

Sustainable Development and Over consumption: A Buddhist Perspective

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Introduction

Sustainable Development is a mode of human development in which resources use aims to meet human needs preserving the environmental, economical & social sustainability. So these needs can be met not only at present, but also for generations to come. The term Sustainable Development was used by the Brundtland Commission in 1987 and defined as, "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future to meet their own needs"

There are three Major areas of development in this regard i. e. environmental sustainability, economical sustainability, social sustainability. The concept of Sustainable Development is an idealistic future state which is to be attained by means of a balanced development process in socio economic and environment factors apart from upgrading the qualitative aspects of human life. The quintessential outcome of this concept is the effective usage of resources consumed by man for his multifarious day to day requirements.

Early Buddhism throws enough light on the fact that positive attitudes towards a more controlled consumption of the existing resources can minimize the over consumption & wastage of resources.

The purpose of this paper is to study the effective usage of Buddhist concepts towards the fulfillment of Sustainable Development.

Problem

Over consumption is a main problem in the modern world to achieve the goals of Sustainable Development. In the case of consumption it is important to cultivate the attitudes not only the amount of resources consumed but also the patterns in which they are consumed.

Methodology

The research method Content Analysis is used to examine the Buddhist theory of consumption.

Objectives

1. To identify the concept of Sustainable Development and its nature.
2. To understand the Principles of Sustainable Development.
3. To examine the applicability of Buddhist philosophy of consumption to success the goals of Sustainable Development.

Case Study

Modern man is not entitled to a contented and balanced life style. He is involved in a dissatisfied life style based on over consumption. So strong was their desires and attachments towards material objects that they are likely to be considering them most rewarding. In the context of modern society, it is a clearly visible phenomenon that people have been dealing with the

world, not knowing the truest sense of consumption. They have a great partiality for basic needs of man such as food, clothes, shelters and medicines. For instance, that the basic necessity of having meals is to quench starvation and thirst is likely to be unknown.

The ethos of the concept of Sustainable Development is nothing else but to make man decent / polite in consuming or utilizing resources. The reality behind this is that resources should obviously be utilized making room for the future use of generations or progenies to come, which ensures their better existence. The Early Buddhist texts comprised of directions necessary for the Sustainable Developments and consumption Index ; in which case Buddhism as a pure philosophy is truly able to be taken as wholesome tenet or teaching.

The objective of this research is to make a thorough study of how these Buddhist concepts of the utilization of resources can be applicable to the latest concept of Sustainable Development at present.

Conclusion

Sustainable Development refers to a mode of human development in which resources use aims to meet human needs preserving the resources for generations to come. The researcher believes that understanding and practicing the theory of consumption which are revealed in Early Buddhist texts is more helpful to fulfill the aspects of Sustainable Development by preserving the resources in the modern world.