



## EMPOWERING YOUTH TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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### ***ABSTRACT***

*The sustainable development goals are aimed at bringing a better world, and there are 17 sustainable goals associated with the development of the nation, and they can potentially be achieved by today's youth for tomorrow's better world. Likewise, the future lies in the hands of today's young generation which will pass the torch to future generations. According to United Nations statistics, youth are defined as persons aged between 15 and 24 years, without prejudice to any other definition by Member States. Young people's contributions to the process that led to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development shaped the entire outcome. Former UN Secretary General Ban-ki Moon described them as "torchbearers of the sustainable development agenda through 2030". This conceptual paper will discuss definitions of youth, sustainable development, a conceptual overview of sustainable development and youth, a historical perspective, theories and models pertaining to sustainable development, youth, and what youth can do to contribute to sustainable development. Based on the conceptual overview, a self-prepared model will be introduced.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

We are responsible for the future of humanity and of our planet. A torch will also be passed on to the next generation by the younger generation of today. We have planned out the road to sustainable development; it's our responsibility to make sure the journey is successful which its gains are irreversible. (United Nations, General Assembly, 2015b, para. 53).



United Nation's blueprint that craves better world by 2030 has set the 17 goals to pursue, (1) no poverty; (2) zero hunger; (3) good health and well-being; (4) quality education; (5) gender equality; (6) clean water and sanitation; (7) affordable and clean energy; (8) decent work and economic growth; (9) industry, innovation and infrastructure; (10) reduced inequalities; (11) sustainable cities and communities; (12) responsible consumption and production; (13) climate action; (14) life below water; (15) life on land; (16) peace, justice and powerful institutions; (17) partnership for the goals. Although being compiled by that intricate goals and targets,

## DEFINITIONS

### YOUTH

- ❖ The United Nations, for statistical purposes, defines 'youth', as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years, without prejudice to other definitions by Member States.
- ❖ According to UN Secretariat/UNESCO/ILO Youth: 15-24 (UN Instruments, Statistics) According to UN Habitat (Youth Fund) Youth 15-32(Agenda 217)
- ❖ According to UNICEF/WHO/UNFPA Adolescent: 10-19, Young People: 10-24, Youth: 15-24 (UNFPA)
- ❖ According to The African Youth Charter Youth: 15-35 African Union, 2006

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development is that the overarching paradigm of the United Nations. The concept of sustainable development was described by the 1987 Brundtland Commission Report as "development that meets the requirements of this without compromising the power of future generations to meet their own needs.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and make sure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.



## **HISTORY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

During the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, sustainable development was a theme. This was the first international summit aimed at developing action plans and strategies for moving towards a more sustainable development pattern. 178 national governments were represented by more than 100 Heads of State. Also attending the summit were representatives of a variety of civil society organizations. Sustainable development was the solution to the problems of environmental degradation discussed by the Brundtland Commission in the 1987 report *Our Common Future*.

The Brundtland Report's mandate was to investigate the numerous concerns raised in previous decades, namely, that human activity was having severe and negative effects on the planet, and that unchecked patterns of growth and development would be unsustainable. Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* (1962), Garret Hardin's *Tragedy of the Commons* (1968), the *Ecologist* magazine's *Blueprint for Survival* (1972), and therefore the Club of Rome's *Limits to Growth* report were key works that highlighted this thinking (1972). At the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, the concept of sustainable development received its first major international recognition. The term was not explicitly mentioned, but the international community agreed on the concept now fundamental to long-term development is the idea that development and the environment, which have previously been treated as separate challenges, may be managed in a mutually beneficial way.

The term was popularised 15 years later in the World Commission on Environment and Development's report *Our Common Future*, which included the 'classic' definition of sustainable development: "development that meets present needs without jeopardising future generations' ability to meet their own needs." In 2002, 191 national governments, UN agencies, international financial institutions, and other important groups gathered in Johannesburg for the planet Summit on Sustainable Development to look at progress since Rio. Three major outputs emerged from the Johannesburg Summit: a political declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and a number of collaboration activities. Sustainable consumption and production, water and sanitation, and energy were among the key commitments.

## **YOUTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**



The input of young people to the process that led to the establishment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was critical in influencing the final result. Former UN Secretary General Ban-ki Moon dubbed young people "torchbearers of the sustainable development agenda until 2030," and there are numerous successful examples of young people contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goal' simplmentation. Every year, the ECOSOC Youth Forum brings together young people, government officials, policymakers, civil society, and the commercial sector to discuss progress on the Sustainable Development Goals as they pertain to youth development. The conference's thematic focus is tied to the Economic and Social Council's and the High-Level Political Forum's goals. Through the UN Working Group on Youth and the 2030 Agenda, WFUNA-International Federations of United Nations Associations-works with the UN, youth groups, and other partners to convene the ECOSOC Youth Forum.

## **THEORIES AND MODELS ERTAINING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Moving towards sustainable development is fraught with challenges. Man has all of the tools he needs to succeed. However, we often forget that in order to exist, we must adapt to nature rather than the other way around. We need to improve our ability to make decisions that take into account the three "ES" - economy, ecological, and equality.

It would be possible to establish a sustainable society if all three "ES" were incorporated into national goals of countries. Models assist us in better comprehending the notions of sustainability. As a result, achieving sustainable development necessitates more effective, open, and productive collaboration among people. Models assist us in gathering, sharing, and analysing data, organising efforts, and educating and training professionals, policymakers, and the general public. Several helpful models for understanding sustainable development are listed below.

### **1. Three Pillar Basic Models**

This is one of the most well-known models that incorporates the three dimensions of Economy, Environment, and Society. The diagram depicts the triangular of environmental (conservation), economic (growth), and social (equity) dimensions as three interwoven circles. These three pillars serve as the foundation for sustainable development. The 'three pillars' or 'three circles' model is the name given to



this model. It is built on taking into account society, but it does not expressly consider 'human Quality of life.

## 2. The Egg of Sustainability

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) created the 'Egg of Sustainability' model in 1994. (cf. Guijt&Moiseev 2001). It depicts the human-environmental link as one circle inside another, like the yolk of an egg. This indicates that people are part of the ecosystem, and that the two are ultimately interdependent. As an egg is only good if both the white and yolk are good, a society is only good and viable if both the people and the environment are healthy. The environment must provide the necessary resources for social and economic development: raw materials, space for new manufacturing sites and jobs, and constitutional traits (recreation, health etc.). To the other dimensions of the triangle or prism models: social, economic, and institutional, the ecosystem is to be treated as a super coordinated system. Only through adapting to the limits of environmental carrying capacity can these later thrive. As a result of this model: Human well-being plus environmental well-being equals environmental sustainability.

## 3. Atkissons Pyramid Model

From creating a sustainable vision to analysis and brainstorming to agreement on a credible plan of action, the Atkisson Pyramid approach supports and accelerates progress. The Pyramid Structure walks you through the process of first establishing a solid foundation of knowledge, then searching for and gathering relevant information and ideas, and then focusing and narrowing down to what is vital, effective, attainable, and something that everyone can agree on. The Atkisson's Pyramid is a blueprint for achieving long-term sustainability. Its five tiers or steps are as follows:

Level 1: Indicators – Tracking the trend

Level 2: Systems – Connecting the dots

Innovations- Ideas that Make a Difference (Level 3)

Level 4: Strategies: From Concept to Implementation

Level 5: Agreements: From Workshop to Reality



This concept is intended to assist groups of 20-40 people in rapidly progressing along the sustainability learning curve, from fundamental principles and frameworks through systems analysis and new action plans. Along the way, groups practise cross-sector collaboration, establish connections, develop dozens of new ideas, and work toward a "Agreement," which is a set of actions they commit to carry out in the real world. (BelievingCassandra, AtKisson) (Earthscan, 2010).

#### **4. Prism of Sustainability**

The German Wuppertal Institute established this concept, which defines sustainable development using four components: economics, environment, society, and institution. Inter-linkages such as care, access, democracy, and ecoefficiency must be extensively examined in this model since they illustrate the relationship between the dimensions that can translate and affect policy. There are imperatives in each dimension of the prism (as norms for action). Indicators are used to assess how far one has progressed toward the overarching goal of sustainable development. This is depicted in the diagram below. However, Kain (2000, p. 25) questioned this prism, claiming that it "tends to incorporate assets originating from all four dimensions, thus adding uncertainty to the description."

#### **5. The Amoeba Model**

The Amoeba Approach is a visual assessment model that compares a system's condition to an ideal condition. The model is circular, with several indicators arranged around the perimeter. On a continuum from unsustainable (in the centre) to sustainable (at the edges), lines extend from the centre to the indicators (the outside of the circle). The ideal conditions would be represented by a circle. This paradigm enables for simultaneous evaluation of multiple indications as well as easy comparison of system components. "The Amoeba Model" is a potent strategy for speeding up the invention and training processes so that they are significantly more effective in achieving Sustainable Development.

## **The SDG'S And Youth Role**



**Critical thinkers:** Understanding sense of personal experiences and asking questions about the world around you is a part of growing up. Youth have the ability to identify and challenge current power structures and change barriers, as well as highlight inconsistencies and biases.

**Agents of change:** young people have the ability to act and motivate others. Globally, youth activism is on the rise, aided by increased connection and access to social media.

**Innovators:** Young people often have direct knowledge of and insights into topics that are not available to adults, in addition to giving fresh viewpoints. Youth have the clearest understanding of the issues they confront and can propose new ideas and solutions.

**Communicators:** Few individuals outside of the international development sector are aware that world leaders have reached an unprecedented, far-reaching agreement to improve people's lives and the environment by 2030. Young people may play an important role in articulating the development agenda to their peers and communities, both locally and beyond countries and regions.

**Leaders:** When youthful people are educated about their rights and given leadership openings, they may affect change in their communities and countries. Youth-led organisations and networks, in particular, should be encouraged and strengthened since they help youthful people, particularly marginalised youth, develop communal leadership Capacities

## **FUNDAMENTALS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE 2030**

### **Docket's INTEGRATION**

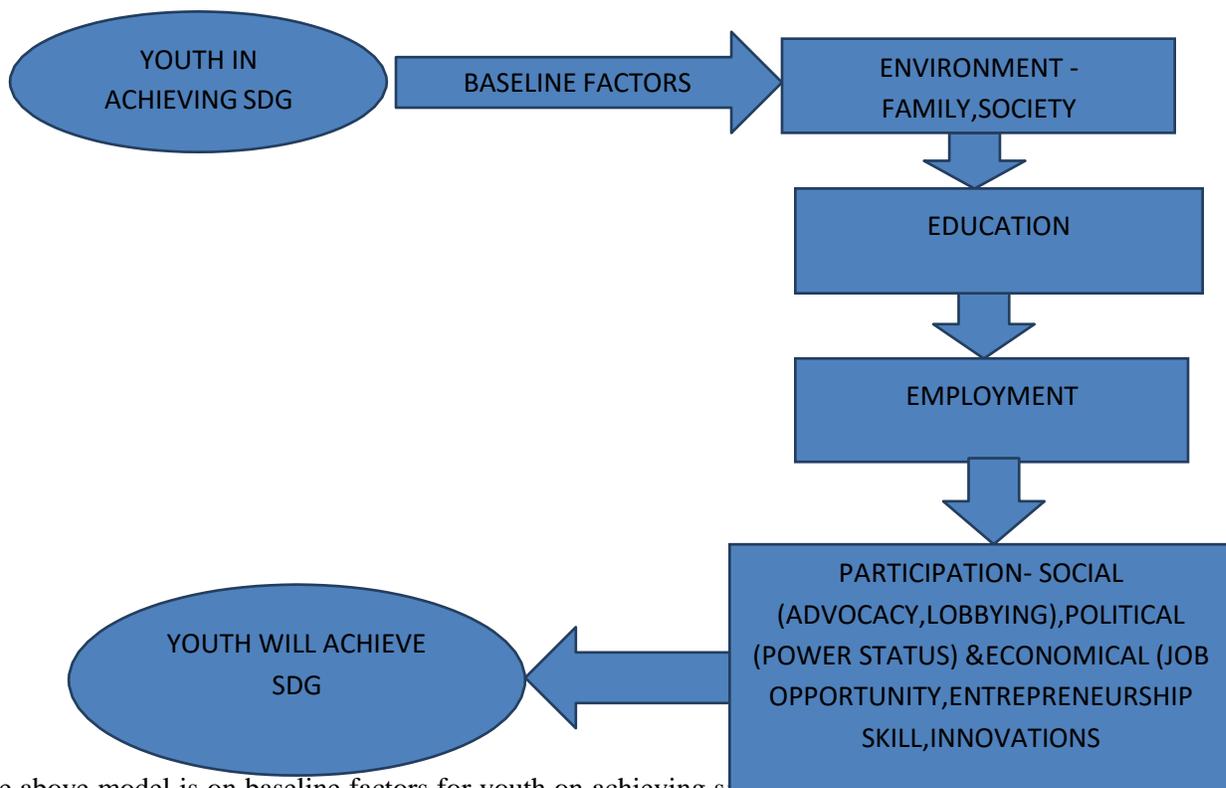
The Working Group on Youth and the 2030 Docket of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development created a set of guiding principles for development mates on youth engagement in the perpetration of the 2030 Docket in 2017, with UNDP and Restless Development leading the design. The principles aim to give "advice on how to effectively, proactively, and responsibly support youth participation in (Sustainable Development Thing) perpetration across development surrounds so that youthful people's collaborative strength can contribute to meaningful and enduring change" (Restless Development, United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development and UNDP, 2017, p. 1).

Pretensions for Youth and Long-Term Development the SDGs emphasise the pivotal part that youth



play in achieving long- term development. Also, youth are one of the nine primary groups with which the UN collaborates nearly to insure broad representation across society." Sustainable development," defined as" development that serves current requirements without compromising unborn demands, “begins with respect for coming generations as vital stakeholder. Youthful people will develop alongside the Sustainable Development Goals over the coming 15 times. They will be present to see if the 2030 Agenda succeeds or fails. Building collaborations with youthful people and empowering them to contribute to a further sustainable future is thus Critical.

### YOUTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS – BASELINE FACTORS FOR YOUTH ON ACHIEVING SDG



The above model is on baseline factors for youth on achieving sustainable development goals, the model focus on four major baseline factors they are of environment, education, employment and participation

Environment- This means initially the youth should have a safe and empowering family and society that is where he or she lives if that is proper only the youth can come out for education.



1. Education – it is the tool for youth to get diverse in all the fields so this foundation should be strong
2. Employment- when youth get well educated obviously, they will be different jobs and unemployment can be reduced
3. Participation- youth participation in three major areas will be highly influencing the society they are social participation, political participation and economical participation

So, these baseline factors are strong factors which will lead the youth to achieve several sustainable goals.

## CONCLUSION

Global collaboration on the SDGs gives a tremendous opportunity for the global community to address global economic, social, and environmental concerns. Aside from active government involvement, the private sector (which employs a major proportion of adolescents in the three case-study nations), education (both formal and non-formal educational institutions), and vocational and technical training are also required. Youth productivity is critical to encouraging economic growth and addressing other serious social concerns including poverty and food insecurity, all of which are addressed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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