

Introduction to
Sustainable
Development
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- • Development is not just GDP but also health, education, and equality.
- • HDI is a better measure than just income.
- • Majority of Indians work in low-paid, unorganized sector.
- • Rich-poor gap has widened despite economic growth.
- • True development must include social justice and equity.

Limitations of GDP-focused Growth

- • GDP growth often ignores inequality and environmental damage.
- • Rich benefit more from economic growth than the poor.
- • Many people lack access to basic needs and services.
- • Material comforts for some lead to resource exhaustion for others.
- • Development should be inclusive and just.

Environment and Its Dual Role

- • Environment provides resources like water, land, and minerals.
- • It also absorbs waste and pollution (sink function).
- • Overuse damages both source and sink functions.
- • Economic activities have overburdened nature.
- • Sustainable use is necessary to maintain balance.

Unsustainable Water Use

- • Groundwater is overused with electric pumps.
- • Water tables are falling across many regions.
- • Contamination from waste and chemicals is rising.
- • Many districts report unsafe drinking water.
- • Water use must match natural recharge levels.

Pesticides and Pollution

- • Pesticides harm environment and health.
- • Rachel Carson warned against DDT in 1962.
- • Endosulfan spraying in Kerala caused health crisis.
- • Only 1% of pesticide targets pests; rest pollutes environment.
- • Long-term effects include cancer and deformities.

Displacement and Development

- • Big dams like Sardar Sarovar displace tribal communities.
- • Thousands lost homes, land, forests, and culture.
- • Letter by Baba Mahariya shows emotional, social loss.
- • Modern development ignored people's voices.
- • Resettlement often leads to poverty and loss of dignity.

People's Movements and Rights

- • Movements like NBA and Chipko defend environment and people.
- • Tribals depend on forests for food, medicine, culture.
- • Loss of biodiversity also means loss of traditional knowledge.
- • Equity means fair access to environment for all.
- • Sustainable development must respect people's rights.

Sustainable Alternatives

- • Organic farming avoids chemicals, uses natural methods.
- • Sikkim and Uttarakhand promote 100% organic farming.
- • Community-led PDS in Telangana ensures food security.
- • Millets are climate-resilient and nutritious.
- • Local solutions can inspire national policies.

Challenges and Global Efforts

- • Sustainable development is not easy but necessary.
- • Courts have upheld right to clean air and water.
- • Global cooperation needed to fight climate change.
- • Local efforts like composting, rainwater harvesting help.
- • Development must balance growth with environment.

Conclusion and the Way Forward

- • Equity and sustainability must guide future development.
- • Economic progress should not harm environment.
- • Everyone has a role: people, government, courts, NGOs.
- • Lifestyle changes can reduce pollution and waste.
- • Let's ensure development for both people and planet.