

ISSUES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Archana Singh*

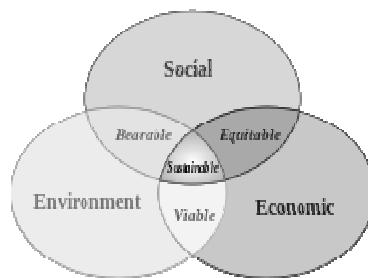
ABSTRACT

Sustainability enables the creation of new opportunity through innovation to achieve competitive advantage and drive cost reduction programs. Numerous organization is involves in sustainability initiatives and they need a holistic vision to achieve sustainability. This requires a comprehensive framework that shows the perspective of sustainability. They are the sustainability paradigm (environment, social and economic) and the decisional paradigm (strategic, tactical, and operational).the sustainability and decisional paradigms show the main perspective of sustainability implementation. Sustainable development represents not only major challenges for every contemporary economy, but also an existential paradigm in doing business. Achieving a sustainable and well functional economic model necessitates the existence of a strong entrepreneurial culture, where the business initiatives must assure a high degree of inland economic potential capitalization. This special issue aims to discuss currently relevant research concerning sustainable development and entrepreneurship in contemporary economies, but from the larger context of paradigms changing in a post crisis period. This study aims to review the existing sustainability framework and highlight the gaps and inconsistencies in the related literature. The literature revealed that there are two important paradigms that need to be considered in sustainability implementation frameworks.

KEYWORDS: Sustainable Development, Opportunity, Economic Efficiency, Contemporary Economy.

Introduction

Environmental governance advocates sustainability as the supreme consideration in managing all human activities- political, social and economic. The concept of sustainability relies on sustainable development can be explained in various ways, the most widely recognised definition was phrased by the Brundtland commission in 1987. "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising ability of future generations to meet their own needs". Sustainable development is based on the three pillars of sustainability: economic, environmental and social sustainability. It is only achieved when there is balance or a trade off between these three aspects:



* Research Scholar, Department of Management, Maharishi University of Information Technology, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India.

Relationships in Sustainable Development–Environmental Social and Economic Concern

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which includes a set of 17 sustainable development goals aimed at ending poverty, inequality, and injustice and tackling climate change by 2030. These 17 goals listed below, are all accompanied by specific targets-169 in total.

Sustainable Development Goals

- End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sustainable for all.
- Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
- Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
- Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- Conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

India's Position in Sustainable Development

India as a whole demands a significant portion of the world's bio-capacity, its per-capita ecological footprint, at 0.8 global hectares, is smaller than that of many other countries, and well below the world average of 2.2 global hectares. Indeed, the ecological footprint of many Indians may need to increase to allow for sufficient food, shelter, electricity, sanitation, medicine and material goods. The United Nations estimates that India's population will reach 1.7 billion by 2050. In that case, the country is likely to face a widening ecological deficit even if its current per-capita levels of resource-consumption remain the same. Therefore, for Indian society to continue to prosper in an increasingly resource-constrained world, business and government leaders must work actively to protect the natural capital on which India's economy, and all human life, depends. In this context, India could have proposed that sustainability and human development need not be contradictory to each other but can complement each other in measurable terms. For example, in the Human Development Index 2011, development indices such as education, health, gender equity and economic standards of living were combined with the ecological footprint calculation to come up with a common framework of evaluation.

Agriculture Census

There are five kinds of Land Holdings in India, depending on various sizes as follows:

- Marginal holdings: Size 1 hectare or less
- Small holdings: Size 1 to 2 hectares
- Semi-medium holdings : Size 2 to 4 hectares
- Medium holdings: Size 4 to 10 hectares
- Large holdings: Size above 10 hectare

Maximum number of operational land holdings in India is marginal holdings. According to Census 2011, 67 per cent of holdings were classified as marginal (less than one hectare) and 18 per cent were classified as small (one-two hectare). Large holdings were estimated to be only 0.7%.

Number of Holdings in India (in '000)						
Year	Marginal	Small	Semi-Medium	Medium	Large	All Sizes
1970-71	36200	13432	10681	7932	2766	71011
1976-77	44523	14728	11666	8212	2440	81569
1980-81	50122	16072	12455	8068	2166	88883
1985-86	56147	17922	13252	7916	1918	97155
1990-91	63389	20092	13923	7580	1654	106637
1995-96	71179	21643	14261	7092	1404	115580
2000-01	75408	22695	14021	6577	1230	119931
2005-06	83694	23930	14127	6375	1096	129222
2010-11	92826	24779	13896	5875	973	138348

Highlights from the Latest Agricultural Census

The below observations have been sourced from Agricultural Census 2010-11.

- There are 138.35 million (13.8 Crores) operational land holdings in India. In comparison to 2005-06, there was an increase of 7% in number of these holdings. Out of these 12.78% land holdings belong to women.
- The average size of operational holding in India is 1.15 ha. 85.01% operational land holdings in India are marginal holdings (below 2.00 ha). There are 14.29% semi-medium and 3.7% large holdings.
- Highest number of operational land holdings in India is in Uttar Pradesh, followed by Bihar, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. Lowest land holdings in India are in Chandigarh. However, in terms of operated area, the largest contribution comes from Rajasthan followed by Maharashtra. Chandigarh constituted the lowest number of operational holdings as well as the operated area in the country in 2010-11.

Methodology

Moderate attempt is being made to study the conceptual framework of sustainable development secondary sources of data are taken from journal, book, websites etc.

The Real Challenges to Sustainable Development

With the expiry of the MDGs which guided global development till 2015, the international community is now negotiating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the period 2016-2030. The main challenges to sustainable development which are global in character include poverty and exclusion, unemployment, climate change, conflict and humanitarian aid, building peaceful and inclusive societies, building strong institutions of governance, and supporting the rule of law.



Three Spheres of Sustainability

- **Environmental Sustainability**

In a truly sustainable environment, an ecosystem would maintain populations, biodiversity, and overall functionality over an extended period of time. Ideally, decisions that are made should promote equilibrium within our natural systems and seek to encourage positive growth. Unnecessary disturbances to the environment should be avoided whenever possible. If there is a disturbance, it should be mitigated to the maximum practicable extent. When decisions are made, one part of the discussion should always be the environmental impacts of the proposed outcome or result. There are several items that are directly related to environmental sustainability. One of the concepts that is of the utmost importance is the proper management of our natural resources. Using the Z-squared approach to sustainability, we can minimize our impacts to the environment. In some cases we can even promote habitat restoration and preservation as means to negotiate a successful solution to a problem.

- **Economic Sustainability**

Similar to environmental sustainability, economic sustainability involves creating economic value out of whatever project or decision you are undertaking. Economic sustainability means that decisions are made in the most equitable and fiscally sound way possible while considering the other aspects of sustainability. In most cases, projects and decisions must be made with the long term benefits in mind (rather than just the short term benefits). Keep in mind that when only the economic aspects of something are considered, it may not necessarily promote true sustainability. For many people in the business world, economic sustainability or growth their main focal point. However, when good business practices are combined with the social and environmental aspects of sustainability, you can still have a positive result that is for the greater good of humanity. There are several key ideas that make up economic sustainability. For example, governments should look to promoting "smart growth" through no-nonsense land use planning and subsidies or tax breaks for green development. Strong financial support for universities, education programs, and research & development is an important part of economic sustainability as well. In addition to this, an emphasis should also be placed on other areas such as reducing unnecessary spending and cutting red tape.

- **Social Sustainability**

Social sustainability is based on the concept that a decision or project promotes the betterment of society. In general, future generations should have the same or greater quality of life benefits as the current generations do. This concept also encompasses many things such as human rights, environmental law, and public involvement & participation. Failing to put emphasis on the social part of decision or action can result in the slow collapse of the spheres of sustainability (and society as well).

Conclusion

Sustainable construction is about much more than the fabric of the built environment. Buildings and the social, commercial and transport infrastructures around them must be constructed in ways that are sustainable in environmental and economic terms. They must also be sustainable in social terms and add value to the quality of life for the individual and the community, as well as sustainable in their own economic terms. All sectors of the property life-cycle can make a contribution to achieving progress in all strands of sustainable development. There are many issues and challenges posed for all of those involved. The areas touched are many and include financial and regulatory measures, education and training, research and local action. The Quantity Surveyor's role is fundamental. Above all, buildings must be affordable and constructed at an economic cost which people are prepared to pay. Sustainable development is absolutely vital, but must be balanced against longer-term economic issues. These are the challenges faced by the Quantity Surveyor today in constructing our common future.

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