

Subject: **Environmental Studies**

Study materials for all Honours (B.A, B.Sc and B. Com) 2nd Semester students

Unit-I: Scope and importance; Concept of Sustainability and Sustainable development.

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Sustainable development:

“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”
By- Brundtland Commission in 1987.

In other hand Sustainable developments are:

- i. Environmental care ‘married’ to development.
- ii. Improving the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems.
- iii. Development based on the principle of inter-generational {i.e. bequeathing the same or improved resource endowment to the future that has been inherited), inter-species and inter-group equity.
- iv. Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- v. An environmental ‘handrail’ to guide development.
- vi. A change in consumption patterns towards more benign products, and a shift in investment patterns towards augmenting environmental capital.
- vii. A process that seeks to make manifest a higher standard of living (however interpreted) for human beings that recognizes this cannot be achieved at the expense of environmental integrity.

Sustainable Development হলো মানব উন্নয়নের লক্ষ্যসমূহ অর্জনের সংগঠক নীতি একইসঙ্গে প্রাকৃতিক ব্যবস্থাসমূহের প্রাকৃতিক সম্পদসমূহ এবং বাস্তুসংস্থান সেবাসমূহ প্রদানের ক্ষমতা বজায় রাখা যার উপর অর্থনীতি এবং সমাজ নির্ভরশীল।

যে উন্নয়ন ভবিষ্যৎ প্রজন্মসমূহের তাদের নিজেদের প্রয়োজনসমূহ মেটানোর ক্ষমতার সাথে আপস না করে বর্তমানের প্রয়োজনসমূহ মেটায় তাকে **Sustainable Development** বলা হয়।

Sustainability Development:

Sustainability focuses on meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The concept of sustainability is composed of three pillars: economic, environmental, and social—also known informally as profits, planet, and people.

- Sustainability focuses on meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.
- Investors can be wary of companies that commit to sustainability. Although the optics can be beneficial to share price, investors worry about companies being transparent with their earnings results.
- Big brands often make pledges to sustainability, but it often takes a long time to achieve sustainability goals.

Sustainability বলতে দীর্ঘ মেয়াদের জন্য কোনও মানব সম্প্রদায়, তার বিভিন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠান ও নীতিনিতি টিকে থাকার ক্ষমতাকে বোঝায়। অর্থাৎ এমনভাবে মানবজাতির বর্তমান চাহিদা মেটানোকে বোঝায় যাতে ভবিষ্যৎ প্রজন্মের মানুষদের চাহিদা মেটানোর ক্ষমতা ব্যাহত না হয়।

Importance of Sustainable development:

The Importance of sustainable development is to balance our economic, environmental and social needs, allowing prosperity for now and future generations. Sustainable development consists of a long-term, integrated approach to developing and achieving a healthy community by jointly addressing economic, environmental, and social issues, whilst avoiding the over consumption of key natural resources.

Sustainable development encourages us to conserve and enhance our resource base, by gradually changing the ways in which we develop and use technologies. Countries must be allowed to meet their basic needs of employment, food, energy, water and sanitation.

If this is to be done in a sustainable manner, then there is a definite need for a sustainable level of population. Economic growth should be supported and developing nations should be allowed a growth of equal quality to the developed nations.

There are four objectives of sustainable development:

These include social progress and equality, environmental protection, conservation of natural resources and stable economic growth. Everybody has the right to a healthy, clean and safe environment.

This can be achieved by reducing pollution, poverty, poor housing and unemployment. No one, in this age, or in the future should be treated unfairly. Global environmental threats, such as climate change and poor air quality must be reduced to protect human and environmental health. The use of non-renewable resources such as fossil fuels should not be stopped overnight, but they must be used efficiently and the development of alternatives should be encouraged to help phase them out.

Everybody has the right to a good standard of living, with better job opportunities. Economic prosperity is required if our country is to prosper and our businesses must therefore offer a high standard of products that consumers throughout the world want, at the prices they are prepared to pay. For this, we need a workforce equipped with suitable skills and education within a framework to support them.

Importance of Sustainability development:

The Three Pillars of Sustainability

In 2005, the World Summit on Social Development identified three core areas that contribute to the philosophy and social science of sustainable development. These “pillars” in many national standards and certification schemes, form the backbone of tackling the core areas that the world now faces. The Brundtland Commission described it as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (6). We must consider the future then, in making our decisions about the present.

Economic Development

This is the issue that proves the most problematic as most people disagree on political ideology what is and is not economically sound, and how it will affect businesses and by extension, jobs and employability (2, p4). It is also about providing incentives for businesses and other organisations to adhere to sustainability guidelines beyond their normal legislative requirements. Also, to encourage and foster incentives for the average person to do their bit where and when they can; one person can rarely achieve much, but taken as a group, effects in some areas are cumulative. The supply and demand market is consumerist in nature and modern life requires a lot of resources every single day (6); for the sake of the environment, getting what we consume under control is the paramount issue. Economic development is about giving people what they want without compromising quality of life, especially in the developing world, and reducing the financial burden and “red tape” of doing the right thing.

Social Development

There are many facets to this pillar. Most importantly is awareness of and legislation protection of the health of people from pollution and other harmful activities of business and other organisations (6). In North America, Europe and the rest of the developed world, there are strong checks and programmes of legislation in place to ensure that people's health and wellness is strongly protected. It is also about maintaining access to basic resources without compromising the quality of life. The biggest hot topic for many people right now is sustainable housing and how we can better build the homes we live in from sustainable material. The final element is education - encouraging people

to participate in environmental sustainability and teaching them about the effects of environmental protection as well as warning of the dangers if we cannot achieve our goals (7, p7-12).

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. It defines how we should study and protect ecosystems, air quality, integrity and sustainability of our resources and focusing on the elements that place stress on the environment (6). It also concerns how technology will drive our greener future; the EPA recognized that developing technology and biotechnology is key to this sustainability, and protecting the environment of the future from potential damage that technological advances could potentially bring (1).

The sustainable development professional network thinks, acts and works globally. In 2012, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development met to discuss and develop a set of goals to work towards; they grew out of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) that claimed success in reducing global poverty while acknowledging there was still much more to do. The SDG eventually came up with a list of 17 items (8) which included amongst other things:

- The end of poverty and hunger
- Better standards of education and healthcare - particularly as it pertains to water quality and better sanitation
- To achieve gender equality
- Sustainable economic growth while promoting jobs and stronger economies
- All of the above and more while tackling the effects of climate change, pollution and other environmental factors that can harm and do harm people's health, livelihoods and lives.
- Sustainability to include health of the land, air and sea

Finally, it acknowledged the concept of nature having certain rights - that people have stewardship of the world and the importance of putting people at the forefront of solving the above global issues (9) through management of the environment and of consumption (for example, reducing packaging and discouraging food waste as well as promoting the use of recyclable materials).

Sources:

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