



# Sustainable Human Development: Issues and Challenges

Kemi Anthony, Emina

Department of Religious Studies and Philosophy, Delta State University, Abraka, Delta State, Nigeria.

\*Correspondent Author: [eminakemi@yahoo.com](mailto:eminakemi@yahoo.com)

## ABSTRACT

Human development is a complex phenomenon that involves expanding the array of options available to individuals. It is a multidimensional concept that primarily denotes enhancements in people's quality of life across various socio-economic dimensions, such as health, education, standard of living, physical and social infrastructure, quality of life, and security. These dimensions are widely recognised as essential components of human development and are considered nonnegotiable. This research aims to elucidate the characteristics and conceptualizations of sustainable human development. Moreover, the primary emphasis is placed on addressing the fundamental concerns and obstacles pertaining to the achievement of sustainable human development. This work examines a range of pressing concerns, including but not limited to extreme poverty, inadequate healthcare, low literacy rates, social exclusion, depletion of groundwater resources, pollution, environmental degradation, deforestation, climate change, economic violence, terrorism, governance issues, corruption, political instability, human security, political security, economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, as well as individual and community security. The work also assesses various problems and challenges associated with these issues. Additionally, a concise explanation is provided on the issues associated with sustainable development..

**Keywords:** morality; moral values; norms; tradition; culture; moral relativism; absolutism.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

During the 1950s and 1960s, the prevailing development theories placed significant emphasis on the promotion of economic growth and the measurement of a nation's economic output via Gross National Product (GNP). During the 1970s, there was a notable rise in global poverty levels. In response, the government implemented the basic needs strategy as a means to address this issue. However, the effectiveness of this method was hindered by the apathetic behaviour of the wealthy few and the vulnerability of the marginalised populations. The 1980s were marked by the emergence of similar issues, including environmental deterioration, debt, deprivation, and rising inequality within nations. However, throughout the 1990s, there was a glimmer of optimism as more equitable management strategies, increased recognition of

the interconnectedness of disciplines, sustainable advantages resulting from technology progress, and the significance of collaborative partnerships began to emerge. The primary focus of the new paradigm is sustainable human growth. The achievement of human development is facilitated by the equitable distribution of income, access to quality healthcare and education, a clean environment, and the presence of freedom of expression. These elements are widely recognised as pivotal factors in the overall development process. The main focus of sustainable development is in the establishment of reproducible patterns of material use, which acknowledge the constraints imposed by the environment. Nevertheless, sustainable development encompasses more than just advocating for the preservation of the environment. Additionally, it suggests a new paradigm of growth that affords equal prospects

for everybody worldwide, while also safeguarding the limited resources of our planet. Sustainable development refers to a comprehensive approach that encompasses several policies, including economic, fiscal, agricultural, and industrial, with the aim of achieving development that is economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable.

Achieving sustainability requires comprehensive transformations at both national and international scales. At the national level, achieving sustainability necessitates the establishment of equilibrium between present obligations and future requirements, as well as a harmonious coexistence between private enterprise and governmental intervention, and a delicate balance between individual self-interest and societal empathy. Moreover, sustainability entails a significant reorganisation of fiscal allocations, diverting resources away from military expenditures and ineffective public investments, and redirecting them towards investments in human capital and environmentally sustainable technologies. At the global scale, the achievement of sustainable development requires a consensus that the well-being of all individuals is contingent upon the collective collaboration of all nations. In order to address this issue, it is imperative to establish a more fair global framework by disassembling the existing international economic system. In the context of a very disparate global landscape, the attainment of a unified global entity necessitates comprehensive worldwide changes. The idea of sustainability will always remain illusive in the absence of global fairness. Sustainability proponents emphasise the fundamental importance of human development, asserting that real human development cannot be achieved without the integration of sustainability principles (Singh, 2014). The notion of Sen's 'capacity approach' (Robeyns, 2005) provides the foundational framework for understanding the scientific underpinnings of sustainability in relation to both development and human wellbeing. This method aims to explore an alternate perspective on the sustainability of

territory and the idea of development, which is seen as a progression in the enhancement of individual and collective human capabilities to engage in activities that are freely chosen and highly valued.

A definition of valid acceptance regarding human development and its correlation with sustainability can be found in the UNDP report on human development. The report introduces the concept as follows: "Human development is a progressive phenomenon that encompasses the broadening of individuals' prospects, with a primary emphasis on attaining longevity, acquiring education, and experiencing a satisfactory standard of living." The concept of human development encompasses four fundamental pillars, namely equality, sustainability, productivity, and empowerment. The perspective under consideration places significant importance on economic development, while also highlighting the need of addressing matters pertaining to quality and distribution. It engages in a meticulous examination of the connections between economic growth and individuals' livelihoods, while also raising inquiries over the long-term viability of such endeavours.

## 2. SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: NATURE AND DEFINITIONS

The development theories used throughout the 1950s and 1960s placed significant emphasis on economic growth and Gross National Product (GNP). During the 1970s, there was a notable rise in poverty levels on a global scale. In response to this issue, governments adopted the basic needs strategy as a means to address the problem. However, the effectiveness of this method has been hindered by the apathetic behaviour of the affluent few and the vulnerability experienced by marginalised communities. The 1980s were marked by the emergence of a similar phenomenon, which further exacerbated the pressing issue of environmental degradation on a global scale. Additionally, it brought about significant

challenges such as mounting debt, socio-economic distress, and widening gaps within nations. However, throughout the 1990s, there was a glimmer of optimism as more balanced management strategies, more recognition of multidisciplinary connections, sustained advantages resulting from technical advancements, and the importance of partnerships began to emerge. The primary focus of the new paradigm is sustainable human growth.

The attainment of human development is facilitated by the equitable allocation of resources, including income, access to healthcare, education, a clean environment, and the freedom to express oneself. These elements are widely recognised as important factors in the overall development process. The primary focus of sustainable development is in the examination of replicable forms of material consumption that acknowledge and address the environmental constraints. Nevertheless, it is important to note that sustainable development encompasses more than just advocating for the preservation of the environment. Additionally, it suggests a new paradigm of growth that affords equal opportunities to everybody worldwide, while also safeguarding the limited resources of our planet. Sustainable development refers to a comprehensive approach that encompasses several policies, including economic, fiscal, agricultural, and industrial, with the aim of achieving development that is economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable.

Achieving sustainability requires comprehensive transformations at both national and international scales. At the national level, achieving sustainability necessitates a harmonious equilibrium between present obligations and future requirements, as well as a delicate balance between private enterprise and governmental intervention, and between individual self-interest and societal empathy. Furthermore, sustainability entails a significant reorganisation of fiscal allocations, redirecting resources away from military expenditures and inefficient public investments, and towards

increased investments in human capital and environmentally sustainable technologies. At the global scale, the achievement of sustainable development requires a consensus that the well-being of all individuals is contingent upon the collective collaboration of all nations. The establishment of a more equal global order necessitates the demolition of the current international economic framework. In the context of a very disparate global landscape, the achievement of a unified global entity necessitates comprehensive worldwide changes. The idea of sustainability will always remain illusive in the absence of global fairness.

The concept of human development is fundamentally aligned with the goals of sustainability supporters, as it encompasses the notion of preserving and maintaining important elements for the well-being of humanity. In the absence of sustainability, human growth cannot be considered genuine or complete. Singh (2014) conducted a study on this topic. The theoretical framework of Sen's 'capacity approach' (Robeyns, 2005) provides the foundational underpinning for understanding sustainability as a scientific discipline that is interconnected with both development and human well-being. This method aims to tackle an alternative understanding of territorial sustainability and perspectives on development as a progression of enhancing individual and collective human capabilities to engage in activities that are freely chosen and esteemed. The UNDP report on human development provides a definition of valid acceptance regarding the interplay between human development and sustainability. According to this report, human development can be understood as a progressive advancement in individuals' opportunities, with a particular emphasis on factors such as longevity, education accessibility, and the attainment of a satisfactory standard of living. The concept of human development encompasses four fundamental pillars, namely equality, sustainability, productivity, and empowerment. The perspective under consideration places significant importance on economic development, while concurrently

highlighting the need of addressing matters pertaining to quality and distribution. It undertakes a meticulous examination of the connections to individuals' lives and raises inquiries on the enduring viability of these connections.

According to the United Nations progress Programme's Human Development Report, human progress is characterised by the expansion of individuals' opportunities and choices (Hopkins, 1991). The concept being discussed is an expansion of the fundamental needs method. The basic needs approach serves as a reminder that the primary goal of development endeavours is to ensure that every individual is given the chance to have a complete and fulfilling life. Human growth is to move away from fundamental interpretations that are centred on commodity bundles or individual demands. Human development extends beyond the fulfilment of fundamental necessities, since it encompasses the well-being of all individuals, regardless of their socioeconomic status within a nation-state or across different nation-states. The notion of Sustainable Human Development (SHD) pertains to the enduring nature of development. There exists a potential scenario whereby the current beneficiaries of progress may inadvertently impose a burden on future generations by depleting the earth's limited resources and harming the environment. The World Commission on Environment and Development (Our Common Future 1987) espoused the overarching idea of sustainable development, which posits that the present generation should fulfil its requirements while ensuring that future generations may do the same (Borowy, 2013, p. 54).

Sustainable development encompasses two fundamental components, namely sustainable human development and environmental sustainability. Dewan (2009) posits that the concept of SHD fosters a conducive atmosphere whereby the assurance of human security is maintained, enabling individuals to realise their utmost capabilities and pursue a life characterised by dignity and freedom. The

concept under consideration involves enhancing the practical necessities and strategic concerns for all constituents within a given community, with the ultimate objective of ensuring comprehensive physical, mental, and social welfare.

Each of the aforementioned definitions of sustainable human development highlights distinct characteristics of human development objectives. The emphasis on environmental sustainability is not the primary focus of what is often referred to as sustainable human development. Within the human development paradigm, the prevailing perspective regards sustainability as only one aspect among many within the broader aims of human development. Conversely, the sustainability paradigm posits that sustainability is the central concern for our future existence.

Sustainable development, which entails the fulfilment of current needs while safeguarding the capacity of future generations to fulfil their own needs, necessitates purposeful intervention to avert the depletion or deterioration of environmental assets. This is done to ensure the perpetual sustenance of the resource base and ecological foundation that support human activities. The fundamental essence of sustainable human growth is explicated in the following discourse.

### 3. MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE PRESENT

**Economic Needs:** Includes access to adequate livelihood or productive assets, also economic security when unemployed, ill, disabled or otherwise unable to secure a livelihood.

**Social, Cultural and Health needs:** Includes a shelter which is healthy, safe, affordable and secure, within a neighborhood with provision for piped water, sanitation, drainage, transport, health care, education and child development. Also, a home, workplace and living environment protected from environmental hazards, including chemical pollution. It should consider the needs related to people's choice and control, including homes and neighborhoods which they value and

where their social and cultural priorities are met. Shelter and services must meet the specific needs of children and adults responsible for most child-rearing (usually women). Achieving this implies a more equitable distribution of income between nations and in most nations.

**Political Needs:** Includes freedom to participate in national and local politics and in decisions regarding management and development of one's home and neighborhood within a broader framework which ensures respect for civil and political rights and the implementation of environmental legislation (Mitlin & Satterthwaite, 1994).

**Without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs**

**Proper usage or minimizing the wastage of non-renewable resources:** Includes minimizing the consumption of fossil fuels in housing, commerce, industry and transport and substituting renewable sources where feasible. Also, minimizing water wastage (reduce use, reuse, recycle, reclaim). There are also non-renewable cultural, historical and natural assets within cities which are irreplaceable so the natural landscapes which provide space for play, recreation and access to nature.

**Sustainable use of renewable resources:** Cities drawing on freshwater at sources at levels which can be sustained; keeping to a sustainable ecological footprint in terms of land area on which producers and consumers in any city draw for agricultural crops, wood products and biomass fuels.

**Waste from cities keeping within the absorptive capacity of local and global sinks:** Including renewable sinks (e.g., the capacity of the river to breakdown biodegradable wastes) and non-renewable sinks (for chemical, include greenhouse gases, stratospheric ozone-depleting chemicals and many pesticides). Taking into account both the development and environment components in sustainable human development,

the important criteria for judging sustainable human development could be:

1. The quality of life of the inhabitants including existing levels of poverty, social exclusion and integration and socio-political stability.
2. The scale and nature of renewable resource use, including the extent to which waste recycling or reuse, reduces it.
3. The scale and nature of non-renewable waste generated by production and consumption activities and the means by which these are disposed of. It also includes the extent to which the wastes affect human health, natural systems and amenities.
4. The scale and nature of renewable resource use, including the provision to ensure sustainable levels of demand.

However, this definition remains silent about the constituents of the needs of the present and future generations. This is primarily crucial because developing countries in general are not satisfied with their present levels of consumption, while developed countries are not entitled to 85 percent of the world's income without reversing the present patterns of consumption. As a matter of fact, the preservation of the global environment raises serious questions about the distribution of global income and assets at present.

The concept of sustainable development implies that each generation must meet its needs without incurring debts that it cannot repay. The word debt includes four dimensions, which are as follows:

- (i) Avoiding the accumulation of environmental debts by depleting natural resources;
- (ii) Avoiding financial debts by incurring unsustainable borrowing
- (iii) Avoiding social debts by neglecting investment in human capital
- (iv) Avoiding demographic debts by permitting unchecked population growth vis-avis urbanization.

Sustainable human development may be achieved by the implementation of appropriate

fiscal policies in each of the aforementioned domains, ensuring a balanced approach across generations. Sustainable development necessitates differentiation from mere economic progress and a commitment to preserving the physical environment, ultimately benefiting human well-being. Nevertheless, the preservation of the physical environment serves as a mere instrumentality towards the ultimate objective of supporting human existence. It is essential to ensure the provision of developmental prospects and the exercise of human agency for forthcoming generations, so guaranteeing that they experience a minimum degree of welfare and well-being comparable to that experienced by our present generation.

In light of this context, the notion of sustainable human development places emphasis on both the current and future aspects. Concerns arise for future generations when the current generation is experiencing poverty and living below the poverty threshold. The perpetuation of current injustices is both unnecessary and undesirable, since it is neither sustainable nor of value to maintain. The prerequisite for any feasible approach to sustainable human growth is the requisite reorganisation of global income and consumption patterns.

#### **4. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Human development and sustainable development are closely related to one another but different in some respects. The difference being that attaining higher human development may require the use of more resources, whereas ensuring sustainability may require constraining the use of resources. However, the relationship is that both human development and sustainable development emphasizes on capabilities, ability and capacity. These two concepts, therefore share the basic views that development is about enabling people. Since people derived utility from many things other than income, economic development is not just more than raising per capita income, but also includes health, education, autonomy and freedom as well which all

contribute to human development (Loewenstein & Sicherman, 1991).

The sustainability debate also regards essential items of human development such as:

- (i) Education to lead an informed and self-determined life;
- (ii) Multiple dimensions of development, with the acknowledgment, that income is an important determinant;
- (iii) Education and health as instrumentally productive, valuable and therefore desirable in their own right;
- (iv) It reminds proponents of sustainability that what should be sustainable is as important as how to sustain it;
- (v) Human development stressed that people must have freedom and choices to fulfill their needs, desires/wants. This is compatible with a definition of sustainable development, as a non-decreasing capacity to provide non-declining per capita utility for infinity. This is compatible with the capital approach to sustainable development; and
- (vi) Human development tries to remind proponents of sustainability that people are, real with freedoms and choices, not social welfare state clients who are allocated a certain amount of utility by the omnipotent social welfare planner.

To this end, there is no tension between human development and sustainable development, both are based on the universalism of life claims (Neumayer, 2016). If human development is about enabling people to lead long, healthy, educated and fulfilling lives, then sustainable human development is about making sure that future generations can do the same. But to some sense adding 'sustainable' as a prefix is superfluous, since human development without being sustainable cannot be true human development.

#### **5.FACTORS AFFECTING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

With the end of the MDGs which guided global development till 2015, the international community negotiated SDGs for the period 2016-

2030. The main challenges to sustainable development which are global in character include poverty and exclusion, unemployment, climate change, conflict, humanitarian aid, building peaceful and inclusive societies, building strong institutions of governance and supporting the rule of law. The literature on human development and sustainable development, or sustainability in short, has long been separated. Many studies have proved that human and sustainable development are interlinked. Moreover, the concept of sustainable human development is a debatable topic among policymakers and researchers around the world. Having discussed the conceptual links between human development and sustainability, this section highlights the challenges of sustainable human development or the issues which have constricted it.

### 5.1 Poor Health

The protection of persons is universally recognised as the primary objective in ensuring human security. This entails safeguarding against any manifestation of violence that poses a risk to the personal security of an individual. This entails not just safeguarding against various forms of violence that arise in circumstances such as terrorist attacks or conflicts, but also addressing other non-conventional security challenges such as food insecurity, poverty, displacement, and similar concerns. The notion of human security exhibits a strong interconnection with the principles of human rights and human development. In addition to addressing individual security concerns, it also encompasses the realm of communal security. In the majority of circumstances, it is the communal responsibility of communities to confront various dangers. These hazards arise from routine occurrences, posing risks to the security of everyday existence and the integrity of persons and communities.

The prevalence of violence against women is a pervasive characteristic seen across many countries, indicating its international nature. Crimes perpetrated against women occur in both rural and urban settings, making them the

most susceptible demographic within society. In instances of violence, women tend to have the most pronounced adverse effects. Children have emerged as a very susceptible demographic, being often coerced into domestic employment, exploited as labourers, and subjected to the perils of human trafficking.

The status of women in Nigeria presents a dichotomy, with some women making strides in various fields such as executive positions, political leadership, environmental activism, social work, and entrepreneurial endeavours. Conversely, the situation for women in rural areas of India is less promising due to limited access to education and a lack of awareness regarding their rights and responsibilities. Despite the implementation of legislation aimed at improving their circumstances, the efforts have not yet gained momentum. Children have also been adversely affected by significant deficiencies in schooling and have been subjected to exploitative labour practises, such as engaging in work in various businesses and hotels. Domestic assistants fall among the demographic of those who lack access to adequate education, work opportunities, and social security.

The advancements in the healthcare industry are mostly limited to metropolitan regions. Additionally, the availability of healthcare services is contingent upon one's financial position. The longevity of human life has seen an upward trend, but the rate of newborn mortality has shown a concurrent rise. The correlation between the availability of healthcare services and economic development and social welfare is evident. Improved individual health leads to a reduction in productivity losses, so making a significant contribution to overall productivity levels. This phenomenon has a significant impact on available resources, therefore mitigating superfluous expenses that might otherwise be allocated towards enhancing overall living conditions. The community health centres have the responsibility of assuring the provision of healthcare services in rural regions. However, they often face challenges such as inadequate staffing, a workforce that is reluctant

to work in rural settings, and a lack of essential medical equipment and infrastructure required to provide comprehensive healthcare.

The primary global risk factors contributing to mortality on a worldwide scale are elevated blood pressure, accounting for 13% of global fatalities, tobacco use at 9%, elevated blood glucose levels at 6%, physical inactivity at 6%, and overweight and obesity at 5%. These aforementioned dangers contribute to an increased susceptibility to chronic ailments, including cardiovascular illnesses, diabetes, and many forms of cancer. These phenomena have an impact on nations across a wide range of socioeconomic categories, including high, medium, and low-income countries.

## 5.2 Low Literacy Rate

Education is regarded as a fundamental and pivotal element in the process of growth. The aforementioned tool plays a crucial role in facilitating the process of social, economic, and political inclusion, as well as fostering long-lasting integration of those who are deemed marginalised or excluded from the predominant fabric of a given society. Social investment is often seen as an optimal allocation of resources due to the synergistic effects and positive externalities it engenders, ultimately enhancing the overall well-being of individuals. The rates of female literacy persistently fall behind, with advancements often being masked by discrepancies in gender, caste, and poverty across urban and rural contexts. There exists a significant negative correlation between greater rates of female literacy and lower rates of fertility, infant mortality, and child mortality, and vice versa.

The assessment of an educational system is often determined by the literacy rates of both adolescents (aged 15 to 24) and adults. Currently, there is a favourable general trend in literacy rates, which may be attributed to the increased availability of educational possibilities. According to Wolhuter and Barbieri (2017), there has been a significant global rise in the literacy rate among young individuals, rising from 83 percent to 91 percent over a span of two decades. Additionally,

the number of kids who lack basic reading skills has seen a reduction from 170 million to 115 million. Nevertheless, there are still persistent discrepancies based on region and gender. The literacy rates are found to be much lower in the least developed nations, with a notable gender disparity favouring men over females. In the most recent years for which statistics are accessible, it was observed that young women constituted 59 percent of the overall illiterate youth population. Approximately 70 percent of the nations and regions, for whom data has been obtained, have successfully eliminated or significantly reduced illiteracy rates among the younger population. In several nations situated in West and Central Africa, it is noteworthy that the rates of literacy among the young population persist at levels below 50 percent. The following nations have encountered challenges in their efforts to enhance school enrollment rates at both the elementary and secondary education levels. Nevertheless, despite the potential attainment of universal primary education, several nations have subpar levels of youth reading. This implies that both the act of enrolling in and remaining in school are significant, alongside the overall quality of education.

## 5.3 Extreme Poverty

Poverty is the most prominent barrier for development in developing countries. Majority of the population lives in rural settlements and depends on agriculture as their main source of income. Poverty and the environment have a strong relation especially in countries with people that depend on natural resources. For people in these countries to meet their needs, they engage in local activities such as tree cutting for fuelwood, wildlife hunting (leading to extinction), extensive and excessive farming systems and so on. These activities are carried out to meet the needs of present but the repercussions wait for future generations.

The share of the world's population living in extreme poverty declined from 15.7 percent in 2010 to 10.0 percent in 2015. However, the pace of global poverty reduction has been decelerating.



The International estimates put the global poverty rate in 2019 at 8.2 percent.

#### 5.4 Human Security

The security threats facing the world in the 21st century revolve around issues such as poverty, underdevelopment, inequality, environmental degradation, climate change, pandemics (recently COVID-19), illegal migration, people smuggling, drug trafficking and conflicts arising from poor governance leading to state failure or viceversa (Nwagboso, 2018). While these threats are not new, in an era of advancing globalization, they are increasingly transnational and interlinked. Moreover, these threats directly and deeply affect the safety and well-being of people, even when the system of States that comprise the contemporary international order may remain superficially stable. A comprehensive people-centric understanding of security is warranted, as a more appropriate framework of reference and action for today's world than the traditional notion of national security.

Human security has assumed a completely different dimension as opposed to the traditional concept or pattern of security that is in vogue in various nations. The human security dimensions, though not exhaustive, cover the following areas: political, economic, social, cultural, communitarian and environmental security.

### 6. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN SECURITY

It is important to acknowledge the inherent interconnectedness that exists among human rights, human progress, and human security. It should be acknowledged that the violation of one of these elements always results in the violation of the other. The examination of human development is of paramount significance within this particular context. It is imperative to acknowledge the observed implications of human development, or the absence thereof. The maintenance of specific levels of human security heavily relies on the progression of development,

while declines in development and the prevalence of extreme poverty consistently serve as catalysts for conflict. Such conflicts may manifest in the form of warfare or the escalation of social unrest, tension, and stress. The advancement of human development is likely to augment the likelihood of progress, whilst the lack of progress in human development will heighten the probability of failure. Definitions that prioritise the inclusion of human security, such as the provision of social safety nets to alleviate economic downturns, must recognise that the establishment of such institutions requires a certain degree of development and stability within the state in order to finance these social and economic security measures (Bitler, et al., 2017).

Ensuring the basic guarantee of human security is a prerequisite for progressing towards higher levels of development. It is essential to ensure the provision of safeguarding measures against many adversities, such as natural disasters, armed conflicts, socioeconomic deprivation, food insecurity, and forced relocation. The progress of development is contingent upon the presence of an environment characterised by tranquilly and safety. Numerous instances demonstrate that civil wars or disruptions often result in limited or negligible progress, while conversely, the lack of growth tends to incite conflicts. Various indicators such as political instability, economic hardship, social unrest, erosion of cultural components, relocation, and weaker state institutions have been seen to contribute to the emergence of significant levels of human insecurity. These conditions affect all states equally, regardless of their level of development or wealth.

The promotion of sustained peace and harmony in society is crucial for ensuring the quality of human development and human security. Human progress and human security are interconnected activities that occur simultaneously. The advancement in one domain increases the likelihood of advancement in the other domain, whereas the lack of development in one domain increases the likelihood of failure in the other domain. Human security and human

growth are interconnected concepts that have reciprocal contributions to each other. The prerequisite for development is a focused perspective on human security, as it serves as the initial motivation for progress and contributes to the expansion of issues related to human security. Additionally, human security may serve as a means to prioritise efforts, which is sometimes absent in rigid development frameworks. It is important to acknowledge that the enforcement of human rights may be facilitated via persistent advocacy efforts, and the attainment of human development can be realised through the establishment of systematic objectives. However, it is crucial to recognise that human security cannot be enforced nor can it be attained within a constrained temporal framework.

## 7. CHALLENGES TO SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Nigeria has a multitude of problems in achieving sustainable development. The aforementioned issues arise as a result of the inconsiderate use of natural resources. The degradation of the natural environment has a significant influence on the well-being of humans, ultimately impacting their lifespan and thus influencing overall societal development. The future prospects for improved living standards and quality of life are severely constrained by the degradation of soil, depletion of aquifers, reduction in forest cover, deterioration of urban environments, and destruction of ecosystems. The anticipated acceleration in population increase is projected to intensify these pressures, however it is the individuals' spending patterns that hold more significance than their sheer numerical count. Approximately 95 percent of the projected population growth, amounting to two billion people, during the next two decades is expected to be concentrated in emerging regions. The issues include a combination of natural and anthropogenic factors, which will be succinctly examined in the following sections:

### 7.1 Deforestation and Desertification

The forest resources in India and around the world are on the verge of a higher depletion

rate and are reaching alarming proportions. The individuals, corporations, government agencies, etc., are responsible for this menace. In the name of development projects, the felling of trees is being carried out leaving behind the goals of sustainable development and human progress. The most serious problem of deforestation is the loss of biodiversity. The destruction of forests leads to not only the extinction of endangered animal species but also many plant varieties that have immense medicinal value. It is also responsible for global warming in a massive way.

### 7.2 Effects of Climate Change

The drastic changes in the climatic variations resulted in poor health conditions of human beings and earth resources. These have also spilled dire consequences on the social and environmental aspects of society. The increasing temperature levels and the carbon emissions had severe effects like crop failures, increasing droughts, scarcity of food supply, contagious diseases, degradation of the environment, increasing floods and so on. Lack of disaster management methods and systematic marginalization of local communities in policy formulations have increased the vulnerabilities to natural and man-made disasters.

### 7.3 Governance

According to Wahlbeck and McDaid (2012), the concept of governance for human development pertains to the administration of processes that, within a given society, establish the conditions that allow individuals to enhance their capabilities, while also offering opportunities to fulfil their potential and expand the range of choices available to them. The statement emphasises the role of the state in establishing a conducive political, legal, and economic framework to foster the development of human capacities and promote private enterprise. Hence, it is essential for governments to exert their authority via authorised entities and strive to achieve objectives through a fair, socially conscious, unbiased, and inclusive method that engages the general populace.

The governance framework aimed at achieving sustainable development should include a comprehensive approach that addresses both economic and environmental considerations within the development plan. This approach should prioritise not only the provision of a high standard of living for the population but also the pursuit of social fairness via fair distribution of resources. The preservation of citizens' right to development should be a key consideration in governance, while also prioritising environmental issues. The prerequisites necessary for the attainment of this objective include key principles such as democracy, autonomy, justice, interdependence, responsibility, and accountability. In order to enhance societal welfare, it is essential for the government to integrate these attributes into its policy formulation and programme development.

#### **7.4 Economic Violence**

Economic violence emanates from the underlying framework of production interactions and engenders repercussions for both labourers and customers. Economic violence manifests in several forms, such as poverty, inequitable hiring practises, inadequate access to healthcare, unemployment, and wage suppression. The presence of inequitable economic power structures gives rise to circumstances in which some social groups own a greater amount of capital compared to other groups. Consequently, the socially and economically advantaged groups exploit others by leveraging their privileged position. The presence of inequitable economic systems is seen as a manifestation of the government's inability to provide individuals' access to fundamental necessities.

Individuals experiencing poverty are confronted with a multitude of adversities, including but not limited to economic deprivation, insufficient access to sustenance, and malnourishment. Conversely, affluent members of the same community enjoy a more opulent standard of living. These aforementioned circumstances contribute to people's perception that they have not been granted an equitable

portion of the advantages and resources accessible within that particular society. Hence, disparities in economic resources give rise to conditions conducive to social discord and aggression. An illustration of this phenomenon may be seen in the presence of class struggle inside society, as well as the international wars that arise between affluent industrialised nations and impoverished developing nations. These instances can be understood as manifestations of economic violence and inequitable power dynamics. The implementation of neoliberal economic policies by international institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, World Trade Organisation (WTO), as well as regional agreements like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the collective actions of the Group of Eight (G-8) nations, have been seen to sometimes result in significant economic disruptions that may be characterised as instances of severe economic violence.

#### **7.5 Corruption**

Corruption has become a global phenomenon, and we seem to take shelter under this caption and hardly do anything against it. Money seems to be the sole agent which moves things forward. Corruption has become so deep-rooted that we are forced to be part of this corrupt system. To stand for truth, to be genuine in this world seems to be a herculean task. The system has got so corrupted that people resort to violence and killing to get the target achieved. The corruption gets an added ground due to the poor governance. The unequal distribution of land, property and opportunities will ultimately lead to a kind of violent revolution.

Corruption is one of the major contributing factors to the crime of trafficking. It is both an underlying root cause and a facilitating tool to carry out and sustain this illicit trade. In its worst forms, corruption can also ensure safe havens for the profits collected as a result of human misery. Unfortunately, there has been very little exploration into the linkages of the two phenomena. Corruption can emerge before,

during and after the actual trafficking crime, which means that corruption is not limited to countries of origin and transit countries, but also facilitates the continued exploitation of trafficking victims at their destination.

Corruption is a major barrier to sustainable development in every country that exists. It steals from today's children the resources they would need to survive tomorrow. There is a direct link between underdevelopment and corruption. A good scenario is the public service with low income in developing countries, which stimulates trivial corruption. The level of education and enlightenment in these countries also put people in ignorance of their statutory rights, thereby giving room for corrupt individuals.

### 7.6 Terrorism

Terrorism is a distinct manifestation of political violence primarily aimed at instilling fear or terror among a certain populace. Political violence may or may not be motivated by the intention to instill terror throughout a population. Occasionally, a specific political person is singled out for the purpose of being ousted from their position of power, either by an act of murder or through a broader revolt or violent protest driven by political motivations.

Terrorism is a pervasive phenomenon on a worldwide scale, and in comparison to other nations, Nigeria confronts a diverse array of terrorist organisations. India has been confronted with many forms of terrorism, including religious terrorism, separatist terrorism, and left-wing terrorism. India is considered to be among the nations that have seen significant impacts from acts of terrorism. Based on data from the United States State Department, it has been reported that the United States, representing around 17.5% of the world population, is associated with approximately 2% of global terrorism-related deaths (Mohammadi, 2021).

- Over the past decade, terrorists killed an average of 21,000 people worldwide each year.

- The global death toll from terrorism over the past decade ranged from 8,000 in 2010 to a high of 44,000 in 2014.
- In 2017, terrorism was responsible for 0.05% of global deaths.
- Terrorism tends to be very geographically-focused: 95% of deaths in 2017 occurred in the Middle East, Africa or South Asia.
- In most countries terrorism accounts for less than 0.01% of deaths, but in countries of high-conflict, this can be as much as several percent.

### 7.7 Environmental Degradation

The degradation of the environment is leading to an escalation in the depletion of resources and the contamination of many nations, so exerting an increasingly burdensome pressure on the integrity of water, soil, and air. The interplay between community production and consumption habits, as well as the impact of global climate change, prompts inquiries about the ongoing ability of the Earth's natural resource reservoir to adequately nourish and support an expanding and progressively urbanised populace.

After emphasising the significance of sustainable development as a means to attain human progress, it is imperative to acknowledge that its realisation requires substantial dedication and, akin to many aspects of life, it confronts several obstacles on its path. It is worth acknowledging that sustainable development has similar significance in both developing and industrialised nations, despite their contrasting positions on the spectrum. Developed nations have a high level of socioeconomic advancement; nevertheless, this does not automatically guarantee their sustainability. In these countries, the primary objective is to address societal challenges, including but not limited to social disparities, effective waste disposal, and environmental stewardship. The present issues of sustainable development have been recognised by the International Young Nature Friends (IYNF) (Markovic, 2009). Lack of financial resources to carry out and plan for sustainable development.

1. Sustainable development is often not possible in war-torn countries as there are other priorities on hand.
2. Natural occurrences, such as earthquakes and tsunamis, can pose a threat to sustainability as they can shift the flow of water and destroy certain elements of infrastructure. In the village of Ramche in Nepal, the only source of water was shaken, off course by the earthquake of 2015 and as a result of the difficulty of access to the village, it has been a water facing crisis. Expenditure on bottled water in the village has in turn grown and in many other areas in Nepal undergoing a water crisis, people resort to drinking and cooking with E-Coli infected water as an act of desperation (Mulmi, 2022). Meanwhile tsunamis in Southeast and East Asia may pose a threat to the already existing sustainable infrastructure, such as the destruction of means of public transport in Japan (Mulmi, 2022).
3. The governmental conflict between immediate profit and investment in sustainable technologies. In Poland, the government has even increased financing towards the mining sector instead of moving full steam ahead towards adopting sustainable energy sources, with coal amounting towards 80% of total energy generation in Poland. These measures are thought to have been implemented as a move to win miners' votes in the south of Poland.
4. Corruption. Funding to developing countries is usually provided through foreign grants, in the case of Nepal, foreign grants constitute the majority coming from the UK. Nevertheless, due to bureaucracy and corruption in Nepal, in order to pass certain development projects a stipend needs to be paid to ministers as well as service fees to the Nepal government which significantly slows down NGO processes.

## 8. CONCLUSION

Effectively addressing the problem of sustainable human development (SHD) requires a comprehensive examination of individual

concerns, as well as a knowledge of the interconnectedness between these concerns, livelihoods, and overall existence. This understanding is particularly crucial when considering the impact on marginalised populations and those who are economically disadvantaged. The diminishing faith in the substitutability of vital resources, together with the reliance on future technological solutions, fails to address the increasing risks to human survival and the broader ecosystem. The idea of SHD is characterised by a dual nature, including both insufficient and excessive elements. The provided information is deemed insufficient as it fails to adequately assist us in answering the complex concerns we encounter. To effectively tackle these inquiries, a comprehensive grasp of nature, science, society, and morality is necessary. Furthermore, the information provided is excessive in its rhetorical effectiveness, hence concealing its inability to fulfil its promises. The concept of Sustainable Human Development has been criticised for lacking substance. Those who advocate for it acknowledge certain concerns, particularly the imperative to prevent unwarranted harm to the environment that supports human life, and the necessity of pursuing a development trajectory that promotes the broadening of genuine human freedom for as many individuals as possible. While this accomplishment is undeniably significant, it is regrettable that the phrase has often been used only for superficial purposes. Having a comprehensive grasp of the limitations put on human actions and sustainability by the environment is of equal significance. Numerous strategies for achieving sustainable development, particularly those advocated by economists, have assumed a significant level of interchangeability across different resources used in human economic endeavours and in facilitating the circumstances necessary for human well-being.

Despite the formidable challenges faced by most developing nations, the attainment of sustainable development remains feasible. Nevertheless, this endeavour requires a substantial and synchronised effort. The

implementation of suitable supply-side policies, such as education and vocational awareness initiatives, might lead to a reduction in illiteracy rates and an increased awareness among individuals about their surrounding environment. Consequently, this heightened environmental awareness would significantly contribute to an overall improvement in environmental consciousness. Furthermore, a responsible government should place emphasis on fostering the expansion of environmentally sustainable gross domestic product (GDP) while effectively allocating its budget towards investments in green energy, healthcare services, and social welfare programmes, among other areas. However, it exemplifies the attainability and simplicity of sustainable development. Ultimately, the attainment of sustainable development is feasible when individuals around the world demonstrate unwavering commitment towards its realisation. For this scenario to materialise, a profound cosmic event is required to serve as a catalyst. However, there is a concern that the timing of this event may be delayed to a point where its impact becomes significantly diminished.

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