

Sustainability: Its Changing Paradigm and Rural Development in Sindh

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Abstract

The current research investigates the sustainability and its changing paradigm in rural development in Sindh. Data were collected from 400 respondent's five districts Nawabshah, Nausheroferoze, Matyari, Dadu, and Tando Allayer, by using simple random technique. Structural questionnaire was the basic tool for measuring the change. It was revealed that creation of institutions, such as, officials elected representatives at districts block and village level. Such decentralization of institutions have been to promote a participatory strategy for rural development at Micro/or village level. It was further revealed that To achieve sustainable development it is still seems to be an elusive one until there is a determined government effort to allow officials (RD) and non-official (PRIs) to work in harmony for the betterment and reduction in the number of rural poor.

Keywords: Changing, Paradigm, Rural development, Sindh

1. Introduction

Man has had subsistence economies in the beginning of the agriculture society with the domestication of plants and animal on seasonal/permanent basis. But the lust of a better and controllable living together with industrial revolution brought on force the environmentalists-whose slogan was to "save our planet" from the onslaught of humans. The debate on sustainable development, therefore, has emerged as a result of over exploitation of natural environment and release of wastes in the surroundings without their recycle (without passing though Catalytic Convertor, etc). All activities of over exploitation and release of such wastes have surpassed the natural process of purification and delusion more specially in the post industrial revolution era. It is these contexts that the conceptual frame work of sustainable development needs some fresh look and debate in view of its varying dimensions and also, in turn, changing paradigm more particular in case of Rural Development. : The issue of sustainable development has drawn worldwide attention in the recent years. The growth and development models, pursued by both developed and developing countries and based on principle of maximization of production, consumption and material wealth have only turned this beautiful planet earth into a place of mass destruction and deprivation. The mankind is now forced with a very serious crises of ecological imbalances and its consequential adverse effects e.g reflected to the global warming, thinning on ozone layer, vast changes in climatic pattern, melting of glaciers, losses of biodiversity, soil degradation, air and water pollution, acid rain, situations of lakes and river beds, extinct of species depletion of other known natural recourses, different kind of plants and animals, genetic disorder and various kinds of diseases.

Fundamentally, environmental problems can be classified into three categories viz, resource depletion problems, pollution problems and other social problems. Through these issues sustainable development is crucial for the survival of mankind, yet a sense of urgency is lacking among nations both developed and developing. The current scenario is quite dismal warrants the urgent need on the part of the governments of the world, organization, and all other stake-holders to come together to take stock of the grim situation and act collectively to protect environment in the interest of present and future generations. If we don't act swiftly at this critical juncture their future cost of inaction would be very high perhaps beyond the means of developing countries.

The sustainable development has its roots in Greek literature, where goddess of earth is known as Gaia (Hughes, 1983). Accordingly, the Gaian philosophy has the deep rooted faith in the right of nature and the essential need for co-evolution of human and natural ethics. The essence of Gaian philosophy lies with the fact that survival of human depends upon survival of earth. It is on this philosophy, that the environmentalists spearheaded their views whose arguments centered on the issue that nature is malleable and manipulable through the ingenuity of scientific innovations and technological applications. In doing so man has advertently or inadvertently exceeded the inherent characteristics of reliance capacity of the nature. The focus of environmentalist was therefore, identical to that of the nature as nature mode.

Sustainable development in economics means the exploitation of the earth of natural resources in a way through a process of conservation. This in simple words means renewability, substitution, reusability, substitution maximization or efficient use of economic resources. As such this may help replenishment of natural resources rather than only continuous exploitation of resources. Thus it clearly indicates that Nature has to be overcome, if life has to progress. In other words it is the human who created fertility and progress leading simultaneously to a state of uneasy equilibrium liable to explosion and crashes at time.

Human resource is one of the main contributing factors for economic growth and for social, political, and technological development. In the era of globalization, economic liberation and fast growing ICT, strengthening the national competitive advantage is the concern of the policy makers. Subsequently, various human resource development planning and strategies are formulated and action plan are outlined at various phases of development. Human resource development continued to be given priority in support the implementation of a productivity-driven growth, which required highly skilled, trainable and knowledge manpower. Emphasis continued to be given to increase accessibility to education at all levels in line with the democratization of the education policy. The high growth rate of the economy was achieved with the price stability and since 1995, with virtually full employment before the currency crisis erupted in the late 1997. The rapid expansion in manufacturing increased employment in the sector sharply during the Sixth Pakistan is the seventh largest population in the world and one of the dense populated countries in the world. After getting freedom from British rule, Pakistan has achieved tremendous progress, in almost every sphere of human life. It may be in Agriculture, Animal husbandry, Horticulture, Defense, Education Science and Technology. The living standard of the people has improved significantly. The literacy rate has also increased up to 42%. The infrastructure like Roads, Electricity, Schools, Banks, in villages has been developed to a level of satisfaction.

It is easier to purchase car and other luxury items by any individuals. The more important is the maintain of car in good working condition. Similar situation of Rural Development in Pakistan. The more important is to maintain the rural infrastructure in good condition. The strategies for rural development have therefore to be developed, so that Pakistan could not only maintain this achievement but also reach higher standards in all aspects of rural development.

Concept of Human Resource Development

Human Resource Development (HRD) has become major function of Human Resource Management. This effort will entail more than the expenditure of money, it will require radical changes in our system of values in the way we evaluate human resource in their working environment, regardless, of the type of organization and in the way we view the management function itself, regardless of the product or service.

John Ingalls says, the new concept, which can satisfy the above problems in HRD. It enables to foster continuous development of increased human capacity and performance with a competency based management system.

Human beings also have a need to develop themselves professionally. Development of the capabilities keeps them psychologically sound. This development needs to be mentioned in terms of making it with organizational requirements. According to the Lippitt, HRD system depends on various factors like:

- (a) Work itself which generate a higher degree of responsibilities for the employees.
- (b) The individual personal and professional growth,

- (c) The improved quality output as a result of increased responsibility, and,
- (d) Organization as an open system

The HRD System should be such that it should maintain all people involved. It should developed newer and creative qualities in employees. The term HRD has become very popular in last decade and particularly the emerging of international organizations.

Most of the organizations started renaming their training and development department as a Human Resources Development center's and some created new departments. Later, some other personnel management functions like performance appraisal, potential appraisal, career planning and development and data storage system are included as sub-systems of Human Resource Development.

2. Data Collection Methodology

Data were collected from 400 respondent's five districts Nawabshah, Nausheroferoze, Matyari, Dadu, and Tando Allayer, by using simple random technique. Structural questionnaire was the basic tool for measuring the change.

3. Sustainability and Rural Development

Sustainable growth in view of the ecologists is a sort of impossibility as in the long-run the limits imposed by the non-renewable resources and the capacity of the biosphere to absorb wastes. But a possible solution to this dilemma is sustainable development, a term debated and popularized by our common future, 1987, report of the world commission on environment and development, chaired by Norwegian Prime minister Gro Harlem Brundtland (hence also known as Brundtland commission).

Sustainable Rural development, therefore, is the only means to achieve a measure of inter-generational equity, as we have failed to achieve till date growth and distribution for the rural people. The inbuilt possible answer in this change paradigm of sustainability is the long term strategy against short term strategy. This will entail is the long term overlapping of generations which may bring in understanding of development on sustained line. Thus, keeping in view the long-run strategy as the timeframe, neither ecological nor economic sustainability can provide a complete answer. Now, coming to the rural scenario, we find the majority of the population is engaged to agriculture and its related activities for their livelihood.

The rural development programs such as,

- Household development Programs
- Village development Programs and
- Rural infrastructure development Programs

We have now come to a point where if we want to bridge the gap between the developers and the environmental dimension we must decide the kind of sustainable rural development approach to be pursued to allow future generation to receive the benefit of the yester-year of the development process. This is also supported on identical lines by the World Commission on Environment and Development (1987) which states that sustained level of well being can only grow if sustainable development is initiated to allow, process of change (1987). Also studies and researches at the world level are now agreeable on the paradigm shift on the issue of sustainable rural development, which is an effective possibly the only way of achieving sustainable growth. This, however, largely depends upon four aspects, such as,

- Creation of institutions,
- Asset Management
- Technology policy, and
- Widening of markets

4. Creation of Institutions

Pakistan is a democratic country, and its concern is to uplift and bring the poor in the general stream of the nation. The main objective of the sustainable development is to,

- To improve human welfare and
- Improve quality of life

On the other hand, the essential features of the creation of institutions, such as, officials elected representatives at districts block and village level. Such decentralization of institutions have been to promote a participatory strategy for rural development at Micro/or village level.

5. Asset Management

Asset management include,

- Economic Activities,
- Welfare and
- Agro-Industries, small savings, revenue

This has to facilitate a platform to work in harmony with both Government agencies and people (who are the beneficiaries) so as to ensure check and balance between and among the officials and non officials on the one hand, and on other hand to accrue benefits on equity basis of rural people.

6. Technology Policy

Seventy percent of Pakistani population is living in rural areas of Pakistan and majority of them are poor, literacy rate is 34%. These people are deprived of to the access to improve bio-agricultural and such other technology, which need to be made affordable. These are:

- Land loss and soil erosion,
- Salinity and Urban expansion
- Water depletion, and
- Attractive capacity building/up gradation skill technology

Since technology policy and progress are complementary they need sincere government support system so as to ensure adequate rate of poverty reduction. This also needs empowerment of rural people through a sustained process of convincing, motivation, and knowledge of legal aspects of their rights.

7. Conclusion

The process of paradigm shift in the rural development approach has been initiated in Pakistan. To achieve sustainable development it is still seems to be an elusive one until there is a determined government effort to allow officials (RD) and non-official (PRIs) to work in harmony for the betterment and reduction in the number of rural poor. Accordingly, the Gaian philosophy has the deep rooted faith in the right of nature and the essential need for co-evolution of human and natural ethics. The essence of Gaian philosophy lies with the fact that survival of human depends upon survival of earth. It is on this philosophy, that the environmentalists spearheaded their views whose arguments centered on the issue that nature is malleable and manipulable through the ingenuity of scientific innovations and technological applications.

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