

Book Review: Timely and Appropriate Text Book to Understand ‘Sustainable Development’

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Name of the Book: Introduction to Sustainable Development

Name of the Editor: Martin J. Ossewaarde

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‘Introduction to Sustainable Development’ about hurdles that come in the way to Sustainable Development by Martin J. Ossewaarde, Sustainable Development Educator and Writer. The book brings out the need for Sustainable Development, the role of various stakeholders and key areas for sustainable interventions. The present book is a student and teacher-friendly and will be an effective tool to enrich understanding about the term sustainable development from a holistic perspective. The book under review is divided into three different sections.

Part 1: The Case for Sustainable Development

It starts with the beautiful relationship shared by man and nature which is now getting shattered due to overpopulation and overexploitation. To resolve this, in the year 2015, all world leaders adopted the 17 strategic policy goals for 2030 i.e. Sustainable Development Goals. Sustainable Development (S.D.) means the development that could continue without undermining nature. S.D. focuses on balancing the social, economic and environmental dimensions together and alleviate various social problems from countries with global collaborations. It traces the evolution of human beings from nomads to now making now creating new world records and speaks about our ability to change the environment to complete our needs and never-ending greeds. In the past half-century, a rapid

change has been observed as the world economy is almost 5 times the size it was ever before. Humans have managed to build whatever they can and reach wherever they want. Now the whole world seems like a small place. All this leads to the corrosion of nature and Planet Earth.

Part 2: Stakeholders and Tools

This part highlights on enabling the common masses to take sustainable actions by changing their behaviour, institutions, and technology in collaboration with both the public and private sectors by fulfilling global concerns through local actions. To generate awareness on S.D. one require certain proficiencies like system thinking, perceiving issues from a different point of view, a collaboration between different academic disciplines, cautious planning and many more. The role of formal and informal institutions can't be overestimated as they lay long-lasting impacts on one's behaviour and actions. Thus, environment-friendly values and attitudes should be conveyed by these institutions and agencies, which include both public and private sectors. In the absence of one sector, another needs to bridge the gap of environmental sustainability and positive change which further reduces Climate Change induced poverty and various social issues.

Part 3: Key Areas for the Transition

In this portion, the areas that need to be placed towards sustainability like energy, cities, food, agriculture, and goal towards Green Economy are well illustrated. The overuse of fossil fuels has environmental, social and economic side-effects. This needs to be replaced by other technologies and energy sources which should be reliable, stable and environment-friendly. Another aspect of sustainable transition includes the greening of city

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areas which are overcrowded with a population with various needs and greed. Through various public policies, the government can overcome the burden lying on cities and make it adequate for human survival. Agricultural Development in the past few years leads to some negative impacts on the input and output of our agriculture system and others like nutritious diets, food waste, biodiversity, food security, and soil fertility. Green Economy is another

way for achieving environment, social and economic sustainable goals by the inclusive process.

To conclude, Introduction to Sustainable Development is a thought-provoking and captivating book. It provides the readers with a clear view of the need for sustainability and ways towards achieving it. This book is very beneficial to both academicians and practitioners.