



## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND ITS IMPORTANCE

**Arjun Wagh**

Assistant Professor Dept of Geography P. D. V. P. Mahavidyalaya, Tasgaon. Dist. -Sangli (MS)

### ABSTRACT

Sustainability is a broad discipline, giving students and graduates insights into most aspects of the human world from business to environment and the social sciences. The core skills with which a graduate leaves college or university are highly sought after, especially in a modern world looking to drastically reduce carbon emissions and discover and develop the technologies of the future. Sustainability draws on politics, economics and, philosophy and other social sciences as well as the hard sciences. Sustainability skills and environmental awareness is a priority in many corporate jobs at graduate level and over as businesses seek to adhere to new legislation.

**Keywords-** Sustainability, technology, environment, awareness

### Introduction

Sustainability graduates will go into many fields but most commonly civic planning, environmental consultancy, agriculture, not for profit, corporate strategies, health assessment and planning, and even into law and decision making. Entry-level jobs are growing and over the coming years, bachelor's graduates can expect more and more options and opportunities.

Sustainability is one the newest degree subjects that attempts to bridge social science with civic engineering and environmental science with the technology of the future. When we hear the word "sustainability" we tend to think of renewable fuel sources, reducing carbon emissions, protecting environments and a way of keeping the delicate ecosystems of our planet in balance. In short, sustainability looks to protect our natural environment, human and ecological health, while driving innovation and not compromising our way of life. Because of this growing requirement, a master's will not necessarily be required for most jobs as bachelor's programs prepare people for a career in sustainability. Read more about the various sustainability degrees and education.

### Objectives

1. To know the concept Environmental Sustainability
2. To understand the importance of Environmental Sustainability

### Methodology

The present research paper is informative the required information collected through various secondary sources

### What is Sustainability?

The definition of "sustainability" is the study of how natural systems function, remain diverse and produce everything it needs for the ecology to remain in balance. It also acknowledges that human civilization takes resources to sustain our modern way of life. There are countless examples throughout human history where a civilization has damaged its own environment and seriously affected its own survival chances. Sustainability takes into account how we might live in harmony with the natural world around us, protecting it from damage and destruction.

We now live in a modern, consumerist and largely urban existence throughout the developed world and we consume a lot of natural resources every day. In our urban centres, we consume more power than those who live in rural settings and urban centres use a lot more power than average, keeping our streets and civic buildings lit, to power our appliances, our heating and other public and household power requirements. That's not to say that sustainable living should only focus on people who live in urban centres though, there are improvements to be made everywhere - it is estimated that we use about 40% more resources every year than we can put back and that needs to change. Sustainability and sustainable development focuses on balancing that fine line between

competing needs - our need to move forward technologically and economically, and the needs to protect the environments in which we and others live. Sustainability is not just about the environment, it's also about our health as a society in ensuring that no people or areas of life suffer as a result of environmental legislation, and it's also about examining the longer term effects of the actions humanity takes and asking questions about how it may be improved.

### **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”. 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. It is also about providing incentives for businesses and other organizations 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; 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 organizations. 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.

### **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. 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.

### **The Primary Goals of Sustainability**

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 which included amongst other things:

1. The end of poverty and hunger
2. Better standards of education and healthcare - particularly as it pertains to water quality and better sanitation

3. To achieve gender equality
4. Sustainable economic growth while promoting jobs and stronger economies
5. All of the above and more while tackling the effects of climatic change, pollution and other environmental factors that can harm and do harm people's health, livelihoods and lives.
6. Sustainability to include health of the land, air and sea

Eventually, it acknowledged the concept of nature having certain rights - which people have stewardship of the world and the importance of putting people at the forefront of solving the above global issues through management of the environment and of consumption.

#### **History of Sustainability**

Human being has, since the Neolithic Agricultural Revolution and maybe even before then, been a consumer rather than a replenishment of environmental resources. From hunter-gatherer societies that moved into an area to use up its resources in a season before setting up camp or moving on, only to return the following year to do the same, the development of a surplus economy saw permanent settlements. Slash and burn farming replaced natural wilderness often with uniform crop plantation and camps gave way to settlements, then eventually villages, towns and cities which would put pressure on the environment.

Sometimes, the environmental pressures forced people into making these changes in the first place and often eventually they had to move on to somewhere new where the environmental could better sustain them and their practices, or make further changes to their existing environment. There was no real concept of sustainable living, even if the people of the distant past understood that soil had a maximum fertility that could be exhausted and replenished with livestock.

1. Environmental sustainability is important because humans tend to be bad at systems thinking. Environmental sustainability professionals are employed to help balance, or improve the human role in environmental systems.
2. We have a number of psychological, sociological, and instinctual pressures that

make short-term thinking more valuable than long-term thinking. Individually and holistically, we fail to understand the full consequences of the thousands of choices we make, or are made for us, on a daily basis. This fact is compounded by our global prominence as a species relatively high energy needs, and comparatively absurd lifestyles when you look at the rest of Kingdom Animalia.

3. For the time being, we exist in a system. There is a part of this system we call the [Commons](#) which includes everything from the air we breathe to the water we drink to the cultures we participate in. Within a lot of economic systems, the Commons are treated as an externality. At our current population, lifestyle, and level of technology our environmental systems are being severely undermined. Environmental sustainability focuses on two aspects of this environmental damage: mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation reduces the harm to natural systems and adaptation acknowledges the current, and projected, harm and implements strategies for better outcomes.
4. Successful environmental sustainability should be measurable across the triple bottom line of people, planet, and profit. Good environmental sustainability professionals should be adept at systems thinking and have a good grasp on psychology and sociology.

#### **References**

- a. K. Kohli, M. Menon, S. Das, D. Badami (2009), 'Calling the Bluff: Revealing the State of Monitoring and Compliance of Environmental Clearance Conditions', Delhi/Pune: Kalpavriksh.
- b. A. Kothari (2006), 'Watchdog needed to monitor government agencies', Down to Earth, Vol. 15 No. 14.
- c. J. Roy, B. Chatterjee (2009), 'Sustainable development in India'
2. 4. L. Saldanha, A. Naik, A. Joshi, S. Sastry (2007), 'Green Tapism: A Review of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2006'.

