

Sustainable Development

Concept:

Sustainable development is an organizing principle for meeting human development goals while simultaneously sustaining the ability of natural systems to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services on which the economy and society depend. Sustainable development is the idea that human societies must live and meet their needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The “official” definition of sustainable development was developed for the first time in the Brundtland Report in 1987. In 1987, the Brundtland Commission published its report, *Our Common Future*, in an effort to link the issues of economic development and environmental stability. In doing so, this report provided the oft-cited definition of sustainable development as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. . In other words it is improving the quality of life of the present generation without excessive use or abuse of natural resources, so that they can be preserved for the next generation. This concept of sustainable development aims to maintain economic advancement and progress while protecting the long-term value of the environment; it “provides a framework for the integration of environment policies and development strategies”

Aims:

There are three **aims** of sustainable development:-

- a) Economic- to attain balanced growth
- b) Ecological- to preserve the eco system
- c) Social-guarantying equal access to resources to all human communities.

Principles:

The concept of Sustainable development is based on following **principles-**

- i. Integration of environment and economic decision
- ii. Stewardship or humans as the caretaker of the environment
- iii. Shared responsibility, accountability and decision making
- iv. Prevention and mitigation
- v. Conservation
- vi. Waste minimization Enhancement of productivity, capability, quality of nature and human life
- vii. Rehabilitation and reclamation
- viii. Scientific and technological innovations.

Components of sustainable development:

While discussing the components of sustainable development different criteria have been used depending on the context and the levels of decision making. The components are broadly divided into three elements namely social, economic and environmental as in Fig. 1.

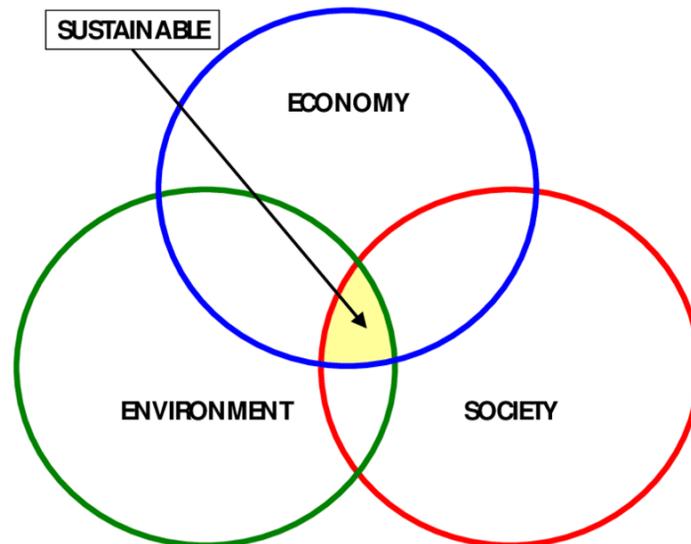


Fig: 1

a) Social components-

- Workers health and safety
- Impact on local communities, quality of life

- Benefits to disadvantaged groups

b) Economic components:

- Creation for new markets and opportunities for sale growth
- Cost reduction through efficiency and improvements and reduced energy and raw material inputs
- Creation of additional value

c) Environmental components:

- Reduce waste, effluent generation, emission into environment
- Reduce impact on human health
- Use of renewable raw material
- Elimination of toxic substances.
