

## **ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

### **LECTURE-6**

#### **Concept of sustainability**

Sustainability means meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In addition to natural resources, we also need social and economic resources.

Environmental sustainability is the responsibility to conserve natural resources and protect global ecosystems to support health and wellbeing, now and in the future.

#### **What is environmental sustainability?**

According to the U.N Environment Programme<sup>2</sup>, environmental sustainability involves making life choices that ensure an equal, if not better, way of life for future generations. Environmental sustainability aims to improve the quality of human life without putting unnecessary strain on the earth's supporting ecosystems. It's about creating an equilibrium between consumerist human culture and the living world. We can do this by living in a way that doesn't waste or unnecessarily deplete natural resources.

In simple terms, environmental sustainability is the practice of interacting with the planet responsibly. We do it to avoid depleting natural resources and compromising the future generation's ability to meet their daily needs.

#### **Why is sustainability important?**

Environmental sustainability is important because of how much energy, food and human-made resources we use every day. Rapid population growth has resulted in increased farming and manufacturing, leading to more greenhouse gas emissions, unsustainable energy use, and deforestation.

In other words, we need more energy and materials than ever before. Despite this, our planet can only provide so many resources before they begin to deplete. For this reason, businesses must step in and do their part. They have more power than any group of individuals, and they can help secure a livable future by investing in sustainable and responsible practices like reducing waste, using commercial clean energy, and paying fair wages.

#### **What is Sustainable Development?**

Sustainable development can be defined as an approach to the economic development of a country without compromising with the quality of the environment for future generations.

In the name of economic development, the price of environmental damage is paid in the form of land degradation, soil erosion, air and water pollution, deforestation, etc. This damage may surpass the advantages of having more quality output of goods and services.

### **Sustainable Development Goals**

- 1) To promote the kind of development that minimises environmental problems.
- 2) To meet the needs of the existing generation without compromising with the quality of the environment for future generations.

### **Achieving Sustainable Development**

There are two primary ways in which environmental sustainability can be achieved: by individuals and by corporations and government bodies.

- ❖ As individuals, we can take small but effective steps towards a more sustainable lifestyle, like using less water, reducing our meat consumption and switching to reusable products to reduce our dependence on single-use plastics.
- ❖ From a corporation's perspective, environmental sustainability may involve switching to renewable energy in warehouses, factories and offices or cutting down on single-use plastics in manufacturing.

### **Sustainable development can be achieved if we follow the following points:**

- ☒ It can be achieved by restricting human activities.
- ☒ Technological development should be input effective and not input utilising.
- ☒ The rate of consumption should not surpass the rate of salvation.
- ☒ For renewable resources, the rate of consumption should not surpass the rate of production of renewable substitutes.
- ☒ All types of pollution should be minimised.
- ☒ It can be achieved by sensible use of natural resources.

### **Examples of Sustainable Development**

- ☒ Wind energy
- ☒ Solar energy
- ☒ Crop rotation
- ☒ Sustainable construction
- ☒ Efficient water fixtures
- ☒ Green space
- ☒ Sustainable forestry

**What are the three types of sustainable development?**

The three types of sustainable development are:

- ☑ Economic viability
- ☑ Environmental protection
- ☑ Social equity

**The two examples of sustainable development are:**

1. **Solar energy:** Harnessing the solar energy to reduce pollution in the environment.
2. **Crop Rotation :** Planting different types of crops on the same land on a rotational basis for improving soil fertility.