

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR RURAL EMPLOYMENT

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ABSTRACT

Sustainable Development is the development that meets the needs of the present, without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It also means the economic development that is conducted without depletion of natural resources. Sustainable development is necessary to ensure that we conserve our natural resources and maintain ecological balance and mitigate the impact of climate change. Keeping in mind the Sustainable Development, the SDG were made to transform the world. They are a call to action to end poverty and inequality, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy health, justice and prosperity. It is also important that no one is left behind.

Now the question that is important whether it is possible to create rural employment opportunities, keeping in mind the SDG goals of reducing poverty and inequality. The paper also searches the possibilities that whether any such employment opportunities are available solving the problem of rural unemployment on one hand and maintaining sustainability of nature on the other hand.

Keywords: Sustainable, livelihood, Resources, rural Employment

INTRODUCTION

The term sustainable development has become a common term in today's development discussions. The idea of sustainable development is concerned with the balance of economic, social and ecological balance. One of the main facts of sustainable development is the preservation of the environment. Since all life would end without the environment and biodiversity, they must be protected. All the needs of the population cannot be met by the earth's finite resources and means. Resource exploitation must be kept to the earth's carrying capacity in order for development to be sustainable because overusing resources damages the ecosystem.

Rural livelihood

Livelihood of rural people on the other hand depends on natural resources rural people depend on forests and fishing for their livelihood. Livelihood means supporting an individual's existence financially or vocationally or living to earn a livelihood.

Forest as a source of livelihood

Forestry as a source of livelihood for many people providing economic sustenance in way of life. People living in foreign environment and practicing hunting, collecting, shifting agriculture depend heavily on forest products not only for subsistence but also for income from forest products. Forest is important in the livelihood for local people in most developing countries. Local people depend on forest resources such as fuel wood, construction materials medicine and food. Forest resources include wood, timber, raw-materials, vegetables and fruits which have significant economic value.

For tribal people in India forest has always been of immense direct and indirect value. Thus we see that forest not only provide jobs but the forest landscape provide timber, fodder, fiber, and energy that feed the wider economy. They are also important for food-security and provide safety to rural community.

Fishing as a source of livelihood

Fishing is a main source of livelihood for millions of people in India especially in coastal area. It contributes to the country's economy like employment, food, GDP. It provides livelihood to over 28 million people in India including many marginalized and vulnerable communities. Fish and other aquatic animals are rich source of protein, minerals and vitamins. Fishing contributes about 1.07 % of India's total GDFP.

SUSTAINABLE PRACTISES

Forestry as a livelihood can be sustainably maintained. Forest resources can be used sustainably without over-using them. Afforestation can help maintain forest resources for the future generations.

Fisheries can use sustainable practices like using ice-boxes, instead of bamboo-basket to preserve fish and drying fish on platform instead of ground .All these practices can make fishing a sustainable livelihood option for the rural community.

CONCLUSION

As the ultimate objective of sustainable development is to achieve a balance between environmental economic and social sustainability, making these pillars its cornerstone. Among its many goals, preservation of ecology or bio-diversity is also very important. Thus if rural livelihood can provide employment opportunities to rural people and maintain sustainability at the same time it can also lead to economic development and social stability of the rural community.

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