

# Global and Regional issues against Sustainable development: its implications and challenges

Vipul Singh

D.Phil. Research Scholar, Department of Defence and Strategic Studies,  
University of Allahabad  
Email– vipulsinghme@gmail.com

**Abstract:** Sustainable development is a multi-dimensional concept which emerged as a broad framework to give direction to society on social and economic roadmap. Today the utilization of resources has drifted towards nation's sustainability to check up their need in order to development of their own. Resources have their problems of pattern of distribution and ownership. So the agenda of sustainable development don't have charged only on the frame of politics and the regulations. Today nations in world faces a complex set of economic ties with each other so any step towards the sustainable growth makes the problem still unresolved and unchallenged. The cause of north- south divide on sustainable development has mere effects on development. The areas like biodiversity and climate change have serious effects and steps are taken to bridge the gap. The corrective steps cannot be taken by group of nations or any single nation without consent of other nation as it become the hindrance to sustainable development. Regional issues like floods, soil erosion, desertification, rise in sea level and deforestation have assumed significance due to misuse of the natural resources. The issues, when tackled on regional basis, would contribute towards achieving sustainable development. It can be best realized by the concept of 'our common future'.

**Key Words:** Degradation, Desertification, Commitment, Diversity, Resources

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

The concept of Sustainable Development can be understood to be best by the concept of ' A common future ' and ' Global sharing'. The challenge before us that without compromising with our targets of growth and development we have to achieve conservation and resource management. It lays emphasis on the link between environment and economic development.

To make the entire process feasible and operational, it is important to established a common focus that can integrate and outlook the efforts of various participants worldwide, realising the diversity in cases of Geography, society, economics, level of Science and Technology, capabilities, education level.

## 2. REGIONAL ISSUES:

Each and every country has its indispensable environmental challenges with respective of geographical, climatic and ecological features. Therefore, each Nation formulate its own approach and objectives, as per their priorities, cultural values and political structures. environmental degradation. Soil erosion, water contamination, scarcity of drinking water have directly exposed the need and greed of human beings. The severity of air pollution have taken a shape of disaster in a countries like India. Delhi have engulfed with the fog and dust layers which hampers the living criteria of National Capital Region (NCR). The most of the environmental degrading factors are relevant at local levels. Therefore to monitor the environmental condition it is unit strategy of local and the sub local efforts which can roll down the idealistic attitude in the society. Some of the important issues are discussed in brief.

## 3. DESERTIFICATION AND DRAUGHTS:

Due to climatic degradation and human behaviour the land degradation took place as arid, semi arid and sub humid dry areas. It's a very gradual process which can have a factor of soil productivity loss and vegetative cover abolition. This causes have ultimately lead towards the floods and draughts as a major consequences. Desertification made the area suitable for flood, quantity of salination increases, quality of water draining and silting in the rivers etc. The goal of sustainable development therefore cannot be generalized. The issues must be tackled on the regional basis first and the regional efforts make the increasing number of participants rolled up into Global one.

The misuse of land is directly linked with poverty, which forces people to exploit it more and more for their food, housing and source of income. Desertification became the world wide disaster which affects about 4 billion hectares of land and around 250 million of people directly or indirectly. The one billion of population of the world are directly linked themselves with land and their livelihood are depend on it. Africa the continent which severely affected from the desertification problem is not only one today. The problem is not confined into a single region or continent.

One-fourth of Latin America and Caribbean is desert, and one-fifth of Spain are on the risk of the same. Though it is a global issue but should be tackled on a regional basis first. NGOs and environmental organizations worked in collaboration to tackle this situation.

On the global plane, desertification was first discussed at the UN desertification held at Nairobi, Kenya in 1977. But due to unmanaged administrative and financial difficulties the problem was crippled. The UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) recommended the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which was adopted in Paris in 1977. It was the first international and legal framework to address desertification issues.

#### **4. FLOODS AND EROSION OF SOIL:**

40% of the people of the world live in watershed areas and 10% on the mountains and its highland. Therefore, half of the world population are dependent on mountainous resources, directly or indirectly. For drinking, home use, hydro power, industry, transportation, irrigation etc. water is linked with our life as part and parcel of our life.

The decreasing quantity of soil decreases the water holding capacity and generates flash floods with water intensity and soil erosion erupts. With the ruining of crops and lives, floods also wash away more and more soil due to unmanaged water management. The intensity of water flowing wastes water and fertile land also spreads deserts. This degradation of mountainous ecosystems threatens the global environment including floods, famine, landslides etc. People who are really poor are living in those mountainous areas but they are very rich in terms of environmental understanding.

It's time now that these experiences must be inter-related with scientific knowledge. To save the cultural diversity and pave the way towards sustainable development it is a time need. The conflict which spreads in mountainous regions as conventional warfare, terrorism, guerrilla warfare, insurgency and repression of minority people has to be tackled more vigorously. Information technology into hydrological characteristics must be carried out in a sensible way.

#### **5. RISE IN SEA LEVEL:**

From the last glacial period it has been seen that a rise in sea level of around 2 - 5 metres has been carried out but in the last hundred years it has marked about 10-25 cm. It will cross around 50 cm by the year 2100. The greenhouse gas effect induced this warning of a global alert. Coastal cities, wetlands, beaches etc. are first to be affected. The ice sheet of Greenland played a crucial role in coming future that how it reacts.

Though the rise in sea level is not very much seen as an alarming activity but it is a better time that we have known about its pros and cons and their terrible effects. The havoc of dependency on fossil fuels, inertia of ocean, increasing level of greenhouse gas have to be addressed correctly. Also we don't know the future earth mechanism and up to how this rise goes to.

#### **6. DEFORESTATION:**

World forestry has declined since time ago, but the alarming condition accelerated in the last 50 years of the 20th century. 1960 was the benchmark year when major tropical forestry has been cleared out. In the year gap from 1980 - 1995 there were around 200 million hectares of forest cleared and in contrast developed countries have increased more 0.1% of forest cover in temperate areas in the same decade.

(1) Direct Causes: It includes commercial agriculture, cattle ranching, livestock farming, mining, petroleum exploration etc. They are easily identified and connected with the agents of deforestation.

(2) Indirect Causes: Undeveloped policies, land access, market pressure etc. are the causes of indirect causes. Demand for forest products are always customised into the deforested land. Without any demand no economic resources are paved which generates cutting down the trees. Also undervaluation of natural forest resources, exploitation and plantation development are the main threats for deforestation.

(3) Social Factors: Governments are always neglecting the issues of deforestation. And their vision regarding this has been not healthy. The economic refueling, national security, employment, food production and other factors are always being on the top but the lack of such awareness that the survival of us are closely interlinked with such issues which are always become neglected.

The persons whose economic and social life is dependent and who are benefited by forest resources are full partners of identifying and implementing solutions. In some cases deforestation can be beneficial as to convert the one type of land to better productive land. The tragedy is that agro farming and use of barren lands are not handled with care. The fertility of temperate latitudes are not compared with tropical forest soils. Tropical soils do not sustain annual cropping and thus generate irreversible degradation.

The most serious impact of deforestation is loss of biodiversity. The extinction of millions of hectares of tropical forestry also paved the way towards the eradication of thousands of species and varieties of animals and plants. Also, deforestation is the important element which contributed its share to increase the Global Warming.

To combat with deforestation a complete understanding of agent of deforestation and their underlying causes. The circumstances vary and it's vary from country to country and region to region. The economic and social development policy and their programme, protection and management of remaining forests are some of the tools by which deforestation can be under control. On the cost of environmental degradation no humankind should be in favourable position. To live in harmony with our forestry it is needed and important before they are lost forever.

## **7. GLOBAL ISSUES:**

### **North-South Divide**

The consumption of 80% of world energy has taken place by just 20% of the population which resides in Northern hemisphere of the globe. The north consists of developed, rich and industrialised country. On the other hand Southern hemisphere consists of nations which are struggling of for their basic needs as food, clothing and shelter and they are termed as 'developing countries'. The people of the southern hemisphere are depend on available environmental condition which they immediately found in order to meet their basic and daily requirements.

A heavy debt of about dollar 1 trillion on countries of south increasing day by day. To meet the debt the manufacturing technologies used by such countries adversely affect the environment. Such problems is easy to formulate but difficult to implement. There is a strong and urgent need to generate and improve the living standard by such countries.

The 'Lion share' of consumption of fuel and non-renewable energy sources by 'North countries' must be have enormous responsibility and need to show commitment for making reforms. To fulfil the requirements of sustainable development a painful sacrifice in terms of competitiveness, conversion and change of behaviour have to taken place. North south divide is thus a problem, which has two fold approaches with that. One side must be on global sharing approach whereas other side must compromise with the Science and Technology based approach. Global sharing methods encourages responsibilities, sharing of strategies, experiences and information related to environment. On the other hand answer which Science and Technology can bring to environmental problem, one judged with references to the change they bring in society.

## **8. BIODIVERSITY:**

It relates with all biological life on the planet and there is an urgent need for the sustainable use of biological diversity in a fair and share method. Biological resources constitute capital asset with promise for yielding sustainable development. Habitat destruction, pollution, overharvesting now pose a threat on this. Despite of being appropriate mechanism the loss of biodiversity continue since last 20 years.

Action to preserve and maintenance of species and ecosystem with a view promote sustainable development. It must be compulsory for all to ratify the biological diversity of the United Nation. Fair and equitable sharing from the utilization of genetic resources. Conservation of biological diversity through National Development Plan. Promote cooperation between the countries of North and South to develop and strengthen the capacity building, human resources and institution building.

The initiative of problem of biodiversity can be formulated and implemented on regional basis first. Each region has its own local system and practices to deal with the biological resources, which are in practicable from several decades. A national Action Plan over biodiversity should be in action with efforts to following sustainable goals at its core:

To bridge the gap there must be a unity in every aspect of diversity is what in between the north south have. The national government of each and every nation must have to considered their duties internationally, as ecological imbalances does not contain within any political boundary.

## **9. CLIMATE CHANGE:**

International community faced a serious challenge in the path of sustainable development in the form of climate change. For economic and social identity it is very much important to notice this challenge. The increasing temperature of 0.3 degree celcius per decade is the alarming situation for every individual. The number of winter days is shorten down and the fresh water availability is going far away from every individual. The rise of 25% of carbon dioxide in last 150 years is the one of prime consequences of increase in temperature. As a Global problem, it must be address globally with shared knowledge and engagements of people at every level. Partnership between North and south with good understanding and implications to examination of approaches to clean development mechanism meet developing nations in sustainable development objectives.

Increasing draught and desertification, coral mortality, crop failures, natural disaster, infectious diseases, ecosystem degradation, food Supply scarcity, sea level rise, displacement of vegetative regime, coastal flooding and food Supply scarcity are some of the catastrophic negative consequences of global warming.

To avert and solving mechanism it is time need that to reduce the carbon monoxide emission, adopt kyoto protocol mechanism of clean development and reduce greenhouse effect.

Global action on climate change was defined in UN Framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC) in 1992, and later into kyoto protocol. Most environmental issues require a long time management. This is very much attributed to climate change. The main test is not with that what we achieve up to now, but concerns prevail with that what should we achieved in years to come. The coming time is a test for political and climatic firm decision which should be tackled in a more sensible and sustained way.

#### **10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION:**

The main purpose of Sustainable development is to established better management practices for both the human and natural resources through innovation in technology, political, social, and cultural paradigm. In September 2015 world leaders adopted the agenda of 2030 for the sustainable development goals for environmentally sustainable future. Although it is false to say that no efforts up to now considered from regional and global platform. EU, NAFTA and ASEAN are prominent component in environment protection. On the other hand globally it is the most important and prominent issue as political leaders from various international conferences reiterated their concern over environment protection. It is coherent that in a single time frame it is most awaited program which support the largest number of people to the longest possible time frame. The Framework Convention on Climate Change, The Convention on Biological Diversity, The Rio Declaration, The Statement on Forest Principles and Agenda 21 are some of the event which led the way to closed the world into a single roof. The Sustainable development goals are the process of operationalizing and achieving the prominent structure of globe into one shape. It must be to be address with program design, budgeting, service, evaluation and financing. If we have to avert our uncertain future it is our primary objective that we interact with our environment. Our Sustainable objective is to leaving no one behind. Thus the dream must be fulfilled a day when 'Our' and 'Common' words perished their goals.

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