

# Mahatma Gandhi And Sustainable Development Of The Blue Planet

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*Mahatma Gandhi said, "Mans need but not his greed can be supported by our Earth"*

*Abstract: 'Many decades ago Mahatma Gandhi developed a concept of reformed village community, based on sound environmental management, stressing on the need for sanitation based on, recycling entire human and animal manure and well- ventilated cottages built by recyclable materials. He also envisioned about roads, they should be clean and free from dust and mud. The main aim of Gandhij's object was, to use village made goods instead of industrial products. At that time, when these concepts were not a part of general thinking, Mahatma Gandhi designed a sustainable life style, believing in simplistic living to save our Earth's resources. At the start of the twenty first century, the problem of Global sustainability was widely recognized by world leaders, and a general topic to discuss this problem was shared among scientists, teachers, students, journalists and citizens in all parts of the world'.*

## I. ORIGIN OF THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

Aboriginal peoples were those original peoples, who lived in a place and to a period of time before Europeans arrived, especially in Australia. Concept of sustainability is not non obvious to the aboriginal people. They were aware and sensitive about the growing need for all humans, respecting the environment, mother Earth and other natural resources. There are many evident denoting the richness and vastness of cultural practices of aboriginal practices, particularly in the form of cultural celebrations to give thanks for life. They used to celebrate functions and acknowledgement in each season for to say 'Thank you' to the creator of the nature.

### CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABILITY IN THE ABORIGINALS

The concept of sustainability practiced by aboriginal peoples in their way of life are as below:

#### ✓ MOTHER EARTH AS A LIFE GIVING FORCE

The Earth was personified in aboriginal people's culture as a living person, as same as their own real mother, which

gave them birth. They believe that, if desecrating to her has not been stopped and is continuously in process, then it will no longer be a life-giving force.

#### ✓ LAWS OF THE NATURE

The aboriginal persons believes that animals were not killed during their reproductive cycles, because there is a time and season for all life-sustaining activities.

#### ✓ INTERRELATIONSHIPS AND INTERCONNECTEDNESS

Aboriginal persons believes that everyone and everything, has both a role and place in this universe, therefore it can not be said that one person, animal or thing is gift to other or granted to other.

#### ✓ LIFE-SUSTAINING ELEMENTS OF THE NATURE

There are some elements provided by the nature for sustainability of life of the livings, they are as below:-

*Air* - This element is essential to all life forms, including human;

*Water* - Water makes life and growth of all living beings possible;

*Fire* - Sun is the main source of fire. Which provides heat, light and energy to all living being for their life sustaining;

*Earth* - Fertility is found in the soil of Earth, which provides food and many other materials and resources for sustaining the life of all living beings.

Sky - Sky is the last essential element for sustaining the life of living generations. Balance in the ecological limits among these above noted five basic essential elements, make possible to live well and comfortable.

#### ECO DEVELOPMENT

In year 1970 under the name of eco-development, the concept of 'Sustainable Development' was firstly emerged to find a third alternative path to those, that put developmentalists on the one side and advocates of zero growth on the other side. Results of this called 'Zeroists' or 'Neo-malthusians'

In the decade of 1970, most development specialists of the whole world began to appreciate this fact, that economic growth alone could not bring about a better way of human life, unless and until condition of environment were not improved. The strategies of developments in which only economic conditions were used, had began to suffers from serious environmental problems incarnated, due to all kind of definition less pollution, whether Air, or Water, waste management, deforestation and a variety of other ill efforts that seriously affected people's well being and their health. Sick strategies of development creates disparity, in the life styles between the rich and the pours. A serious equity issues between the "Haves and the have not" was arisen among the societies, at the global level and at national level also.

#### OUR COMMON FUTURE

In year 1982, a world-wide conference, to create a world commission on environment and development, was organized by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nariobi. Results of this conference was published entitled with 'Our Common Future'. In this conference it was feel that, Sustainable Development can be achieved through a set of strategies, couple of simultaneously guaranteeing, the increase in national income and access to basic social rights, economic security, access to health and education and reducing the impact of increased production and consumption on the environment. Thereafter the term 'Eco-Development' was replaced by the term 'Sustainable Development' completely while expressing the same normative concept.

#### THE BRUNDTLAND COMMISSION REPORT

United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) is also known as 'Brundtland Commission'. This commission published it's report entitled with 'Our Common Future' and by this report this commission provided the 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*'

First time this report try, to establish links between social, economic, cultural and environmental issues. The concept of conserving resources for future generations, is one of the major yardstick feature of this report, which distinguish Sustainable Development strategies from the strategies, made for other classical or traditional environmental reforms. This

report hypothecate a process of change in which, exploitation of natural resources, the direction of investment, the orientation of technological development and institutional change are made consistent, with the future as well as present needs.

This Brundtland Commission highlighted two very important issues. The issues highlighted by this above noted commission are as blow:-

First, Maximum world is struck in poverty, therefore development is essential to meet basic human needs, although this development needs to differ from of previous strategies,

Second, Wealthy nations have to find such type of development strategies, that are decoupled from growing natural resources depletion and environmental degradation.

These above noted issues, as focused by this commission are directly related to one another, because providence of more resources to solve poverty problems, can degrade and deplete the environmental conditions, and conversely, degraded environments can create and contribute to the poverty issues.

#### II. LOGIC BEHIND THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The main aim of the sustainability is, to create or establish a such type relationship among generations, which do not destroy or close off important and valued choices, for generations in future after fulfillment the wants and needs of the present generations. Here question arises that, whether all resources of the world, are only for the use of ours and nothing for our those next generations, which will come with the passing of time? If we overuse and misuse the resources and energy of fossil fuels unsustainably, then our future generations would find survival much difficult than us, just as we, if our ancestors have not left resources to us. Only we do not own the world's resources to do any, in place of this we ought to please with them, to future generations just as our ancestors have left to us. Our current development strategies have led, to environmental resources being over used and misused by our present generation, without considering the needs of next unborn generations. We need to appreciate that, the next generation and those will later come also have a right, to both Earth's natural resources and undisturbed natural ecosystem, because they are not here today, to exercise their own rights. Therefore it is the responsibility of the present generation, to appreciate the need of future generations. The present generation has no right to destroy the claim of the next generation, to use of the Earth's resources before there coming into existence. We are not given the Earth sothat we can use up its resources. It is given to us to hold in 'trust', sothat future generations are given their just share of the Earth's resources sothat they can survive.

#### III. BASIC PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Economic and social improvement for the majority had become a major preoccupation of Governments strategies,

after the end of second world war. This goal was extended to the poorer nations of the world also. Economic development with its social and institutional correlates, came to occupy an essential place in the theories and policies, as well as in the cold war competition between capitalism and communism. The World Commission on Environment and Development in his report bearing title 'our Common Future', recognized these following three aspects essential to the Sustainable Development.

#### ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE

To maintain manageable levels of Governments and external debts, and to avoid extreme sectoral imbalances, which damage agricultural or industrial production an economically, sustainable system must be essential. The Neoclassical Economic theory believes that, that sustainability can be defined in terms of the maximization of welfare overtime. Mostly economists identify the maximization of welfare, with the maximization of utility derived from consumption. Here question arises, whether sustainability correlates with the economic concept or not? If we accept the use of time discounting, as a method of comparing the economic values of consumption in different time periods, then sustainability appears to mean nothing more than efficient resource allocation. Soil and atmospheric functions are the aspects of natural capital, which consists of all the natural resources and environmental services of the planet. Soil erosion and emission of Green House generating gasses, after disturbing these aspects creates a strong bias against sustainability, therefore Sustainable Development can be operationalized by the conservation and preservation of these natural capitals.

This policy leads these two following rules- First, rule is for for renewable resources- This rule limits resource consumption to sustainable yields levels; and Second, rule is for non-renewable resources- This rule re-invests the proceeds from non-renewable resource exploitation into investment in renewable natural capital. Obliging of these two rules will maintain a constant stock of natural capital.

#### ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

Natural system must exit subject to the unyielding laws of the Thermodynamics and the Science of population Ecology, has explored the implications of these laws for living organisms. Organism are exuberantly and over productive. Their limits are set by time and by space, and their energy is inevitably encountered. In the ecological perspective, the sustainability must involve limits of consumption level on population of all biological systems, hence sustainability ought to be defined in terms of the maintenance of ecosystem resilience. Avoiding of over exploitation of renewable resource system or environmental sink function, and depletion of non-renewable resources only to the adequate substitutes, are the out come of an environmentally sustainable system. The Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), which was probably found in rain forest primates of South Africa, is spread to human due to their intrusion into the forest and disturbing the life of these primates. The virus of AIDS like

other Virus then spread world wide though global commerce and tourism, this is the worst example of the feed back effect of human destruction of ecosystem resilience.

#### SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE

To achieve distributional equity, adequate provisions of social services including health and education, gender equity and political accountability and participation, a well sustainably developed social system is required. A stable level of human population, can maintain a constant per capita stock of natural capital also. Integration of economics and ecology is essential and can be achieved, by the social perspective element of sustainability. Social area is that area, in which the strategies can be formulated for Sustainable Development from the basic concept of the same. Here question arises, whether life styles of present generation are acceptable and whether there is any reason, to pass these life styles on to the next generation or not? Sustainable Development strategies can not survive, without considering consumption patterns and restructuring the world income at major level.

Increase of poverty and loss of rural livelihoods accelerates the environmental degradation, because displacement of population put greater pressure on forest and other natural resources concerned.

#### IV. CHRONIC PROBLEMS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

There is no simple solution of the following problems, Child abuse, Crimes of different kinds, Injustice, Weakened Economies, Crises of Energy, Lack of good jobs, Extinction of species, Problem due to and of poverty, Lawlessness, Destruction of forests, Destruction and elimination of species, Problem due to and of Pollution, Increasment of the list of Endangered species, Break down of families, Armed conflict, Nuclear accidents, and Discrimination. Etc Only the integrated solutions can resolve these above noted diverse chronic problems. Strategies depending on the economic, environmental and social justice elements creates a bright future, where human society and nature can coexist. In adverse, if these elements are damaged or depleted, then both communities and environment along with natural resources face enormous challenges.

#### V. WHY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IS NECESSARY

Here question arise that, why Sustainable Development is necessary? Sustainable Development is neither a thing for doing, nor a program for carrying out. Instead of these Sustainable Development is, both system of values according to which, we reason and choose to live and a process that uses common sense and intuition as a base line. Sustainability can be considered like as a Philosophy or Ethic, essential to afford the generation about awareness of consequences of actions, and encouraging them to think regarding issues, disciplines and boundaries broadly. It can be said that, sustainability calls

for improving the quality of life, without increasing the use of our natural resources. These are the some following reasons according to which sustainable development is necessary.

#### A. LIMITATION OF RESOURCES OF THE EARTH

The First law of Thermodynamics states 'as that 'Nothing can be created or destroyed, only can be transformed into different phases'. Earth is nothing, but a closed recycling system by following the principle of irrepressibility of its natural process, as laid down by the Thermodynamic principle of nature, which dictate as that, 'to maintain continuance and flow of these limited natural resources, consumption ought to be less, than the natural resources provided by the Earth'.

#### B. INTERCONNECTION OF COMPONENTS OF THE EARTH

Most of environmental, economic and social problems are interrelated and depends upon one another. Unexpected or abnormal change in one component creates, a large effect upon another components. For example if personal income is increased, then demand of luxury is automatically increased. Life expectancy is affected by water, sanitation and by health care also, but improving sanitation and luxurious life style and access to clean water might increase and creates, the crisis of these element to other population.

#### C. CHANGE IN THE NORM CAN NOT BE THE EXCEPTION

Change is extremely important by following the irrepressibility principle of natural process, but not downing the quality of essentials of those next generations, which are not in existence to take their part of these resources. The society and its economic systems ought to maintain a constant vigilance for change in the harmony of these natural resources. Exceptional change left those foot prints which can not recovered the destroyed quality of natural resources.

#### D. SOUND ENVIRONMENT IS NUTRITIOUS FOR HEALTHY GROWTH OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS

This is an absolute eternal truth that, we can not survive without nature. Healthy environment is the plumbing of this blue planet, therefore such type of developments are required, which improve economic conditions without damaging or undermining the environment. Only Sustainable Development can provide real improvement in the quality of our life, by conserving, protecting and promoting the vitality and diversity assuring the integrity of the Earth.

#### E. STABILITY AND RESILIENCY CAN BE CONTRIBUTED TO A SYSTEM BY THE DIVERSITY WITHIN A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

A sustainable developed human community possesses a healthy and diverse economy and environmentally sound businesses, industries and institutions, sothat the generation

under the ecological limits attains long term material security, for sustain the quality of the natural healthy ecosystem. The multifunctional species diversity is the most important factor, which can play a unique roll under the ecological limits, after adopting the changes.

#### F. EQUITY IS ESSENTIAL FOR A HEALTHY FUNCTIONING SYSTEM

The Survival of the fittest theory of Charles Darwin, is applicable only on the species other than the human. In respect of peoples, it is considered that food, raw materials and all other natural resources ought to be used equitably, fairly and efficiently, sothat the basic needs of entire human race are meet locally, generally and globally. Disproportionate in different societies creates, the degradation of ecological resources and often growing into the circumstances of war and terrorism.

#### G. UNCERTAINTY AND IGNORANCE ARE OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH COMPLEX SYSTEM

New information, thoughts, observations, hypothesis and experiments continually came and improve our perceptions and belief. Therefore decisions based on such type of scientific information must be made in the context of uncertainty, supervision and monitoring. Although this uncertainty truths came from scientific tools, yet it must underpin to the public conversation to attained the solidarity at global level.

### VI. PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

All living things and non living things, including their interaction and on which they depend, creator/ generator in ecosystem on the Earth. Human, are essential part of the nature and also of biosphere. Sustainable Development is a multidimensional process to achieve recovery of-

- ✓ Waste and pollution under ecological limits;
- ✓ Conserving natural resources and natural ecosystems;
- ✓ Promoting cooperation and efficiency and developing local assets, to revitalize economics;
- ✓ The significance of place;
- ✓ The benefits of personal relationship;
- ✓ Making valuable connections among groups;
- ✓ Improving the opportunities for disadvantaged and disabled peoples; and
- ✓ Improving the quality of life for every one; etc

There are some principles, to establish a framework for systemic development. The principles for establishing the Sustainable Development are as below:

#### A. ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

Preservation of those life supporting functions upon which, well functioning socio-economic fitness of ecosystems depends, can be sustain by integrating of natural resources and by establishing the relationship between environment and its integral part human.

## B. SOCIAL EQUITY

The fair strategies, doing better with less must emphasize greater equity not only within out side the community, but also between present and future generations over place and time.

## C. SUFFICIENCY AND OPPORTUNITY

According to the concept of 'Living-off-the-interest', natural resources will not fall below a threshold quality of standard required to the next generations, Therefore time must be a basic premise, to achieve decent life of standards for every one, and to seek improvements without compromise, down or destroy the ability of needs of next generations.

## D. EFFICIENCY

The efficiencies of both energy and natural resources can be increased by minimizing the stress on socio-economic systems, maximum sustainable use of renewable natural resources and human capital, reducing the material and energetic use intensity of goods and services, understanding and considering the nature and its ecological limits, eliminating the production of waste by evaluating and optimizing the full life cycle analysis of products, and by practicing such type of 'Take-Make-Waste' practices, in which waste from one process can be a food for another process.

## E. FULL COAST ACCOUNTING

Balancing attempt between conservation and development activities, requires scarifies, for ecological imperatives. In year 1970, the G.D.P. of United States, go up due to the spent of millions of Dollars, to clean the millions of gallons of spilled oil from the 'Exxon Valdez' oil tanker, ran aground In prince William sound, Alaska, it killed millions of animals. In the eye of full accounting practices, the alleged 'Exxon Valdez' oil spill would be taken in terms of a coast and not in the from of benefit reflected in the G.D.P. The principle of full coast accounting represent the true coast of environmental goods and services.

## F. CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT AND DEMOCRACY

To understand, the principles of Sustainable Development and there application to the society, transparency, taking of responsibility and engagement of citizens of the society concerned is essential. If we want a long term change in a society, then civic critical mass of community participation is required, because mandate can not solve the problems arising from the practice of Sustainable Development strategies. Only the democratic activities can play most important role, in solving the problems regarding sustainability.

## G. COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION

Sincere communication, cooperation and social awareness can encourage society confidence, sense of responsibility of any system's effect and regulate the demands of future generations.

## H. PRECAUTIONARY

Instead of philosophy of 'react and care' and 'anticipates and prevents', thought of precautionary principle, can be considered and implemented in our activities.

## I. INTEGRATIVE AND ADOPTIVE

Problems arising from the sustainability regarding integrity of both long-term and short-term economy, environment, society and their equity can be solved by developing a common frame work policy by including and facing public awareness at the time of taking decisions. An integrative, adoptive and responsive changes in the methodology of trends measurement can adjust goals, frame works and indications, to promote feed works as well as feedback in decision-making.

## VII. ACTIONS, WHICH CAN NOT BE CONSIDERED AS ACTION OF SUSTAINABILITY

The primary correlations and behaviors, which can not be recognized functions of sustainable process include:

- ✓ Lack of understanding for human connection with nature and its resources;
- ✓ Economic deficiency;
- ✓ Concentration of money only in few hands;
- ✓ An economy driven by profit motives, by greed and by consumption;
- ✓ Jobs competitions among the communities;
- ✓ In accurate perceptions of others;
- ✓ Unaccountable Governments, corporations and behaviors of individuals of societies;
- ✓ Placing the blame on the others. In lieu of accepting responsibilities by himself;
- ✓ Barriers, retardation, harassment, hindrance, disturbance, inequality and irregularities between work, home, play, entertainment, education, food, dresses, living standards, physical separation, sprawl, Isolation, energy, health, care, water, sanitation, calories, nutrition, maternity, culture, medical & legal aids, shelter and also in enjoyment of different classes of different societies;
- ✓ Lack of trust in the other;
- ✓ Conflicting goals, strategies and analyses. Etc

## VIII. ACTIVITY OF HUMAN IN THIS BLUE PLANET

Resurgence of different kinds of disease due to the development of Antibiotic resistance, disruption of ecosystems though introduced species, Increasing the list of endangered species, formation of 'Dead Zones' in Coastal waters, evolution of multiple threats and challenges regarding climate change, increased climate vitality, Global warming, Generation and increasement of Green house gases, evident and testified the impact of expanding human economic activity. The Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), which was generally originated in the rain forest primates in South Africa. AIDS spread to human though human intrusion

into the forest and disturbing the life of these primates. Like the other Viruses, it spread world wide through Global commerce and due to travel. This is the worst example of the feed back effect of human destruction of ecosystem resilience. All living things depends upon the natural components including air, water, soil, minerals and other resources provided by the nature. Sustainability is a concept, that presumes a health and dynamic highest quality of life in the biosphere of the Earth by balancing the human, social and economic systems, correlating with environment without prejudging to the non human element of this biosphere's environment and its natural resources. The Ocean covers 72% of the surface of our blue planet and constitute more than 95% of the biosphere. All of first life was originated in the oceans and they support all life from to till now by generating Oxygen, absorbing Carbon Dioxide, recycling the nutrients, and by regulating global climate and its temperature, continuously.

One forth population of the whole world resides near about the Sea, and more than 80% of global trade is done through the Sea routes. Ocean is also a key source of the Global tourism. The Ocean regulates the Global climate, rain and weather on the Earth and provides humanity with not only animates but also inanimate natural resource, like as food, materials, energy and other essential substances, important for international trade and recreational and cultural activities. Free access to and availability of ocean resources and services with human development have exerted strong pressure on marine system and altered the coastal ecology and marine environment. Evolution of various types of thoughtless pollutions often has caused the degradation of marine ecosystem.

Discharge from agriculture, industry and from sewage into coastal waters through surface waters, accumulate the nutrients in coastal waters. Marine eutrophication can lead to frequent and long-lasting algae-blooms. Such type of algae-blooms can change the turbidity of water of the Sea and disturbs the penetration limits of light into deeper layers of water of the Sea. These algae-blooms stimulate the bacteria to consume a large amount of Oxygen, which creates 'Dead Zones' in the deep Sea layers. Some microscopic algae can creates harmful impacts on human and animals, if they occur in large manner. Continuous increasement in emission of Green house gases, causes significant effects in the Ocean. Rising of Sea level due to melting of Glaciers, Acidification of Ocean causes direct chemical stress, warming of Ocean due to climate change and changes in the Ocean currents are some effects, caused by these green house gases. Ocean warming

uptake loads to change in the various physical properties of the Oceans. Stronger stratification, Sea level rising, increasing temperature of Sea water and changes in Ocean currents creates the major and stable impacts effects on the coastal ecology and marine environment. There is a need of international cooperation and effective governance and formation of strategies and policies, and a special Sustainable Development goals for the Ocean and coasts, to protect the coastal ecology and marine environment, and to promote the sustainable use of current generations, without compromising the ability of next generations to full fill their needs.

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