

# Sustainable Development

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# **Sustainable Development**

- The concept of Sustainable Development has its origins in the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment, and in a variety of environmental activism efforts and published works from the 1960s onward.
- Some key works that highlighted this thinking include:
- 1. Silent Spring: by Rachel Carson (1962)
- 2. Tragedy of the Commons: by Garret Hardin (1968)
- 3. Blueprint for Survival: by the Ecologist magazine (1972)
- 4. Limits to Growth: report by the Club of Rome (1972)

- The concept of sustainable development (SD) gained with the publication of the Brundtland Commission Report in 1987, also known as Our Common Future.
- Definition of Sustainable Development
- According to this report <u>Sustainable Development means</u>

"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, improved living standard for all, better protected and managed ecosystem and a safer, more prosperous future".

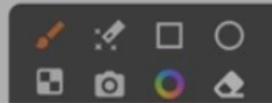






### Three pillars of sustainable development

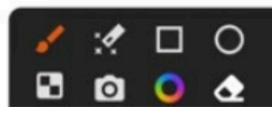
- 1. Ecological sustainability
- 2. Social sustainability
- 3. Economic sustainability
- They are interlinked and dependent on each other to ensure sustainability.



## **Principles of Sustainable Development**



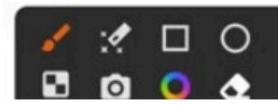
- The outcome of this grave situation was the Agenda 21: Green Paths to the Future or Rio Declaration, 1992. Though there are many highlights of the declaration, the summary of it is presented in the twenty seven principles.
- Some of the salient principles of sustainable development:
- Inter-generational equity;
- 2. Use and conservation of natural resources;
- 3. Environmental protection
- 4. The precautionary principle
- 5. The 'Polluter Pays' principle
- 6. Principle of liability to help and co-operate





# **The Convergent view**

- According to Gandhiji "The Western model of technologyinduced development which is based on the principle of satisfying human greed, is immoral as well as violence against mankind and nature.
- Particularly <u>Club of Rome</u> are of opinion that there are limits to growth as resources are limited.





- There were more than 160 countries that had participated in the proceedings of the conference and there were definitely at least more than 480 agenda items in circulation at the venue of the conference.
- There was yet another set of 160 proposals that were articulated by the Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) of every country.
- However, the most significant line of discord emerged between the perspectives of developed and developing countries on sustainable development.



### 1. The perspective of Developed world:

The developed countries continue to hold their privileged position and were not willing to compromise on anything. In fact they blamed the increasing populations among poorer countries as a serious threat to the global environment.

#### 2. The perspective of Developing world:

According to this view, the hegemonic control of the developed world over the trade, environment, resources, economy, technology, knowledge and politics, etc., is the single most important threat to the global environment, peace and development.



- Sustainable Development: Policy Objectives
- 1. Reviving growth
- 2. Changing the quality of growth
- Meeting essential needs for jobs, food, energy, water, and sanitation
- 4. Ensuring a sustainable level of population
- 5. Conserving and enhancing the resource base
- 6. Reorienting technology and managing the risk
- 7. Merging environment and economics in decision making"