

Towards Building Sustainable Development in Asia - Social Work Approach

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Abstract

The term “sustainable development” refers to the developmental activity undertaken to achieve the present generation needs without compromising with the needs of up-coming generation. Sustainable development ensures the well-being of individual by integrating social development, economic growth, and environmental conservation and protection. The over population, wide spread inequality, acute poverty, a great shortage of safe drinking water, limitless consumption of energy, endless deforestation is the great challenges before the idea of sustainable development. The present paper is an evidence based paper based on the secondary data collected from research journals, books, magazines and concerned websites. The aim of the paper is to focus on the strategies for sustainable development and the social work approach for achieving the sustainable development in the present and the future society. Through devising the strategies for sustainable development this paper tries to build an inter-relationship between the present and the future generation, to attain the sustainable development following probable strategies can be useful-giving importance to input efficient technology, using environmental friendly source of energy, promoting more and more renewable source of energy, developing organic farming, promoting waste recycling, more than all this taking an pledge of conserving the natural resources for the younger generations of tomorrow's world.

Keywords: Sustainable Development, Social Work, Poverty, Inequality, Human Rights

Introduction

The world is at a crossroads with a huge changes and Sustainable development is now at the core of discussions

on the development agenda beyond 2015 (ESCAP 2014). With a larger demand by the changing society the world's quest for dignity, peace, prosperity, justice, sustainability and an end to poverty has reached an unprecedented moment of urgency (UNCSD 2013 p3). All the developing and the developed countries are finding it difficult to maintain the sustainable development with the globalization, privatization and the liberalization process. The developing and the third world countries in the world are struggling to achieve the sustainability because of a number of problems which are posing the obstacles for the developmental activities in the society. As described by the United Nations (UNCSD report 2013 p3) Gender equality and women's empowerment are the prerequisites for the realization of all development goals; of poverty reduction, of good governance, of economic growth, of social cohesion, and of inclusive, equitable and sustainable development. Hence all the countries which are among for the development in a sustainable manner must aim for the equality in all respect. Looking at the gender gap in the labour force participation rate it is 49.5 per cent in South Asia, 23.1 per cent in South-East Asia and the Pacific, and 13 per cent in East Asia. On the other hand population growth, ageing, urbanization, and migration present both challenges and opportunities that are of vital concern to a region like Asia whose population has nearly tripled over the past 60 years. (ESCAP 2014 p8). Hence the sustainable development is becoming a challenging task yet an important with respect to the development of the region.

Socio-Economic and the Political Condition of Asia and Social Work

Asia is home for 60% of the world's population and it is one of the fastest-growing economic regions in the world. In-spite of the economic growth in a faster rate almost all Asian countries face challenges, including poverty, HIV

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and AIDS, human rights concerns and child sexual abuse, malnutrition etc. Social workers and welfare organizations are making a significant contribution in addressing these challenges and improving social well-being in the region by broadening indigenous social networks to incorporate private, public, and community interventions. Asia is home for the world's earliest civilizations and many of the world's religions have their roots in Asia. It is a vast region with 49 nations covering a land area of 17.2 million square miles with 60.7% (3.9 billion) of the world's people living in Asia. The Asian and Pacific Association for Social Work Education currently have 78 member institutions. In many Asian countries social work education is generally at the undergraduate levels. As per Asia Pacific Association for social work education China has more than 100 universities and colleges which are offering social work training, and china has seen the most rapid growth of social work education, Vietnam has recently started three schools of social work, Japan alone has 143 undergraduate schools and 81 graduate social work programs. Malaysia currently has five schools of social work, and countries like Japan, India, Singapore, and the Philippines have had social work education for many years and have developed high standards for graduate social work education.

The Asia and the Pacific regions are facing many problems related to the sustainability, as agriculture is the most dependable employment in some of the Asian countries. The environmental degradation, industrial development and the impact of the Globalization too has some contributions on these. There are some key sustainable development priorities in the Asia and Pacific regions to point them: (a) sustainable development in the economic aspects, with a low growth rates in economy, persistent poverty within the region, economic uncertainty and high unemployment, with a large number of unemployed youth, and need to focus on developing green jobs; (b) maintaining environmental and resource sustainability with all the economic and the developmental activities, providing food and the water security to the citizens, maintaining the climate, reducing the disaster risk, maintaining the oceanic biodiversity, and chemical and waste management; and (c) achieving the social inclusion where all the citizens are equal in all respect, addressing income inequality within the region and out of the region, combating with gender inequality, efforts for the promotion of peaceful societies and safeguarding the citizens in the region with respect to the non-communicable

diseases (ESCAP 2014 p5). While the South and south west Asia defer in its Priority to sustainable development challenges based on the conditions prevailing in the region the major challenges that are seen in south and south west Asian region are: (a) eradicating poverty and hunger; (b) creating the high earning and the sustained job for the citizens; (c) addressing structural inequalities in education, labour markets, access to modern energy, food security and nutrition; (d) challenges related to the women's empowerment and bringing gender equality; (e) building resilience to disaster and disaster risk reduction strategies within the region; and (f) achieving the regional integration and developing the underdeveloped surface transport networks and poor facilitation of sub-regional transit and trade constrain the development of regional production networks that could support inclusive growth and industrialization (ESCAP 2014 p13). The East and north east Asia facing the challenges with respect to the following areas: (a) addressing inequalities prevailing in the region, with significant income gaps between rural and urban areas of the region which is posing the challenge for the development, a high rate of informal, vulnerable and irregular employment and an alarming increase in the ageing population; (b) preventing pollution, and dealing with environmental issues across the boundary, (c) responding to population dynamics, in a context of rapid urbanization and aging population with alarming increase in number; and (d) deepening regional integration and connectivity as a platform for cooperation (ESCAP 2014 p14). In the North and Central Asia the challenges related to the sustainability are: (a) problems with connectivity in trade, transport and information, technology, communication and infrastructure; (b) economic diversification within and among the different countries within the region which is given rise to the high and increasing dependence on commodities; (c) problems with food security (d) energy security (e) water resources management (f) environment and climate change (ESCAP 2014 p15) whereas in South east Asia the key sustainable development challenges are: (a) expansion of the health care across the region is a major challenge as the GDP of the some countries in the region is very less and that's what effecting in the expenditure and this is also leading to the high level of child and maternal mortality in the some parts of the region (b) issues related to sustainable infrastructure development in the region, as the fulfillment of the basic sanitation needs has been very slow compared to the other regions, and almost 30 per cent

of urban populations of the region lives in slums which is a high challenge for the government; (c) as the most venerable nature of the region disaster risk mitigation and climate adaptation is also one of the challenge and the cost associated with this task is also very high (d) sustainable consumption and production, amid rising oil prices, rapidly changing lifestyles and consumerism, and industrialization processes is also creating the obstacles in the developmental process of the region (ESCAP 2014 p16).

An Overview of SAARC Countries

Most of the SAARC countries are facing the high levels of deprivation with respect to the access to basic needs which is contributing to high levels of poverty and inequality among the countries. Among the south Asian countries more than 1.7 billion people are live without access to basicslike sanitation; an account of 1.7 billion people depending on the traditional source of energy primary source of energy; and more than 600 million people are not having access to the electricity. There are more than 70% of population in the Pacific sub region, who live till today without access to electricity (ESCAP 2014 p4) even it is one of the necessity for the life. There are also issues of Inequality of income; opportunity among the population the power differences between women and men, girls and boys, between and within populations of rural and urban parts and across caste, ethnicity, creed, language groups. There are also disparities with regards

to regarding (a) access to assets in education and health and (b) basic needs associated with shelter, water and food (ESCAP, 2014, p4). There is existence of the poverty in the region Poverty and wide income gap because of the lake of sufficient and the income generating jobs in the region. One can find more than one billion people who are employed informally in the Asia-Pacific region (ESCAP 2014 p5). The majority of the population in the least developed Asia-Pacific countries, a good number of populations still works in the agricultural sector and depends on that for the income (ESCAP 2014 p5). Because of this a large number of population in the Asia Pacific region is still have incomes at subsistence level. The lack of polices which promote structural transformation and foster economic diversification is the main reason behind the present condition of the Asia pacific region. For the sustainable development it requires economic policies that based on sustainable consumption and production, which broaden opportunities for productive and decent work and minimize economic fluctuations and insecurity (ESCAP 2014 p5).

An Overview of Definitions on Sustainable Development

There are a number of definitions to define sustainable development in a different way, to understand what is sustainability, what it mean by sustainable development to understand this concept in a more broader the following Analysis of some definitions of sustainable development.

Definition	Source
Socially based Definitions	
"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs	IISD (international Institute for sustainable development (www.iisd.org/sd/)
When human beings strive for enhanced life conditions without diminishing the meaning of life itself - namely our children's future - we call this development sustainable.	World Bank Social Development Website
Sustainable development is often thought to have three components: environment, society, and economy. The well-being of these three areas is intertwined, not separate.	McKeown, R. (2002). The ESD Toolkit 2.0. Web-published document. www.esdtoolkit.org
Environmentally based Definition	

Definition	Source
Environmental sustainability is the ability to maintain rates of renewable resource harvest, pollution creation, and non-renewable resource depletion that can be continued indefinitely.	http://www.thwink.org/sustain/glossary/Sustainability.htm
Mixed Definition	
Economic sustainability is the ability to support a defined level of economic production indefinitely. Social sustainability is the ability of a social system, such as a country, to function at a defined level of social wellbeing indefinitely.	http://www.thwink.org/sustain/glossary/Sustainability.htm

Source: Adopted from Different websites

Different definitions define and explain sustainable development in different ways with different illustration but the question is what does the sustainable development mean? What are the characteristics of the sustainable development? As one of the definition of the sustainable development notes “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future generation” in that case the questions that academia should ask is what are the needs of the present? What will be the needs of future generation? To find an answer for these entire questions one must understand the concept of the sustainability as a multidisciplinary and the multi-dimensional. As the definitions describes social sustainability, economic sustainability, environmental sustainability, and the other relevant aspects associated with this. In general the sustainability development is enjoying the privileges of the today’s society without harming or handicapping the facilities or the privileges of the tomorrow’s society.

Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development

The United Nations Organisations formulated millennium development goals in the year 2000 with eight basic goals that to be achieved by 2015 in a time frame of 15 years. The millennium development goals were target to (a) eradicate extreme poverty and hunger in all its forms (b) to promote gender equality and thereby to achieve the empowerment of women (c) Reduce child mortality rate in the country (d) Improve maternal health as the maternal health has an direct impact on the infant mortality and the child health; at list bring down the number by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio (e) Combat the severe and the threatening diseases HIV/AIDS, malaria and other which are hindering the development of the country; measurers to take care of stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS (f) Ensuring the environmental sustainability

(j) to develop an global partnership for development; with the in and around the boundaries further to develop an open trading and financial system that is rule-based; predictable and non-discriminatory. Innovating the new technologies for development especially information and communication technologies for the rural and the interior parts of the country to share and learn from each other.

Over the year millennium development goals have brought some remarkable changes in the society and upon completion of target year of implementation the goals were further developed and re-implemented as Sustainable development goals. In the present scenario there is urgency to move from millennium development goal to (MDG’s) to the Sustainable Development goals (SDG’s). Both MDG’s and the SDG’s are well connected to the principles of the sustainable development hence the combination of both will contributors for achieve sustainable development. a more clear presentation of the similarity and differences among the SDG’S and MDG’S is given in the below mentioned table.

Moving from the MDGs to the SDGs

MDGs	Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development priorities
Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	Eradicating poverty and narrowing inequality
Achieve universal primary education	Pursuing sustained and inclusive economic growth
Promote gender equality and empower women	Gender equality and women’s empowerment
Reduce child mortality rates	Building resilience to natural disasters and economic shocks
Improve maternal health	Responding to population dynamics and urbanization

MDGs	Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development priorities
Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases	Enhancing resource efficiency and natural resource management
Ensure environmental sustainability, Develop a global partnership for development	Deepening regional integration and connectivity

Source: adopted from Jef Peeters (2011)

The above table gives a comprehensive idea about the MDGs and its target as well as the needs and priorities of Asia Pacific region in terms of sustainable development. However the discussion here is that what can be done to achieve sustainability and how the MDG's and the SDG's are useful in this process. According to Open Working Group on sustainable development goals, following points are important to Asia-Pacific region to achieve sustainability (a) eradicating the extreme poverty that is prevailing in the region and hindering the developmental process of the region (b) bring down the number of people living below the poverty (c) aiming to achieve the goals such as "ensure universal access to sustainable method of energy and assuring the safe and the affordable drinking water to all the citizens in the country. (d) Ensuring the sanitation facility for the girls and the women's in the region. (e) Achieving the equality and social justice in the society where every individual has his/her own identity and the freedom without any bias. (f) Ensure equal distribution of the economic resources and there by trying to balance the society in economic and the social matters. (g) making sure of achieving the universal access to education without excluding any particular group or the community, ensuring the health care and basic services which are highly important for the process of the development and empowerment (ESCAP 2014). If the regions putting effort to achieve the above mentioned goals then the sustainability of those regions will be assured and sustained. The regions which are facing the problem to achieve sustainability may work along with the international organisations which are working for the sustainable development in the regions. Following are some of the prominent national and the global organisations which are working for the sustainable development.

Need for Developing a Sustainable Development Centered Curriculum

The world is moving towards industrialization and modernization. The process such as globalization, privatization and liberalization has brought tremendous changes in the world societies and these changes are both positively and negatively affecting the world societies. Given this background now the argument is centered to the sustainable development strategies. In order to make any country sustainable in all its areas of development, the principles of sustainable development need to be incorporated in to the national education system. The curriculum that including teaching learning practices in the educational institutions in the Asia Pacific regions need to be centralized to the theme of Sustainable development and the need for the sustainable development in the present society should also be addressed in the curriculum. The curriculum must develop the graduates and the post graduates with sensitivity towards the environment and the environment pollution and the education system then can prepare the responsible citizens in the region. Looking at the present condition of the development and the development induced problems in the Asia Pacific region and thinking about bringing change and looking for the sustainable development may be meaning full only when the education system of the region rightly addresses the problem in its curriculum. Looking at the present curriculums of the education there is a great need felt for the development of something including the component of the sustainable development and the sustainable economic principles. Hence as pointed out by the report by United Nations on ESCAP pointed out that Managing disaster risks should be regarded as investment in sustainable development rather than an added cost. To that end, Governments should put in place adequate and appropriate legal frameworks and checks and balances; they should also provide risk information as a public good. A range of options in the management of risks should be accelerated by making better use of science and technology, including in the fields of information and communications technologies (ICTs) and space technology. Investments in development and strengthening of national multi-hazard early warning systems should be considered as an integral part of resilience-building strategies and,

to that end, a durable framework to ensure national, regional and international cooperation should be put in place. (ESCAP 2014 p8), for this purpose the disaster risk reduction must be given more and more important in the curriculum of the education in the region. There is also a necessary to strengthen the sustainable management of natural resources, encompassing sustainable and eco-efficient agricultural practices, integrated water resources management, habitat protection and biodiversity conservation, including oceans and mountain ecosystems. These should be managed in an integrated manner to meet often-conflicting multiple needs, leading to trade-offs between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development (ESCAP 2014 p8). Further the importance may also be given to the management and the maintenance of the natural resources in the Asia and the Pacific, as recognized by a number of forums. It is noteworthy that the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, which was held in Seoul in 2005, pioneered the adoption of “green growth” as an Asia-Pacific regional strategy for sustaining the economic growth necessary to reduce poverty, which is critical for the sustainable development needs of the region. The green growth approach focuses on generating synergies between economic and environmental dimensions, with special emphasis on the urgent need to improve eco-efficiency in patterns of production and consumption (ESCAP 2014 p8). The green growth concept may fit in well to the social work and the social science discipline curriculums. As suggested by the United Nations Council on Sustainable development the indicators of Sustainable development and composite indicators are considered to be a good vehicle in helping to measure sustainable development and progress achieved in it. Such indicators are meant to present complex data and trends in simplified form to policy makers. Hence the inclusion of these indicators and chapters on these indicators or lessons on these indicators will help a lot to achieve the sustainable development in the Asia Pacific countries. They can also help to share policy on the basis of information which is transparent and evidence-based (UNCSD 2012 p1).

Need for Social Work Practice for Sustainable Development

Social work is a profession striving for achieving the social justice by respecting the human right, the aim of the social work is to bring equality in the society and

eradicate the poverty and achieve the human wellbeing and empowerment of the weaker sections of the society (Ifsworg, 2017). The social workers works in the Policy and Programme implementation levels in the governmental and non-governmental offices and the advocacy for the empowerment and the development is also a part of the social work practice. Hence the social workers need to be trained in the High-level policy coordination mechanisms. The social work professionals in the sub-region can play an important role in transferring its policy experiences and technological knowledge to other sub-regions and this transformation process will support and encourages the sustainable development practices in the regions. Further the Sustainable development goals developed by United Nations could assist in focusing the broad international sustainable development agenda at a practical level. They could serve as a tool for countries to measure their progress as well as further cooperation between countries. The Civil society organizations (UNCSD 2012 p 1) defines the seventeen sustainable development goals as follows; ensuring the Sustainable Consumption and Production, ensuring the Sustainable livelihoods for the citizens, youth development and educational development, achieving the climate sustainability, ensuring the clean energy, maintaining the Biodiversity, ensuring good Water, Healthy seas and oceans to the citizens in the territory, developing the healthy forests, encouraging sustainable agriculture, promoting Green cities, ensuring the subsidies and investment, developing the new Indicators of progress for the measurement, ensuring the Access to information, Public participation, Access to redress and remedy, achieving Environmental justice for the poor and marginalized, ensuring Basic health to all the citizens. To full fill all these sustainable development goals the social work practice as a helping profession in the society will defiantly contribute and enhance the practice. Social work as a practice profession may try to increasing the low level of intra-sub regional trade and strengthening regional economic integration is important, including through the establishment of the Eurasian Economic Union by 2015. Ensuring that a shared vision of sustainable development underpins the further evolution of the Sub region will be critical. The below mentioned table gives a clear explanation of sustainable development goals and the principles of social work, where there is commonalties can be seen in many areas and a close connected working plans can be prepared and implemented for the development of the society.

Comparing the Principles of Social Work and Sustainability Development

<i>Sustainable development</i>	<i>Social Work</i>
Sustainability's principle is satisfaction of human needs	Social work believes in Enhancement of human well-being.
The sustainability Accepts the ecological limits	Social work principles does not says about the ecological limits
Equality and the solidarity is the guiding principle for the sustainable development	Social work works for bringing social solidarity, empowerment of the people, especially the disadvantaged sections of the society
In sustainable development the active participation of the citizens is seen as crucial	The social work encourages the participation of the people in the social work and the social work values the participation of the service users in all the activities
The sustainable development respect the principles of gender equality and the respect for the diversity	The gender equality and the respect for the diversity is respected in the social work
The sustainable development believes in the principle that all the citizens of the country have the right to enjoy a healthy and productive life but while doing so they have to take care of the environment or they have to maintain a harmonious relationship with the nature.	The social work believes in the interpersonal co-ordination among the individual and the institutions, the principles of social work works with the understanding of the people in the community and the community characteristics.
The sustainable developments principle believes in the principles of development in conjunction with the human well-being that's why the definition of sustainable development says that Development of today's society must not undermine the development and environment needs of present and future generations.	The social work principles in general strives to provide the peaceful life for all the individuals by ensuring the social justice and the equality in the society, it says that the development has to take place without affecting the community members.
The principles give the right and the freedom to the Nations to exploit their own resources, without causing environmental damage beyond their borders.	The social work principle helps the nation to build the good and the working relationship with the other countries which is an integral part of the development and the empowerment
The environmental protection has to be considered one of the prime parts of the developmental process so that every country will take care of the sustainable development. The poverty eradication, removing or reducing the disparity in the living standards within the regions and around the globe is also very essential to achieve sustainable development and meet the needs of the majority of people.	The principles of the social work describes the ecological balancing and protecting the environment, hence the social work profession is also concerned with the sustainable development and the social development truly related to the sustainable development of the region.
To achieve the Sustainable development all the countries must requires good scientific understanding of the problems that are faced by each of them. And try to solve the problem by the help of the co-operation and co-ordination of neighboring country. Hence the Nations should share knowledge and innovative technologies to achieve the goal of sustainability.	The international social work as a discipline in the social work helps the each country to work with the other and this opportunity helps the countries to find the solution to the problems faced local, national and the global.
The participation of the women, indigenous population is one of the necessary components for the sustainable development. Hence the Nations should recognize and support the identity, culture and interests of indigenous people.	The principles of social work ensures the empowerment of the weaker sections of the society, it believes in the development of the women, indigenous communities and the backward classes of the society by giving the opportunities for education, employment and the development.

Actions Required

The concept of the sustainable development depends on the attitude, knowledge and the quality of the population a region having. The achievements and the progress that can be made through sustainable development depend

on the citizens of the country and the choices they do in their everyday life. However the success and the failure of sustainable development goals depend on the population and its participation ether active or passive. Participation of all the people irrespective of their economic class need

to be ensured and state should make provision for the poor and underprivileged class to represent and get benefits equally in comparison with other sections of the society. However following are some of the urgent needs for the Asia Pacific region that need to be taken care by both state and the civil society organizations in the context of sustainable development.

The millennium development goals developed by United Nations speaks about total sanitation and ensuring sanitation to every household in the region but looking at the progress reports on the improvement in the goals shows that till today the target remain largely unattained. Supporting to this climate the report notes till date 2.5 billion people live without improved sanitation and 1.1 billion people still depending on open defecation. Further analysis of the achievement made by the MDGs shows if the current trend continues there will be around 1.4 billion people without access to sanitation in 2050. Hence the ground reality says that the need for construction of the toilets is more important in the present context. However achieving these goals without significant policy change and investment is highly difficult than impossible.

The financial and the resource availability have to be ensured for the long term programs. Further scaling-up services that are appropriate within the local context and accompanied by adequate human, institutional and financial arrangements for long-term operation and maintenance. Hence there is a need for the action in these core areas.

The drinking water continues to be a major attract in the present society. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) is the still prevailing problem in most of the countries. Even the countries with relatively high drinking-water supply are having relatively low sanitation coverage. The public health concern is the most neglected aspects of the Asian countries where expenditure on health considered being a dead waste. Evidence also demonstrates the lack of linkages between the sanitation and malnutrition, where one has a major impact on the other with long-lasting effects on human capital and growth.

Managing water sustainably to meet today's needs and future demands is ever more urgent in the present context of globalisation and industrialization. Any interruptions and irregularities in water supplies will have defiantly have impact on human and productive uses on livelihoods and economies. Water supply crises have been identified in a

survey of over 1000 experts from industry, government, academia and civil society as one of top three global risks. 10 Over 1.7 billion people live today in river basins where water use exceeds recharge, leading to the desiccation of rivers and depletion of groundwater. As countries develop and populations grow and urbanize, their demand for water is projected to increase by 55% by 2050 (UNCSO 2012 p 1).

There is an urgent need for improved knowledge, focused research, innovation and implementation towards much more productive and sustainable use of water and sanitation in the Asia Pacific regions where the Problem of Drinking water and the Problem of sanitation is hindering the development of the region. The urgency of increasing water productivity and adopting sustainable production and consumption patterns to meet projected future demands needs to be matched by progress in this area. The governments in collaboration with the private sector need to invest in these issues.

Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have launched nationwide midwifery schemes to train and deploy tens of thousands of front-line health workers to accelerate progress in preventing maternal and child mortality (UNCSO 2013 p7). This can be followed by the countries in the Asia Pacific region for the development in the field of health and the hygiene aspects of the

Investments in human and physical infrastructure for the public health-care sector are paying off in South Asia, where services have been provided free of charge in facilities close to patients (UNCSO 2013 p8). There is a need for the greater investment for the construction of the public health infrastructure.

Policies supporting free universal access to quality primary health care for women and children have reduced child mortality in some countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, especially when special attention is given to reducing deaths from malaria, pneumonia, diarrhea and measles and to rapidly scaling up the provision of insecticide-treated bed nets, measles vaccine and vitamin A supplements (UNCSO 2013 p8). The countries in the Asia Pacific need to learn from this and need to take care of the progress and the advancement in and the around the region.

National initiatives have proven to be effective in achieving water and sanitation targets. In South-East Asia, partnerships between local governments, builders

and community leaders have been launched to meet the need for drinking water and sanitation. Access to latrines has increased significantly, driven by community empowerment activities, strengthened institutions and a community hygiene campaign (UNCSD 2013 p8). Hence the Partnership between the Public and the Private sectors is need for the day.

Conclusion

In this study we tried to understand the problems related sustainable development in the Asia and Pacific region. While doing so our intention was to find the new strategies for the developmental aspects and inclusive development promotion along with introducing the academic discipline “social work” in the developmental activities of the region and training the social workers for the imagination of a society with sustainability. This study addresses the main issues involved in strengthening governance for sustainable development and the problems faced in the international level. While looking at the sustainable development achievements in the Asia’s regional level, it conveys how we need to strengthen co-ordination among the UN bodies who are engaged in providing normative and operational support to Member States for the developmental activities. There is also a need to look at the question of strength of coordination between other relevant institutions in the region (UNCSD 2011 p1). Till now the governments in all most all the Asian countries have taken many improvement measures to develop the conditions of the country the programs failed most of the time or haven’t given expected outcome because of the barriers to implementation of the programmes and the policies such as fragmented decision-making, conflicting policy targets and insufficient or ineffective coordination which are prevalent in the administrative level of the countries (UNCSD 2011 p5). At the core of the issue the human profession social work will surely make a remarkable change and impact if the suitable consideration is given for the discipline and its practice. The educational institutions must consider the social work discipline as a part of the sustainable development and the curriculum, practice, course and the research of the social sciences in general and social work in particular need to be established under the core principles of the sustainable development and the millennium development goals. Each and the every citizen of the countries residing in the Asia and the Pacific should take an pledge that the no developmental activity will take place with cost of the future generation of

the country and the region and no development will alter the life and the livelihood of the poor in a negative way. At the core level the participation of the people is highly expected and encouraged for the sustainable development in Asia. International experiences and learning from other regions and countries will also be one remarkable contributing factor for making SDGs more relevant and achievable goals. Internationalization of social work and incorporating sustainable development goals with in core teaching and learning aspects may greatly contribute in this direction. International social work is the promotion of social work education and practice globally and locally, with the purpose of building a truly integrated international profession that reflects social works capacity to respond appropriately and effectively, in education and practice terms, to the various global challenges that are having a significant impact on the wellbeing of large section of the world’s population (Pawar and Cox 2006).

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