

**Special Issue Theme :- Natural Resources and sustainable Development (Special Issue No.95)**  
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**Natural Resources and Sustainable Development**

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**Introduction:-**

**Sustainable development** is a pattern of resource use that aims to meet human needs while preserving the environment. So that these needs can be met not only in the present, but also for generations to come. The term was used by the Brundtland commission which coined what has become the most often quoted definition of sustainable development. Sustainable development (SD) "Meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". Sustainable development is a way of thinking by which we can secure our present and future generation. In simple sustainable development means "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

**Objectives:-**

- i) To study the Nature and concept of sustainable development.
- ii) To explain the Natural resources and sustainable development

**Research Methodology:-**

The paper is written on mainly secondary data such as relevant books, journals and internet.

**What is Sustainable Development?**

Sustainable development is a way of thinking by which we can secure our present and future generation. In simple sustainable development means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

**Sustainable development** is an organizing principle for human life on a finite planet. It posits a desirable future state for human societies in which living conditions and resource use meet human needs without undermining the sustainability of natural systems and the environment so that future generations also have their needs met. Sustainable development ties together concern for the carrying capacity of natural systems with the social, political, and economic challenges faced by humanity.

The United Nations world Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) in its 1980 report On Our Common Future defines sustainable development,

"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"

Sustainability Science is the study of the concept of sustainable development and environmental science. There is an additional focus on the present generations' responsibility to improve and maintain the future generations' life by reducing the negative effects and resulting contribution to other concerns of degradation.

The term was used by the Brundtland commission which coined what has become the most often quoted definition of sustainable development. Sustainable development (SD) "Meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". The Brundtland Report goes on to say that sustainable development also contains within it two key concepts

- 1) The concept of needs, in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given;

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2. The idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs.

The economy of India is the twelfth largest economy in the world by nominal value and the fourth largest by purchasing power parity. In 21<sup>st</sup> century, India is an emerging economic power with vast human and natural resources and huge knowledge base. Economists predict that by 2020, India will be among the leading economies of the world. We liberalized our economy and make our market global such as think locally and act globally. Our static economy changed viable. Various changes taken place. Every day there is a change so that the world markets become competitive. Revolutionary changes taken place such as close economy to open economy, regulated economy to deregulated economy.

#### Three Constituents of Sustainable Development

- Economic Sustainability
- Environmental Sustainability
- Socio-Political Sustainability

#### Natural Resources:-

There are two types of natural resources 1. Renewable 2. Non-renewable. Humans, animals and other living organisms have relied on natural resources for survival since the beginning of time. The conservation of natural resources is important as the world population continues to grow. Natural Resources include water, Soil, Timber, Salt, Oil, Natural Gas, Coal, Iron, Bauxite, Helium, Copper etc.

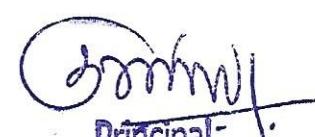
1. Renewable natural resources - Renewable natural resources are those that can be replaced naturally in our lifetime and used repeatedly. For example freshwater, timber, oxygen and solar energy etc.
2. Non-Renewable natural resources - A resources that cannot be replaced in our lifetime such as metal ores, fossil fuels, earth minerals and in some certain situations ground water.
1. Water - 70% of the Earth is covered in water and only 2% of that is freshwater. Initiative to educate and regulate the use of water should be taken. Water is an important resource.

Requirement of water of different sectors (Demand in billion cubic meter)

Sector	Year - 2000	Year -2025	Year-2050
Domestic use	42	73	102
Irrigation	541	910	1072
Industrial	68	22	63
Energy	62	15	130
Other	41	72	80
Total	654	1092	1447

(Source: Central water commission Basic planning Director Govt. of India)  
 Table shows that demand of water is increasing day by day

2. Air - Clean air is important for all the plants, animals, humans to survive on this planet. So it is necessary to take measures to reduce air pollution.
3. Soil - Soil is composed of various particles and nutrients. It helps plants to grow.
4. Iron - It is made from silica and is used to build strong weapons, transportation and buildings.
5. Forests - As the population increases the demand for housing and construction projects also increases. Forests provide clean air and preserve the ecology of the world.
6. Coal - This has the largest reserves left of all the fossil fuels but as China and other developing countries continue to increase their appetite for coal, demand could finally outstrip supply. As it is we have enough coal to meet 188 years of the global production.
7. Natural Gas - A similar picture to oil exists for natural gas, with enough gas in proven reserves to meet 580 years of global production at the end of 2010.



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#### Natural Resources & Sustainable development:-

The goal of sustainable development is to provide resources for the use of present populations without compromising the availability of those resources for future generations and without causing environmental damage that challenges the survival of other species and natural ecosystems. Sustainability is the practice of using natural resources responsibly. So they can be support both present and future. A renewable resource can be used again and again so is more sustainable e.g. Water, wind, wind, sun and wave energy. A non-renewable resources will eventually run out so it is not sustainable in the long run e.g. Fossil fuels such as gas, oil and coal.

Sustainable management of natural resources is important because it helps to use resources wisely without unnecessary use and without sacrificing on future generations needs. Reuse is better than recycling since it takes both energy and resources to recycle materials. Sustainable use of resources takes place if our consumption rate will remain indefinitely without affecting the environment. We can achieve this by using renewable resources such as wind and solar energy. Sustainable management of natural resources is important because it helps to use resources wisely without unnecessary use and without sacrificing on future generation needs.

Since resources are largely limited and finite humans must employ techniques that allow efficient and lasting use of the available resources in the environment. Sustainable development then becomes a tool to help guarantee the continuing and long-lasting use of resources.

#### Contribution to sustainable development of resources:-

We can contribute to sustainable development of resources as under:

1. Reduce the material intensity of goods and services
2. Reduce the energy intensity of goods and services
3. Reduce the toxic dispersion
4. Enhance material recyclability
5. Maximize sustainable use of renewable resources
6. Extend product durability and increase the service intensity of goods and services

#### Conclusion:-

Sustainable management of natural resources is important because it helps to use resources wisely without unnecessary use and without sacrificing on future generations needs. Reuse is better than recycling, since it takes both energy and resources to recycle materials. Sustainable development is a vision and a way of thinking and acting so that we can secure the resources and environment for our future generation.

We have to decide whether development means affluence or whether development means prosperity and happiness. Our future depends not on what will happen to us, but on what we decide to become and on the will to create it.

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