



Social Dimensions Of Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Now a days, the social dimensions are the initial components of sustainable development. So, the sustainable development goals give acceptance as an elemental necessity to integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions which are interdepending to achieve any goal of sustainable development goals. The eight goals of sustainable development goals are directly related to social problems because it is well known to all that social sustainability is the major driving force behind the sustainable development of any country. This paper discusses about social sustainability, three major objectives and importance of sustainable development, social dimensions in sustainable development and implementing challenges of social dimensions.

Key words: Social Dimensions, SDGs, Importance, Challenges, Progress.

Introduction

Sustainable development is very crucial and complex concept in the field of development. At the beginning, sustainable development concern about environmental dimensions to maintain balance between man and nature, decrease ecological crisis for heavy industrial exploitation and to preserve the quality of environment. And later, it has been concerned about social and economic dimensions. At the present, the concept of sustainable development is very wide, it also comprises the quality of life from both perspectives social and economic dimensions. The global goals are balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development. Sustainable development goals are first adopted in 2015 by the member states of United Nations. It was originally brought forward by the Brundtland report in 1987. It makes aware people to use resources in the right way without compromising future generation's needs. Now a days sustainability is the foundation for global framework for international cooperation. The sustainable development goals, which replaced for the transformation of the world into the Millennium Development Goals to promote the

inclusive development of all people and communities. The statement 'no one will be left behind' aims to focus on the marginalized and vulnerable populations with 17 SDGs and 169 targets (Jayasooria, 2016).

Social sustainability

The social sustainability concepts are built on the concepts of society, community and inclusiveness. Social sustainability completely depends on equity and democratic value. Social sustainability definitions by UNEP and UNWTO entails supporting human rights, equal opportunities, equal distributions of benefits and the poverty alleviation as well as improving the livelihood of local communities, maintaining and strengthening the community's life support system, preserving traditional cultures and preventing exploitation.

Sustainable development

Sustainable development ensures that we meet today's needs without sacrificing the ability of future generations to thrive, striking a balance between immediate well-being and long-term prosperity. The main intention of sustainable development is to use natural resources without harming the balance of nature. It recognises the interdependency among economic growth, social well-being and environmental protection. It is very necessary to balance those interconnected dimensions to achieve long term well-being.

■ **Objectives of sustainable development**

The three main objectives of sustainable development are discussed below:

- **Environmental sustainability:** It is the most important dimension of sustainable development to protect global ecosystem and to conserve natural resources. For environmental sustainability, it is very necessary to adopt eco-friendly activities to improve and balance our ecosystem. Protecting the environment by reducing pollution and waste.
- **Social sustainability:** Social sustainability is another important pillar of sustainable development. This objective focuses on creating strong, healthy, vibrant global communities and social resilient infrastructure. It also ensures social sustainability through gender equality, fair education and sustainable management of basic needs of human being.
- **Economic sustainability:** Economic sustainability is the base of long-term economic growth in right direction. Promote inclusive continuous and sustainable economic growth. It also promotes innovation in industrialisation through productive employment.

■ **Importances sustainable development**

Some following importances of sustainable development are given below:

Sustainable biodiversity

Sustainable development provides healthy habitats to all living animals. It mostly focuses on preserving the ecosystem in a healthy manner and then it automatically helps to protect and maintain biodiversity.

Financial stability

Sustainable development secures the steady growth in economic condition of any country if the process is followed properly. Financial condition can be strengthened by using renewable energy resources instead of fossil fuels which is limited amount on our earth.

Organised planning for vital human needs

Each living animals have some basic needs to survive on planet, so it is very necessary to promote the idea of saving for upcoming generation and ensure to meet their own needs. Where, sustainable development boost to follow organised infrastructure and ensure vital human needs over a long period of time.

Encourage to cooperate

Through sustainable development people being motivated to bring sustainability in their development and solve their big problem in a cooperative way. It promotes to work together among countries and ready to help each other to overcome any challenges.

Provide healthier lives

Healthier live is not possible without healthy environment. Where sustainable development initially focuses on environment as a base any other development. It reduces pollution and protect natural resources for better environment.

To tackled climate change

Climate change is the vital environmental issue across the world. Sustainable development delimits the activities of human being to protect environment from harmful effects. It helps to protect forest and suggest to use cleaner energy to fight the harmful effects of climate change.

Everyone gets a fair share

Sustainable development main indirect intention is to provide everyone better life through healthy environment, good economic sources and a fair society. It ensures that each person has access to opportunities and resources.

■ The social dimensions in SDGs

The goals and targets of sustainable development are interdependent and interlocking framework where the achievement of one goal or targets are depending on others achievement. The following goals address a strong social development:

Goal 1- No Poverty: Poverty is the vital issue for sustainable development. United Nations identifies poverty as “the great threat to political, social cohesion and environmental health of the planet”. So, this goal focuses on the reduction of poverty. Men and women including the poor have equal rights to economic resources and to provide equal services of basic things.

Goal 2- Zero Hunger: Sustainable development's second goal is to make world hunger less and to prevent diseases and deaths for the lack nutrition. Investment in nutritional food that benefit the entire population to be made at certain stages of life healthy during early childhood.

Goal 3- Good Health and Well-being: Sustainable development promotes a healthy life style and efficient healthcare. It reduces maternal mortality, communicable and non-communicable diseases and death from road accidents which is common thing in our country. It also calls for universal access to quality essential health care services and reproductive health services.

Goal 4- Quality Education: This goal aims to ensure inclusive access of free primary and secondary education to all and to provide affordable higher and technical education. Higher level of equitable quality education to both boys and girls are associated with the ability to generate higher income. Quality education helps to implement sustainable lifestyle, non-violence, gender sensitivity and global citizenship which are the positive indicator of sustainable development. Investment in education also provides the basis of economic success.

Goal 5-Gender Equality: Gender inequality is the barrier of development of any country. So, this goal main intention is to provide social, economic and political equality for women, where women are suffering from various harmful cultural practices and violence. Women also have the right to get equal opportunities and access of resources to be independent like men.

Goal 10-Reduced inequality: When people get equal opportunities, they perform well and collaboratively achieves sustainable developments goals. This goal promotes economic, social and political inclusion of all without discriminating age, gender, race, religion, ethnicity and disability to ensure equal opportunities.

Goal 11-Sustainable cities and communities: This goal aims to planned sustainable human settlement across the world. And to ensure that everyone has access of affordable house and transportation. It also makes cities safe, resilient and sustainable for human.

Goal 16- Peace, justice and strong institutions: Conflict, wrong justification and weak institutional infrastructure are threat of sustainable development. So, it is very necessary to promote peace and facilitate inclusive society. It also calls for promoting exploitation, transparency, eliminating corruption and ending abuse to formulate inclusive societies.

■ Challenges to implement social dimensions

Lack of adequate fund for management: The financial crisis is the most significant challenge in the field of development. There is a huge gap in management system to fulfil social basic needs for the lack of fund.

Lack of political stability: Political stability is the crucial factor for the implementation of social sustainable initiatives which help to build sustainable city for human. As an example, developing country Iraq face various challenges to create a smart city due to political unrest.

Lack of coordination

Lack of coordination between leading authorities is an essential issue for the implementation of social dimensions of sustainable development. National and local planning often remain unrealistic due to limited participation and coordination of planning authorities to ground level authorities.

Lack of proper management system

It is very difficult to implement social sustainability initiatives without proper management system. Insufficient management system is a common issue for any developing country across the world. So, it is crucial to follow efficient management system to develop appropriate initiatives in the country.

Lack of expertise

Skilled expertise is the emergent part for city planning and policy making in the hierarchy of developing agencies. Social sustainable project completely depends on higher authorities' vigorous planning. So, government need to focus on the enhancement of expertise quality.

Lack of planned infrastructure

This is a crucial factor creating barrier for social sustainable initiatives in developing countries. Planned infrastructure is very essential for residential development. It helps to be ensured higher authorities' successful implementation of social initiatives for sustainable development.

Lack of supervision for long term plan

Lack of regular follow-up service is the major drawback for social long-term plans. It is the ground level activity of any developing initiatives. Through proper supervision, higher authorities are able to aware about various social barriers to implement sustainable social initiatives.

Conclusions

Sustainable development is a holistic approach to improving the quality of life. There is interconnection among economic, social and environmental well-being. Improvement in any one domain, have an impact upon the other two dimensions. In the social perspective, human being cannot be sustained without pure environment and vibrant economy. And healthy environment and vibrant economy completely depends on the activity of human being. So, sustainable development of social dimensions is the crucial part of the overall sustainability. Government and local authorities need to take major steps to find out and solve social issues related to social sustainability.

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