

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN SCHEDULED AREA

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Abstract: *Development is usually conceived as an aspect of change that is desirable, broadly predicted or planned and administered, or at least influenced, by governmental action. It means an improvement in the quality of life through better health, education, housing and overall material and social welfare. The word “development” has also been narrowed by some into a very limited focus that involved in questions of “development assistance” (i.e. environment). The environment is where we live; and “development” is what we all do in attempting to improve our lot within that abode. Sustainable Development is the process of economic development which aims at maintaining the quality of life of both present and future generation without harming natural resources and environment. It lays special emphasis on environmental protection especially in scheduled area. The concept of sustainability has been adapted to address very different challenges, ranging from the planning of sustainable cities to sustainable livelihoods, sustainable agriculture.*

Key Words: Sustainable, Development, Scheduled area

1. INTRODUCTION:

Man's march from primitive age to the modern age is often described as the process of growth and development. While achievements of growth and development are presented as tall claims, we are often wary of discussing the cost of growth and development. Hasn't this process of growth and development polluted our environment? Hasn't this process of growth and development resulted into depletion of natural resources? Hasn't this process of growth and development reduced the resource endowment for the future generation? If so, how long can we sustain this process of growth and development? This must raise our eyebrows, driving us to a serious thought. . The word “development” has also been narrowed by some into a very limited focus that involved in questions of “development assistance” (i.e. environment). The environment is where we live; and “development” is what we all do in attempting to improve our lot within that abode. The two terms are inseparable. Development is not said to be ‘sustainable’ in case it reduces production capacity of future generations through environmental degradation. The concept of sustainable development attempts to couple development aspirations with the need to preserve the basic life support systems. The development is usually conceived as an aspect of change that is desirable, broadly predicted or planned and administered, or at least influenced, by governmental action. The term “development” is also used for the process of allowing and encouraging people to meet their own aspirations. It is defined as a planned and comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process in a defined geographic area that is right based and ecologically oriented and aims to continually improve the well-being of the entire population. It should be viewed multi-dimensionally. Development implies on overall positive change in the physical quality of life through better health, education, housing and overall material and social welfare. The concept of sustainable development does imply limits—not absolute limits but limitations imposed by the present state of technology and social organization on environmental resources and by the ability of the biosphere to absorb the effects of human activities. It is the process to ensure that all sections of the society are enabled to be a part of the development process. All must have equal access to the outcomes of development, and equal opportunities for upward economic and social mobility.

Although it is said that India has been making notable progress, this goal of reaching the development outcomes is yet to be attained by all. There are many population groups that are till today discriminated both socially and economically and are not able to participate freely and fully in the development process and reap its benefits. These are known as disadvantaged groups. Some of such groups are Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), minorities and women. It has been mentioned in the scheduled list of Indian constitution under article 342(i) & 342(ii). Tribal people constitute 8.6% of the nation's total population, over 104 million people according to the 2011 census. One concentration lives in a belt along the Himalayas stretching through Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand in the west, to Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, and Nagaland in the northeast. In the north-eastern states of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland, more than 90% of the population is tribal. However, in the remaining northeast states of Assam, Manipur, Sikkim, and Tripura, tribal peoples form between 20 and 30% of the population. Tribal are found in all most all the states of the country. Currently there are between 250 & 540 ST committees exists. They are scattered from Himalayas to Indian Ocean and from the Arabian Sea to the Eastern Frontier. In India, 700 tribal communities are considered as ‘scheduled tribes’ under the Article 342 of the Constitution of India. They are living in

remote forests & hilly regions and have remained unrecognised and ignored, suffered a long neglect & isolation all through the centuries. 'The tribes who have contributed to the richness of our culture and heritage are at different stages of development and their problems differ from area to area and even within their own groups. The core problems at these areas are level poverty, unemployment, hunger, Ignorance, illiteracy, ill health, high mortality, migration and land alienation etc. The Governments failed in improving conditions and in solving these core problems through its limited machinery, giving way to the creation of other private institutions to take up this herculean task of scheduled area development. These private institutions are called the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) or Voluntary Organisations who strive to alleviate poverty and address other problems at the grass root level with their programmes designed appropriately exclusive to the scheduled areas. The primary role of NGO is at local level as mobilize of people and their resources for an indigenous self sustainable development.

The essential characteristics first lay down by Lokur committee, for a community to be identified as Scheduled Tribes are –

- Indications of primitive traits
- Geographical isolation
- Backwardness
- Distinctive culture, language and religion
- Shyness of contact

Tribal communities live, in various ecological and geo-climatic conditions ranging from plains and forests to hills and inaccessible areas.

2. SCHEDULED AREA IN INDIA:

The tribal people live in contiguous areas unlike other communities. So, an area approach was adopted for administrative and developmental purposes. Under the Constitution "Scheduled Areas" are declared by the President after consultation with the State Governors. These Areas have been designated to protect the interests of Scheduled Tribes regarding their land and other social issues and are governed through provisions of either Fifth or Sixth Schedule. The Scheduled Areas of the North East are covered under the Sixth Schedule provisions; all other Scheduled Areas are covered by the Fifth Schedule laws. The administrative structure is different in the two Schedules. It must also be noted that there are other areas (Kerala, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Goa, Assam, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Andaman, Nicobar Islands, etc) with sizeable tribal population in the country that are covered neither by the Fifth nor by the Sixth Schedules. Tribal living in the non-scheduled areas are more vulnerable in terms of losing their land ownership, control over the forest and natural resources. The process of scheduling was started in the fifties and resumed in the seventies, but remained incomplete largely due to lack of political will. The North Eastern states such as Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram are covered by the Sixth Schedule and not included in the Fifth schedule.

Through the percentage share of Scheduled Tribes population has shown a rising trend, but still they occupy lowest and untouchable position in caste hierarchy and are denied the right of property and other opportunities necessary for their development. They cannot equip to face the global competition for sustainable development. These Areas have been designated to protect the interests of Scheduled Tribes regarding their land and other social issues and are governed through provisions of either Fifth or Sixth Schedule. The concept of sustainability has been adapted to address very different challenges, ranging from the planning of sustainable cities to sustainable livelihoods, sustainable agriculture. The goals of sustainable development have been firmly embedded in a large number of national, international, and nongovernmental institutions. We consider certain fundamental values to be essential for sustainable development in scheduled areas in the twenty-first century. These include:

- Freedom
- Tolerance
- Solidarity
- Respect for nature
- Shared responsibility.

The main Development Issues of scheduled area are

- Low production leading to Food Insecurity (Own Land)
- Highly depend on Wage and unsecured income
- High indebtedness
- Drudgery of Women
- Poor Women Literacy
- Low income leads -Distress Migration
- Mother & Child Health –Malnutrition

- Basic facilities –Road & Electricity
- Safe drinking Water
- Access to basic services –Health & Education

Now the question arises in the mind of the researcher what is the sustainable development?

3. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

Sustainable Development is the process of economic development which aims at maintaining the quality of life of both present and future generation without harming natural resources and environment. It is the process of development that maximises for present and future generations for the long- term net gains resulting from economic development. The growth and development have been at the cost of natural resources and environment. Freedom was sought early in the post war world in the struggle to end imperialism; to halt totalitarian oppression; and later to extend democratic governance, human rights, and the rights of women, indigenous peoples, and minorities. The success of many former colonies in attaining national independence was followed by a focus on economic development to provide basic necessities for the poorest two-thirds of the world and higher standards of living for the wealthy third. Finally, it is only in the past 40 years that the environment (local to global) became a key focus of national and international law and institutions. Although reinterpreted over time, peace, freedom, development, and the environment remain prominent issues and aspirations. In the 1970s and 1980s, world commissions of notables were created to study such international concerns, producing major documents that were often followed by global conferences. In 2002, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, the commitment to sustainable development was reaffirmed. In the interim, sustainable development as a concept, as a goal, and as a movement spread rapidly and is now central to the mission of countless international organizations, national institutions, corporate enterprises, “sustainable cities,” and locales.

The World Commission on Environment and Development was initiated by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1982, and its report, *Our Common Future*, was published in 1987. It was chaired by then–Prime Minister of Norway Gro Harlem Brundtland, thus earning the name the “Brundtland Commission.” The commission’s membership was split between developed and developing countries. The **Brundtland Commission’s** definition of sustainable development is the “ability to make development sustainable—to ensure that it meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” It is surely the standard definition when judged by its widespread use and frequency of citation. The use of this definition has led many to see sustainable development as having a major focus on reinterpreted over time, peace, freedom, development, and the environment. The board focused on the seemingly inherent distinction between what advocates and analysts sought to sustain and what they sought to develop, the relationship between the two, and the time horizon of the future. Thus under the heading “what is to be sustained,” the board identified three major categories—**nature, life support systems, and community**—as well as intermediate categories for each, such as Earth, environment, and cultures. There were also parallel demands to sustain cultural diversity, including livelihoods, groups, and places that constitute distinctive and threatened communities. Similarly, there were three quite distinct ideas about what should be developed: people, economy, and society. Much of the early literature focused on economic development, with productive sectors providing employment, desired consumption, and wealth. More recently, attention has shifted to human development, including an emphasis on values and goals, such as increased life expectancy, education, equity, and opportunity. Finally, the Board on Sustainable Development also identified calls to develop society that emphasized the values of security and well-being. Sustainable development has evolved a core set of guiding principles and values, based on the standard to meet the needs, now and in the future, for human, economic, and social development within the restraints of the life support systems of the planet. Further, the connotations of both of the phrase’s root words, “**sustainable**” and “**development**” are generally quite positive for most people, and their combination imbues this concept with inherent and near-universal agreement that sustainability is a worthwhile value and goal—a powerful feature in diverse and conflicted social contexts. Importantly, however, these underlying principles are not fixed and immutable but the evolving product of a global dialogue, now several decades old, about what sustainability should mean. The original emphasis on economic development and environmental protection has been broadened and deepened to include alternative notions of development (human and social) and alternative views of nature (anthropocentric versus ecocentric).

The **Johannesburg Declaration** created “a collective responsibility to advance and strengthen the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development—economic development, social development and environmental protection—at local, national, regional and global levels.”

Sustainable development implies linking what is to be sustained with what is to be developed, but here, too, the emphasis has often differed from extremes of “sustain only” to “develop mostly” to various forms of “and/or.” Similarly, the time period of concern, ambiguously described in the standard definition as “now and in the future,” has differed widely. It has been defined from as little as a generation—when almost everything is sustainable—to forever— when surely nothing is sustainable. The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development marked a further expansion of the standard definition with the widely used three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social,

and environmental. The World Summit addressed a running concern over the limits of the framework of environment and development, wherein development was widely viewed solely as economic development. For many under the common tent of sustainable development, such a narrow definition obscured their concerns for human development, equity, and social justice. Thus while the three pillars were rapidly adopted, there was no universal agreement as to their details. A Web search of the phrase “**three pillars of sustainable development**” finds a wide variety of environmental, economic, and social pillars with differences most pronounced in characterizing the social pillar. Three major variants of social development are found, each of which seeks to compensate for elements missing in the narrow focus on economic development. The first is “**social development**,” and “social progress.” The second emphasizes “**human development**,” “human well-being,” or just “people.” The third variant focuses on issues of **justice and equity** “social justice,” “equity,” and “poverty alleviation.”

Commission on Sustainable Development informed by Agenda 21 that the climate, clean air, land productivity, ocean productivity, fresh water, and biodiversity Equity, health, education, housing, security, stabilized population are Sustainable Development Indicators(SDI). The Global Scenario Group quantifies its scenarios through 2050 (approximately two generations)—“now and in the future.” Values still another mode of defining sustainable development. But values, like sustainable development, have many meanings. In general, values are expressions of, or beliefs in, the worth of objects, qualities, or behaviours. They are typically expressed in terms of goodness or desirability or, conversely, in terms of badness or avoidance. They often invoke feelings, define or direct us to goals, frame our attitudes, and provide standards against which the behaviours of individuals and societies can be judged. As such, they often overlap with sustainability goals and indicators. Indeed, the three pillars of sustainable development; the benchmark goals of the Millennium Declaration, the Sustainability Transition, and the Great Transition; and the many indicator initiatives are all expressions of values.

In an effort to encourage the creation of a broadly based social movement in support of sustainable development, UNCED was the first international, intergovernmental conference to provide full access to a wide range of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and to encourage an independent Earth Summit at a nearby venue. More than 1,400 NGOs and 8,000 journalists participated. One social movement launched from UNCED was the effort described above to create an Earth Charter, to ratify it, and to act upon its principles. In 2002, 737 new NGOs³⁴ and more than 8,046 representatives of major groups (business, farmers, indigenous peoples, local authorities, NGOs, the scientific and technological communities, trade unions, and women) attended the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. These groups organized themselves into approximately 40 geographical and issue-based caucuses. But underlying this participation in the formal international sustainable development events are a host of social movements struggling to identify what sustainable development means in the context of specific places and peoples. At the other end who views sustainable development as capitulation that implies development as usual, driven by the interests of big business and multilateral institutions and that pays only lip service to social justice and the protection of nature. The goals of sustainable development have been firmly embedded in a large number of national, international, and nongovernmental institutions. At the intergovernmental level, sustainable development is now found as a central theme throughout the United Nations and its specialized agencies. Evidence of this shift can be seen in the creation of the Division of Sustainable Development within the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the establishment of a vice president for environmentally and socially sustainable development at the World Bank, and the declaration of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. Similarly, numerous national and local governmental entities have been established to create and monitor sustainable development strategies. According to a recent survey by the International Council for Local Environment Initiatives, “6,416 local authorities in 113 countries have either made a formal commitment to Local Agenda are actively undertaking the process,” and the number of such processes has been growing dramatically. In addition to these governmental efforts, sustainable development has emerged in the organization charts of businesses, consultancies and investment indices. Sustainability Science and Technology Sustainable development is also becoming a scientific and technological endeavour. This emerging enterprise is focused on deepening our understanding of socio-ecological systems in particular places while exploring innovative mechanisms for producing knowledge so that it is relevant, credible, and legitimate to local decision makers, much of what is described as sustainable development in practice are negotiations in which workable compromises are found that address the environmental, economic, and human development objectives of competing interest adopted by UNCED, the poorer countries of the world often viewed demands for greater environmental protection as a threat to their ability to develop, while the rich countries viewed some of the development in poor countries as a threat to valued environmental resources. The concept of sustainable development attempts to couple development aspirations with the need to preserve the basic life support systems of the planet. Thus, the concept of sustainability has been adapted to address very different challenges, ranging from the planning of sustainable cities to sustainable livelihoods, sustainable agriculture to sustainable fishing, and the efforts to develop common corporate standards in the UN Global Compact and in the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. Sustainable development thus requires the participation of diverse stakeholders and perspectives, with the ideal of reconciling different and sometimes opposing values and goals toward a new synthesis and subsequent coordination of mutual action to achieve multiple values simultaneously and even synergistically.

4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), officially known as transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are an intergovernmental set of aspiration Goals with 169 targets. The Goals are contained in paragraph 54 United Nations Resolution A/RES/70/1 of 25 September 2015. On 19 July 2014, the UN General Assembly's Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) forwarded a proposal for the SDGs to the Assembly. The proposal contained 17 goals with 169 targets covering a broad range of sustainable development issues. These included ending poverty and hunger, improving health and education, making cities more sustainable, combating climate change, and protecting oceans and forests. Goals 1-6 directly address health disparities, primarily in developing countries. These six goals address key issues in global public health and public health: Poverty, Hunger and food security, Health, Education, Gender equality and women's empowerment, and water and sanitation.

The Official Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted on 25 September 2015 has 92 paragraphs, with the main paragraph (51) outlining the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and its associated 169 targets. This included the following goals:

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

As of August 2015, there were 169 proposed targets for these goals and 304 proposed indicators to show compliance.



Mr. Macharia Kamau is Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations. And Mr. Csaba Kőrösi is Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations focus on 19 areas of sustainable development.

Sustainable development goals in 19 focus areas; -----

1. Poverty eradication
2. Food security and nutrition
3. Health and population dynamics
4. Education
5. Gender equality and women's empowerment
6. Water and sanitation
7. Energy
8. Economic Growth
9. Industrialization
10. Infrastructure
11. Employment and decent work for all
12. Promoting equality
13. Sustainable cities and human settlements
14. Sustainable Consumption and Production
15. Climate
16. Marine resources, oceans and seas
17. Ecosystems and biodiversity
18. Means of implementation
19. Peaceful and non-violent societies, capable institutions

5. STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SCHEDULED AREA:

In Scheduled area Sustainable Development does not mean a check on the existing pace of economic growth. It only means a judicious or optimum utilisation of resources and in a manner such that the pace of growth is sustained with inter-generative equity. The possible strategies for sustaining development are noted in following context.

- Input efficient technology
- Use of environment friendly sources of energy
- Integrated rural and tribal development
- Convert sunlight into solar energy and solar energy into electricity
- Shift to organic farming
- Recycle the water
- Stringent laws on the disposal of chemical effluents
- Awareness to conserve natural assets for inter-generational equity e.g Chipko & Appiko movement
- Extend public means of transport

Sustainable development is a process to be practised as a daily life activity. It is not a specially designed programme or the process of production. It is more about the concerns for future generations and our social responsibilities. It involves less cost and more consciousness. Of course, the government should contribute its bit through enforcement of the laws relating to environment. But stretching our environment to serve us beyond the capacity would only mean reducing its capacity to serve us in future. This is where the process of development fails to be sustainable.

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