

Book Review:

Sustainable Development: Local Issues and Global Agendas

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Name of the Book: Sustainable Development: Local Issues and Global Agendas

Edited By: R.B Patil

Name of the Publisher: Rawat Publications

Place of the Publication-Jaipur

Price: Rs.1095

ISBN No: -978-81-316-0623-0

Sustainability is not only a matter of concern but also a vision to be achieved. Sustainable development aims to enhance the quality of human life by preserving the intrinsic value and beauty of nature with optimum resource depletion. It is tied with the issue of survival, poverty, deprivation and marginalization. Conservation and adequate use of resources can be ensured through the adoption of sustainable development and development process. It is essential agenda in development which required saving and sustaining the resources for coming generation, so that they also can utilize the way we do. The book answers sustainable development at two fundamental paradigms-local issues and global agendas. The present book is edited volume by Prof. R.B. Patil and contributed by 21 scholars. It discusses concept and approaches of sustainable development with its reference to industry, communication, health and agriculture. Also it highlights the concept of sustainable development through cases and comparative studies and innovative initiatives.

The opening chapter describes an integral perspective on development and ecological theory by mentioning some of the classical sociologists and their opinion on environment and society. The author supports that theoretical analysis of ecological degradation has enhanced the awareness

and sensitivity towards problems. The second chapter presents a case study of Jainal Village of Kolhapur illustrating the utilization of social institutions as social capital for rural development. Rather than neglecting social dimensions and emphasizing environmental pollution and economic aspect, it must be improved along with ecological and cultural dimensions. In the 21st century solutions to sustainability problems highly depends on facilitating role is what pointed out in third chapter. Along with a comparative sociological appraisal on role of science and technology on two theories of sustainable development-Ecological Modernization and Risk Society .Fourth chapter emphasize on strengthening local as well as national environmental governance. The vision of sustainable development only is possible with strong local and national environmental governance. The following chapter throws light on interplay of social and economic aspect for sustainable development. Rights, duties and responsibilities should be taken care of.

Chapter six brings the Gandhian perspective on sustainable development by addressing his concern on complimentary nature of environment and sustainable development. Gandhi ji persuades the reuse of natural resources and said that there is enough for everybody's need and not for anybody's greed. Seventh chapter deals with sustainable agriculture and experiences of farmers of Kolhapur district. Influence of techniques like Rishi-Krishi and Zero Budget on farmers for organic farming is elaborated in the book. The crux of chapter 8 lies in sustainable utilization of forest resources. Use and abuse of forest resources in Western Ghats of Karnataka is studied in the chapter. 9th chapter looks into linkages of tribal communities and sustainable development by a case study from Jharkhand. Tribals better understand the local resources and can treasure them better than anybody. Approach to sustainable development needs

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to be reconsidered as the credibility of state in handling sustainable development is in question. Chapter 10th projects interesting and a unique model for sustainable rural development in Ralegan Siddhi which was once a drought prone and poverty stricken. Local people used water judiciously and maintained ecological balance which paid tribute to their village.

Eleventh chapter dwells upon social forestry as an effective way of sustainability but it has been limited to state. Occupying a forest area in non-forest zone is proving helpful to village landowners more than the marginalized sections of the village. The relationship of local people with the common property resources has been altered through social forestry. It is an extension of organized scientific forestry. The business charter for sustainable development is presented in chapter 12 of the book. It guides companies on environmental issues and suggests in implementing proper strategies for sustainable development. Some environment related contents include corporate policy and integrated management, Process improvement and employee education, Prior impact assessment, Safe products and services, Common efforts, Openness and periodical reporting etc are mentioned in the chapter. 13th chapter shed light on social dimensions of sustainable rural development and Lift Irrigation Cooperatives in Warana river basin. LICs are promoting democratically socially sustainable rural development free from discrimination by participation of people from lower strata of the countryside. 14th chapter talks about health services in Maharashtra and people's contentment with the First Referral Units, Community Health Centers and district hospitals. The chapter concludes with the suggestion of strengthening communication between health providers and the community. Fifteenth part of the book describes Indian theories of happiness in controlling power of our needs and greeds to stop deteriorating environment and moving towards sustainable development.

16th Chapter refers to coastal bio resource and traditional fishing done by Gabits. It examined Achara Village in Malwan tahsil of Sindhudurg district. The traditional way of fishing is ecologically viable so the author suggests

to fix Malwan coast just for traditional fishing. Organic farming, water conservation measures and collaborative farming are motivated for sustainable development. Chapter 17 presents the concern of college students of Kolkata by a case study on sustainable development. It signifies that our young generation is more interested to adopt pro-environmental behaviour and work towards betterment of environment. The following chapter explains that community based organisations and NGOs can better maintain sustainability due to their flexibility in operation and grassroot connections. Functioning of CBOs also need to be acknowledged. 19th chapter tells the comparative study of two NGOs in Pune district clarifying the impact of people's participation on various aspects of life. Cooperative lift irrigation schemes benefits whole village and not just the participants. New local leadership has emerged of change makers among the villagers, keeping rationality and welfare as prime objective. The active participation is leading to effective implementation of projects as well as long lasting and wide ranging developmental impact in every sphere of life. The second last chapter of the book comprises of relation between local issues and global agendas of international bodies on one side and NGOs working in India on the other side. The chapter narrates the failures and contributions of NGOs in promoting sustainable development. Sustainable development criticizes the western consumerism lifestyle which leads to unsustainability of human society in future. Functions and critical observations of NGOs in India is enlisted in the book. The final chapter questions the relevance of present environmental laws in the context of sustainable development. The case study of Star Oxachem Pvt. Ltd. Chipri projects the revolution of people against environmental pollution,

Each chapter ends with references for wide knowledge and understanding on the respective topics. The book is delightful piece of relevant and updated knowledge on different dimensions of sustainability. The insightful book helps us in realising the dire need of adopting sustainable development in every shades of life dealing successfully the local issues and agendas available globally to ensure sustainability.