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**ICSSR Sponsored
Two-Day National Seminar
on**

**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
THROUGH SWACHH BHARAT MISSION**

Volume I

Editor

Dr. P. Ravichandran

Associate Professor & Head
Department of Economics
Dean of Arts

**G.T.N. Arts College (Autonomous)
Dindigul, Tamil Nadu.**



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Department Of Economics
G.T.N. Arts College (Autonomous)
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Editor : Dr.P. Ravichandran

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IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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I. INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development, in the words of the report of Gro Harlem Brundtland, chairman of the world commission on environment and development is "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". This definition is sufficiently vague to cover many contingencies. J. R. Hicks similarly wrote "the purpose of income calculation in practical affairs is to give people an indication of the amount which they can consume without impoverishing themselves". Even this definition is elusive, because the maximum amount of consumption that an individual can expect to maintain while keeping the initial level of wealth intact depends on his expectations of future prices and interest rates. But current values, according to economic doctrine, reflect the best estimates that economic agents can make of this uncertain future.

If, sustainability were to mean that the total stock of natural and environmental capital must be preserved and conserved, that all exhaustible raw materials must be handed on to future generations in their present amount and form, then we should have to aim not at zero growth but at zero consumption and zero production. Making would then quickly die out, while oil and iron ore would survive. Even the most enthusiastic environmentalist cannot want this to happen. If on the other hand, we should be concerned not with sustaining the ingredients of well-being but its constituents, so that we are allowed to exhaust raw materials as long as we substitute other inputs for them, then there is nothing new in optimizing well-being into the indefinite future, which has always been the aim of economists. But "sustainable" is open to misinterpretation: assume there is a choice between a fluctuating path of future wellbeing which consistently lies above a steady path expansion, or a plateau, and this lower but, "sustainable" path, surely the former should be preferred. Sustainability, on the other hand, suggests that the latter is better. Or assume a choice between a lower-cost unsustainable mining project and a higher-cost sustainable forestry project, again the sensible choice is the former, while sustainable may point to the latter.

Sustainable Development

Does the fact that natural resources that are inputs into the economy are finite impose a limit on sustainability? Optimists and pessimists are divided. So far, looking at history, the optimists have argued that the decline of existing resources will always tend to be compensated by new resource discoveries, innovation in extraction, transport and processing, and substitution on human capital for natural capital. As long as substitution of tolls and knowledge for non-renewable natural continues, consumption can be sustained for ever. The pessimist says that natural resources and human capital are interdependent and complementary.

Knowledge can be appear in there forms: disembodied knowledge in blueprints, designs or articles or books; knowledge embodied in equipment or physical capital; and knowledge embodied in human skills or human capital. Disembodied knowledge is not reduced by use or the passage of time and can be accumulated without limit. If disembodied knowledge can be

About The Editor



Dr. P. Ravichandran (1971) serving as an Associate Professor and Head, Department of Economics and Dean of Arts G.T.N. Arts College (Autonomous), Dindigul. He has obtained his M.A. (Economics) from Jamal Mohamed College, Trichy and M.Com. M.Phil (Economics) and Ph.D from the Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai. His academic excellence and subject interests are: Quantitative Techniques, Operations Research, Environment and Health Economics and Mathematical Economics. He has guided more than 25 M.Phil Scholars and presently guiding 5 Ph.D scholars. He has presented and published more than 35 Research Papers in the State, National and International Seminars and Conferences. He has conducted National level Seminars and Workshop with the sponsorship of UGC, ICSSR and NHRC. He has been in the author of three books and also an editor of GTN Multi Disciplinary Bi-Annual Research Journal.

The present volume is a collection of research articles submitted by eminent speakers, experts in the field and research scholars for presentation in the ICSSR sponsored Two Day National Seminar organized by Department of Economics, G.T.N. Arts College.



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