# A Study on Policies and Implementation for Achieving Sustainable **Development**

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#### Abstract

The production of sustained increases in real income per capita, health, education, and overall quality of life, as well as changes in the state of natural environmental resources, is known as sustainable development. The fundamental purpose of development policy, according to the World Development Report of 2000, is to provide sustainable enhancements in the quality of life for all people. Ecologically sustainable economic development is not a novel concept. Throughout human history, numerous societies have acknowledged the importance of maintaining balance between the natural environment, society, and economics. Sustainable development gradually modifies the ways in which we develop and apply technologies, encouraging us to preserve and improve our base of natural resources. The ability of nations to meet their fundamental requirements for food, energy, work, water, and cleanliness must be granted. A sustainable population level is unquestionably required if this is to be accomplished in a sustainable way. It is important to encourage economic progress and grant developing countries the same opportunities for growth as industrialized ones. One of the most significant changes in development in the twenty-first century is sustainable development. This paper aims to emphasize the notion of sustainable development and its significance in the current context. The methods and policies for sustainable development are also sympathetically discussed in the study.

**Keywords:** sustainable development, growth, resource, economic and environmental

#### Introduction

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources originally used the term "sustainable development" in its World Conservation Strategy, which was first presented in 1980. As stated in the Brundtland Report, sustainable development refers to achieving current demands without sacrificing those of future generations. Consequently, development that should continue is referred to as sustainable development. An approach to a nation's economic development that preserves the environment for next generations is known as sustainable development. In addition to addressing the social, cultural, and economic facets of current development, sustainable development advocates for resource conservation so that future generations may benefit from these resources. It considers how humanity as a whole is developing because we all have a common future.

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#### Sustainable Development's Significance

A few examples of how important sustainable development is are as follows:

- 1. Making prudent use of the resources at hand and attempting to preserve ecological equilibrium.
- 2. Stopping environmental deterioration and placing a strong emphasis on environmental conservation.
- 3. Guarding against overuse of resources.

#### **Objectives**

The following are the primary goals of sustainable development:

- 1. The development of long-term gains in everyone's quality of life.
- 2. Improving economic growth by boosting living standards and satisfying fundamental requirements.
- 3. Offering chances to engage in public life and contribute to environmental cleanup.
- 4. Encouraging equity between generations.
- 5. Ensuring the stock of all environment and natural resource assets is maintained while optimizing the net advantages of economic development.
- 6. Quickening the pace of economic growth in order to protect and improve the stock of physical, human, and environmental capital without depressing future generations.
- 7. Ensuring both strong and weak sustainability, where there should be no deterioration in the natural capital stock and no decline in the combined value of the physical, human beings, and natural capital stocks.

#### Sustainable Development Metrics

Key actions for attaining sustainable development include the following:

1. Assimilative Capacity: This is made up of systems that make use of the trash that humans produce. Instead, than producing less, the secret to sustainable growth is to produce in a way that addresses a wide variety of environmental issues. Economic growth must be controlled to improve the resource base rather than being predicated on overusing resources in order to attain sustainability.

2. Population Control: It is crucial to restrain population increase if the environment is to be preserved.

The Environment (Protection) Act was enacted in India in 1986 with the aim of halting the decline in environmental quality. This leads to the strict application of the Environment Conservation Act. Strict

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enforcement of this legislative measure is necessary.

4. Encouraging Environmental Awareness and Education

A sense of earthly belonging should be fostered from an early age. This can be accomplished by having environmental studies taught in schools starting in the primary grades. Such sentiments might also be fostered by the media. The process of formulating policies has changed from reflecting the will of the people to being under the authority of an elite that imposes laws designed by the international community to achieve what they consider to be sustainable development.

5. The Three 'R' Approach: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - To lessen the strain on already-existing natural resources, we should cut back on the excessive use of natural resources, reuse goods rather than throw them away, and recycle materials.

6. Appropriate Technology: The technology employed ought to generate the least amount of waste and use less resources. It should be culture-appropriate, resource-efficient, environmentally benign, and adaptive to local conditions.

7. Making Use of Resources The Environment's Carrying Capacity states that In major part, a system's carrying capacity determines its sustainability. Degradation of the environment may happen if the capacity for carrying is exceeded and may go on until there is no turning back. There are two fundamental parts to carrying capacity:

A. Supporting Capacity: Consisting of both defensive and productive mechanisms.

B. Assimilative Capacity, which is made up of waste management systems for people.

8. Management of Industrial and Agricultural Pollution - Reducing air and water pollution resulting from industrial growth is crucial for environmental preservation. Reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture to prevent contamination.

A. The Reforestation Initiative

The goal of environmental protection should be to initiate large-scale afforestation programs.

B. Water Resources Management

It is important to maintain the cleanliness of river waters and provide rural residents with access to potable water.

C. Management of Solid Waste

The management of solid waste must be planned. Composting waste from rural areas is encouraged.

#### **Techniques or Prerequisites for Ecological Development**

In general, measuring sustainable development is challenging. It includes estimating the cost of environmental harm and contrasting it with the expense of averting it. Measuring capital stock, accounting for natural resources, and choosing the right discount rate are some of the difficulties in

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preserving the best possible balance between utilization of resources and preservation. Here, however, we talk about the prerequisites for achieving sustainable growth.

### 1. Natural Capital Stock Measurement

"Soil fertility, forests, the fishing industry, the capacity to assimilate garbage, gas, coal, and oil, the layer of ozone, and biogeochemical cycles" are among the natural resource and environmental asset stocks. The preservation and enhancement of the natural capital pool is a necessary precondition for sustainable development. A cost-benefit analysis of modifications to the natural capital stock can be used to quantify this. Sustaining and enhancing natural capital assets is known as sustainability. Since sustainable development is linked to the total capital stock, which includes human, natural, and manmade capital, some economists contend that these three types of capital should be prioritized over natural capital. Nevertheless, the money made from environmental damage is frequently spent rather than saved.

## 2. Green accounting or natural resources

Green accounting is another prerequisite for sustainable growth. It permits the calculation of national income by accounting for the loss of natural resources and economic harm. The sustainable revenue level that can be achieved without decreasing the stock of natural resources is measured by green accounting. The national income system of accounting must be modified in accordance with this strategy with regard to natural asset stocks. The Gross National Product (GNP) calculation would be substituted with a metric that accounts for the financial burden of natural resource degradation.

## 3. Assessing Environmental Worth

Assessing environmental values poses an additional difficulty, especially when contrasting them with the expense of averting environmental harm. The 1992 World Development Report presented four techniques that economists have advocated for the economic value of environmental damage: A. Market Prices: Market prices are used to assess negative health consequences and productivity losses brought on by environmental harm. Using this method, the damages caused by deforestation, soil erosion, and pollution of the environment are evaluated.

B. Costs of Replacement - An estimate of environmental damage is provided by investments made by people and businesses in alternative equipment to prevent environmental damage to the air, water, and land.

C. Surrogate Markets: The consequences of environmental harm on other markets—like wages and property values—are also taken into account. For example, employment with significant environmental risk typically come with a risk premium and higher salaries. However, because employees might not fully comprehend the harms, this approach might not be trustworthy.

D. Surveys - Another technique for assessing environmental harm is the survey, especially in developing nations. They support the assessment of a species' or landmark's amenity value.

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#### 4. Rate of Social Discount

Resource users usually bear costs and gains from environmental degradation. How to calculate these expenses and advantages for both the current and future generations is the issue. To take these longterm costs and gains into account, a discount rate is needed. But choosing the right discount rate for both environmental benefits and costs is a difficult task for economists.

#### Sustainable Development Policy

It is commonly acknowledged that environmental degradation is a result of overall development in the agricultural, industrial, urban, and population expansion sectors. In addition to impairing economic productivity and causing the loss of amenities, this degradation is bad for human health. To lessen the effects of environmental deterioration, it is necessary to develop a sensible combination of economic and environmental policies as well as environmental investments. Here are thorough justifications of these policies:

#### 1. Cut Down on Poverty

Reducing poverty is the most important policy. Initiatives that give the underprivileged more job options ought to be started. To slow down population increase, the government should provide more services in the areas of health, birth control, and education. The country's environmental circumstances will be greatly improved by investments in municipal amenities including clean drinking water, sanitary facilities, and alternative habitats to replace slums.

#### 2. Eliminating Grants

Subsidies for resource use in the public and private sectors should be eliminated in order to lessen environmental deterioration without adding to the government's financial burden. The usage of energy, fuel, gasoline, pesticides, fertilizers, and irrigation water that is subsidized results in wasteful consumption, which exacerbates environmental issues. The nation will gain by eliminating or cutting these subsidies in a number of ways.

#### 3. Market-Based Methodologies

Adopting market-based strategies for environmental protection is crucial. These methods alert consumers and industry to the cost of consuming natural resources. An efficient quantity-based or price-based policy is the Market-Based Instruments (MBIs) method. Input taxes/product charges, marketable allows, depositor fund systems, pollution charges (also known as emission taxes or pollution taxes), differential rates of taxation, and user administrative charges are examples of MBIs. It is also advised to provide incentives for equipment that reduces pollution of water and air resources.

#### 4. Financial Rewards

Price, quantity, and technology-related economic incentives can have a big impact on environmental conservation. Typically, resource users receive these incentives in the form of changeable fees that are determined by the amount of pollutants present in the air, water, or land use. If the quantity of

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waste or pollution produced is less than the emission limits set by the government, rebates are awarded.

#### 5. Rules and Regulations

Another instrument to stop environmental degradation is regulatory policy. Decisions about quantity, cost, pollution, resource use, and technology must be made by regulators. Regulatory bodies determine which environmental issues should be addressed by policies—directly or indirectly. They also establish technical guidelines, rules, and fees for pollution in the air, water, and land. When enforcing environmental standards against polluters or resource users in the public and private sectors, regulatory bodies must act impartially.

#### 6. Trade Guidelines

There are two components to trade policy when it comes to the environment: (i) changes to domestic policies and (ii) international trade policy.

The main goals of domestic trade policy are to move polluting businesses farther away from cities and to promote the use of environmentally conscious innovations in those industries.

#### 7. Public Knowledge

Increasing public participation and knowledge is essential for bettering the environment. Controlling degradation of the environment and preserving a clean environment can be greatly aided by holding official and informal education programs about environmental management and awareness. In addition, public involvement is beneficial for afforestation, park management, wildlife conservation, sanitation and drainage upgrades, and flood control.

#### 8. Engagement in International Environmental Initiatives

Participating in international environmental initiatives has shown to be helpful in the modern era in reducing environmental damage. Environmental protection accords, like the Montreal Protocol that gradually phase out chemicals that deplete the ozone layer, are instances of international collaboration that can greatly minimize environmental harm.

#### How to Achieve Sustainable Development

The following guidelines can help achieve sustainable development:

- 1. Human activity restrictions can be used to achieve it.
- 2. Rather than input-utilizing, technological advancement should be input-effective.
- 3. The pace of resource regeneration should not be exceeded by the rate of consumption.
- 4. When it comes to resources that are renewable, the rate of usage shouldn't surpass the rate at which renewable alternatives are produced.
- 5. Pollution of all kinds ought to be reduced.

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6. It can be accomplished by making prudent use of available natural resources.

#### Conclusion

Development that satisfies current demands without jeopardizing the capacity of future generations to satisfy their own needs is referred to as sustainable development. Since the late 1950s, the idea of sustainable development has undergone numerous iterations. It has three facets: social, environmental, and economic. They are used to gauge the effectiveness of development initiatives or programs and are frequently referred to as the "triple bottom line."

It is clear from the explanation above that development cannot occur without a clean and healthy environment. A new awareness that good environmental stewardship is necessary to support development has replaced the traditional argument between development and the environment. As a guiding concept for development, sustainability must be respected. To guarantee sustainable development, worldwide cooperation is required to protect, maintain, and improve environmental resources.

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