale efficiency.

It emphasizes the use of natural biodegradable materials.



Small amount of energy and material input and small amount of pollution.

The use of renewable energy resources is emphasized.

Compatible with local culture and the environment.

It encourages local talents and handicrafts and the products are durable.

Technology:

Appropriate technology is advantageous as it increases employment and requires less investment. It is also efficient on small scale and is compatible with environment because of low energy requirement and minimum pollution. Therefore technology which is based on concepts of sustainable development is especially useful in developing countries that have neither the capital nor the energy resources for high technologies. The process of economic growth to achieve sustainable development and society must be based upon the realities of existing renewable and nonrenewable resources .But most of time it is not so. Because countries measure economy by GDP and GNI (Gross National Income.)

Population: The sustainability of development is intimately linked to the dynamics of population growth. Level of energy consumption and material use are much higher with increased population. In developing countries, stabilization of the population at a level consistence with productive capacity of the ecosystem is essential.

Conservation: For the sustainable development ,earth 's natural resources must be conserved and enhanced .The shift to appropriate technology and increased use of renewable resources

such as solar energy, wind energy, etc, can help us conserve our resources. Recycling and Reuse of the waste such as conversion organic waste into biogas can help us minimize the use of our natural resources. Conservation of nature is also our moral and ethical duty for other living beings and the future generations. Now, there is general awareness of environmental impact in both rich and poor nations. Worldwide, many organizations are involved in the studies of critical issues of energy, population, resources and environmental impact in both rich and poor nations.

International economy, Environment and development to attain a sustainable economic system, it is necessary that international economic exchanges become beneficial for all. This is possible only if two conditions are satisfied .One is that the sustainability of ecosystem must be ensured .Secondly, the basis of economic exchange is equitable.

Developing countries face problem in managing their environments, since their economics depend largely on the export of their natural resources like export of iron by India or timber from Brazil. For currency and better economy they destroy their natural resources. Domestic efforts in proper planning and formulation of policies for utilization of resources control of population and reduction of poverty, are of utmost importance for environmentally sound development. Every country especially the developing countries have to choose their own environment standard.

Protectionism:

Is a policy of a country helping its own industry is another link between trade and sustainable development. Protectionism in industrial countries



suppresses export growth of the developing countries and prevents diversification from traditional exports such as of cotton fabrics and tea.

Exchange and transfer of technologies from one country to the other is another link in the international trade. Sustainable development requires an organized effort at global level to develop and extend new technologies worldwide, for various purposes such as agricultural production, renewable energy systems and pollution control. The "United Nations Organization has already passed a resolution called the "NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER" to work in this direction.

New Global Economic System:

Some economist suggests that anew economic system at global level is necessary for long term survival of the human race. The present economic system is characterized by maximum flow of money, maximum profit, maximum production, maximum consumption, and maximum resources use .This frontier economy as it is called now, should be replaced by space ship economy. A space ship economy or sustainable economy promotes Reduce, Reuse & Recycle. Conservation, of renewable resources, product durability and a clean and healthy environment. People live within the limits imposed by earth .Future patterns of developments should be made much less material-intensive. Broken goods should repair, rather than replaced. Sustainable economy can be achieved and succeed only with new policies, new political directions, education and awareness. The most fundamental changes would have to be an ethical shift promoted by parents, teachers, and government agencies. Government can

help by framing new laws that are conducive to the attainment of sustainable society with sustainable economy can come from combination of personal and governmental efforts.

It should be inborn responsibility of every individual or institution to play a role for social work

Mahatma Gandhi and is best example of spiritual and sustainable development.

Conclusion:

The meaning of development pertains to meaningful and resourceful growth of society which could fetch positive outcomes in long term for welfare of not only human society but also entire planet. Therefore maintaining equilibrium between development of environment, flora, and fauna. The concept of development does not lies only within frame work of increase in comfort levels of humans but depends on sustainability.

The Co-operation and Reciprocity are essential properties for the sustainability and existence and without which entire creation would reduce to nothingness. Hence, a principle of interconnectedness reciprocity lies between Nature & Humankind. There should be fine balance as everything is interconnected. We are trustees of mother earth (our planet). It is the responsibility of the humankind to care and maintain our planet while obtaining required resources in response. Planet has vast recourse and biological diversity. So trustees must learn to make mindful and ethical use of the earth's natural resources (Renewable and Non -renewable). We must remember that the moderation and humility worth of the nature cannot be expressed in simple economic term. Sustainable



development requires a deep understanding of the natural world and its role in society in collective development. Material world cannot establish the happiness of mankind, happiness can only be achieved when material and spiritual worlds are linked and co-ordinate.

References and Notes:

- Dr. Priya Ranjan Trivedi" Encyclopedia of "ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT." Global Environmental Issues, Institute of Postgraduate Environmental Education and Research, New Delhi. — 1999 volume 2 first edition.
- Rao. T.R (Editor) Dr.K.C.Agrawal, Prof.M.Habibullah, October, 1996(Reprint) Indira Gandhi National Open University.
- Vandana Shiva, *Staying Alive: Women, Ecology and Survival in India*, New Delhi: Kali for Women, 1988.
- T N Khoshoo, *Mahatma Gandhi: An Apostle of Applied Human Ecology*, New Delhi: TERI, 1995.
- Ramachandra Guha, "Mahatma Gandhi and Environmental Movement in India" in Arne Kalland and Gerard Persoon (ed), *Environmental Movements in Asia*, London: Nordic Institute of Asian Studies & Routledge, 1998.
- R P Mishra, "Facing Environmental Challenges; The Gandhian Way", *Anasakti Darshan*, 5, 2 (July-December 2009).
- Bhikhu Parekh, *Gandhi's Political Philosophy; A Critical Examination*, London: Macmillan, 1989.
- Ronald J. Terchek, "Conflict and non violence" in Judith M Brown, Anthony Parel (ed.) *A Cambridge Companion to Gandhi*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011.
- Daniel M Mayton II, *Non Violence and Peace Psychology: Interpersonal, Intrapersonal, Societal and World Peace*, New York: Springer and Science & Business Media LLC, 2009.
- Glyn Richards, *The Philosophy of Gandhi: A Study of His Basic Ideas*, UK: Curzon, 1991.
- Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi (CWMG), New Delhi: The Publication Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, and Ahmedabad: The Navajivan Trust, 1965, Vol. XVI.
- H J N Horsburgh, "The Distinctiveness of Satyagraha", *Philosophy East and West*, 19, 2, April 1969.
- Thomas Weber, "Gandhian Philosophy & Conflict Resolution: Theory and Practical Approaches to Negotiation", *Journal of Peace Research*, 38, 4; July 2001.
- Thomas Weber, *Gandhi as Disciple and Mentor*, New York: Cambridge University Press: 2004.
- Arne Naess, "Self Realization: An Ecological Approach to Being in the World" in John Seed, Joanna Macy et.al (ed), *Thinking Like a Mountain: Towards a Council of All Beings*, Philadelphia: Society Publishers.
- The Selected Works of Arne Naess (SWAN), Edited by Allen Drengrson in cooperation with the author,