

Social Sustainability in India: Challenges and Hurdles

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Abstract: Sustainable development is a process and organizing principle for sustaining finite resources necessary to provide for the requirement of the next generation for life on the planet. As defined by the United Nations, Sustainable development is a common agenda for global concern which everybody agrees upon, but bringing this global concern into public policies is a difficult task.¹ Social development is a method of using of resources in a manner that aims to satisfy human needs while maintaining the environment so that these needs can be fulfill not in the present time but also for the future generation. Sustainable development focuses upon a relationship between humans and their environment and indicates a warning that humans cannot push development, which is against nature as in the end it is always the nature, which is going to win. If sustainable development is to be successful, the attitudes of individuals as well as governments with regard to our current lifestyles and the impact they have on the environment will need to be changed. Sustainable development has some forward looking and broad based objectives, which transcend class, caste, language and regional barriers.

Keywords: Sustainable development

1. Introduction

Sustainable development is based on social sustainability. In the present scenario of Indian society, it becomes more important for the study that how the social sustainability effects the sustainable development. This paper, 'Social Sustainability in India : Challenges and Hurdles' enquire the challenges and hurdles before the social sustainability to meet the objective of the sustainable development. For the proper perspective of the study it is necessary to define the social sustainability. Social sustainability is the ability of social system. According to the Western Australia Council of Social Services (WACOSS), Social sustainability occurs the formal and informal processes, systems, structures and relationships activity support the capacity of current and future generations to create healthy and livable communities and equitable, diverse, democratic and provide a good quality of life.²

Social sustainability is a process for creating sustainable, successful places that promote wellbeing by understanding what people need from the places they live and work. Social sustainability combines design of the physical realm with design of social world- infrastructure to support social and cultural life, social amenities, system for citizen engagement and space for people and place to involve.³

The three pillars of sustainability are the powerful tools for the defining the complete sustainability problem. It consists of at least economic, social and environmental pillars. If any pillar is weak then the system as a whole in unsustainable.⁴

Sustainability				
Social		Environment		Economic

Social Sustainability has three components 'Development' is concerned with meeting the basic requirements, 'Bridge Sustainability' focuses the changing behaviour and 'Maintenance Sustainability' refers to social acceptance or

¹ United Nations, Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development General Assembly Resolution 42/187, December 11, 1987.

² Western Australia Council of Social Services (WACOSS) Wikipedia.org

³ S. Woodcraft, Design for Social Sustainability, Social Life, London, 2011.

⁴ Adams, W.M., The Future of Sustainability : Re-Thinking Environment and Development in the Twenty First Century Report of the IUEN Thinkers Meeting, 29-31 January, 2006.

what can be sustained in social terms.⁵ Social Sustainability is a value based development directed towards the improvement of quality of social life of the people. It has to be focused on removal of poverty, ignorance, discrimination, disease and unemployment.

The concept of "Social sustainability" encompasses the social equity, livable, community development, social capital, social support, human rights, labor right, social responsibility, social justice, cultural competence and human adaption.

2. Challenges and Hurdles for the Social Sustainability

There are so many challenges and hurdles in India for the social sustainability. Social justice and equality are the major problems for the social sustainability. Over the past few decades, the Indian Society has become more and more divided between rich and poor. This inequality encourage injustice in the society.

Social inequality assumes a particularly reprehensible form in relation to the backward classes and communities which are treated as untouchables and so the problem of social justice is an urgent and important in India. Here using the term Social Justice in a comprehensive sense so as to include economic justice. The concept of social justice thus takes within its sweep the objective of removing all inequalities and affording equal opportunities to all citizens in social affairs as well as economic activities."⁶ Social and economic progress remains uneven. Rising inequalities and social environment degradation are the major problems before the social sustainability.

The concept of social justice has varied with age and time; social justice is to the millions "to wipe every tear for every eye"⁷ Be that as it may, our constitution envisages tripartite picturesque of social justice that is justice-socio, economic and political, is secured by fundamental rights. Social sustainability developed when social justice is successful in society.

Women's increased participation in the paid work force has clearly been tied to the development of capitalism and a focus on individual workers earning a wage on which they could live, as opposed to more traditional family cooperation in accumulating the means to live. Women's participation in public as well private worlds is related to the growth in the belief in human rights including the doctrine of individual rights."⁸

In the present criminal system in India, the police, the judiciary and the prison authority, have generally failed to check organized crimes in the society. Basically the laws of the land tend to favor of accused. Jails are also hardly a deterrent to a criminal. The active members of the criminal gangs including their bases, money collectors, liaison worker and ancillary workers, and conspirators operating inside the country while international connections usually escape the clutches of law for want of adequate provisions the criminal law.

Problems of child labour is basically due to the poverty of the people. Total eradication of child labour is not possible in a development economic like India. But child labour should not be encouraged on ethical and social considerations.

3. Conclusions

In Short, prevention and detection of inequality, social injustice and crime are the primary duty of the state for the social sustainability. There is need for change in the existing system and governance, policies and strategies of the state and as well as in the police department and judiciary for the purpose of social justice. Effective governance structure required to monitor and ensure the social sustainability. A framework has to be provided to decide developmental actions by the nation, communities and individuals. Balanced policies are required for the sustainability in society.

4. References

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⁶ V.R. Krishan Iyer, Social Justice Sunsector Dawn, 1987, P, 23

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