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PRINCIPAL OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

~ *Sakshi Mishra*

INTRODUCTION

We always hear the word development in the view of industrial development personal development or for some growth but here we talk about the development of the environment which means we have to protect what we have and utilize it in the way so that the new upcoming generation can also avail the benefit of this nature .

Development means it is a process of changing and becoming bigger better or more advanced version of the previous one.

The meaning of sustainability that anything can be used continue or be continued for a long time .

The meaning of sustainable development is using resource to meet today's need without hindering the future generation from meeting theirs. There are three key objective of the sustainable development first the economic which help to attain the balance growth second the environment to preserve the ecosystem and third the society which will guarantee equal access to resource to all the human beings principal of the sustainable development is the integration of the environmental social and economic concern into all the aspect of the decision making.

BACKGROUND OF THE CONCEPT

In the early 19th century the people working towards the industrialization and innovating the new technologies for the development of the human being where they directly or indirectly harming

the environment. Industrialization has significantly harm the environment in many ways Rapid growth of the Factories and INS had lead to several air pollution due to the emission of this more carbon dioxide and the harmful gases which contribute to the global warming and AC train and the industrial waste and the Chemicals are often termed into the river and the lakes causing the water pollution and affecting the both human health and the aquatic life large scale deforestation for setting up the industries and mining has resulted in the soil erosion loss of biodiversity and destruction of the ecological balance further more in industrial activities generate a lots of noise pollution and hazardous waste which creates serious health problems for the people living nearby .Thus many environmentalist and social activist came together and argued that the development is necessary but not at the cost of environment the excessive abuse of natural resources are damaging the environment and the biodiversity which ultimately leads many serious problems. To conquer these problems the concept of sustainable development came into the frame we can trace the concept of the sustainable development from the Stockholm conference of 1972 where the first time we all came together and take a measure to protect our environment and preserve it for the future generation.

United Nation conference on the human environment Stockholm 1972 - This is very first time when an international platform raise the concern about the environmental degradation and it's protected this was the first major Union conference on Environment of issue it recognize the link between the environment and the development and it also give 26 declaration and 109 Action Plan or the recommendation for achieving it's goal.

Rio Earth Summit 1992-the conference held laterly in Rio to integrated the environment protection with the social economic development the major outcome and included inter 21 and action plan for the 21th century and 27 declaration.

World Summit on sustainable development Johannesburg 2002 – the conference primary take place to review the 10 year development and implementation of the idea of the Rio declaration and the focus of this conference shifted from the policy formulation to implementation it mainly focuses on the five major aspects of the environment which is water health energy agriculture and biodiversity.

It also encourage partnership between the government institution and the private sectors to came together and works towards achieving the goal of sustainable development and protect the environment globally.

UN conference on sustainable development 2012:- it is also a review conference of the rio earth summit conference after 20 years and the theme for this year was what future we want it mainly focuses on the two aspects which is green economy and poverty reduction now the meaning of the green economy is we have to work towards the growth in such manner that we can protect the natural resources with satisfy our current needs and the poverty reduction in this manner that the Industries will make a regulatory framework for the sustainable development

UN sustainable development conference 2015:- 2015 UN sustainable developments submit was held in New York USA during this Summit all 193 UN members state adopted the 2030 agenda for sustainable development the central component of this agenda was the adoption of the 17th sustainable development goals SDGs with 169 associated targets .These goals provide a comprehensive and Universal Framework addressing poverty inequality health education climate change and environment protection to be achieved by year 2030.

Principals of the sustainable development:- Gradually with the change of the time we understand that the environment protection is not merely our duty but it is our responsibility to protect our environment for the future generation the way we get it from our ancestors. To uphold this concept we studied principals to protect our environment . Initially protecting the environment is just moral thought but after evolving these principles it become binding upon the Nations and the Industries to protect the environment and if they did not follow these principle they are responsible to pay damages and take the responsibility of their activities.

Inter generational equality the principal demands for the equality of the generations which means the current generations must use all the resources in such way that the upcoming generation can also avail the benefit of the natural resources Example by adopting the policy's such as forest conservation and the energy renewable concept we can save the natural resources for the future generation.

Use and conservation of the natural resources:- the nature already given us lots of natural resources now it is our duty to use these resources wisely and sustainably because once the natural resources are finished we cannot renew it at any cost

Example promoting afforestation, organic harvesting and recycling The Rain water can help us to protect and conserve the natural resources.

Precautionary principle the meaning of the precautionary principle is if there is any scientific uncertainty to protect the environment the industries should take a prior precaution to avoid the environment harm. The Factories and Industries should properly check carefully each and every aspect and regulation of the institution that whether it is affecting the environment or not if it is affecting they should take a rare cognizance and the vigilance of it to protect the environment. The basic meaning of this principle is prevent any kind of damage and take appropriate measure before occurring any kind of damage.

Example if the company thinks that any such chemical which use is hazardous for the environment they should avoid the use of such chemical or should Ban it.

Polluter pay principle in this modern era technology Innovation and the industrial setup is the identity of any development Nation. The development is necessary but not at the cost of the environment degradation the principle advocates that any factory industry or company causing the pollution should bear the cost of it. No one can escape from its responsibility after polluting the environment. Principle impose a liability on an industrialist to act as per the regulation of the environmental protection laws otherwise they have to pay the damages.

Principle of Corporation and liability the principle talks about the mutual cooperation of the government sectors and the private sectors to work together so that we can prevent the environment degradation and it is the liability of both government and private individual to take all the possible steps to avoid any kind of disaster which leads to environment degradation.

Public trust doctrine the meaning of this doctrine that the public entrusted in the government and give him all the rights regarding to save the natural resources

Objective of the sustainable development

Balancing ecology and the development the most basic and the important objective of the sustainable development is developing project should not degrade the natural ecosystem beyond their recovery capacity. It also focuses on using resource to meet today's need without hindering the future generation from meeting theirs.

Conservation of the biodiversity it also focuses on conserving and protecting endangered species natural habitats to maintain the balance of biodiversity. Generational equality the sustainable development also focuses on the equal distribution of the resources to each and everyone including the future generation we should protect our environment in such manner that we get from our ancestors. So that the new generation can also avail the benefit of the natural resources.

Sustainable Development 2030 Concept

The Sustainable Development 2030 concept refers to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all UN Member States in 2015. The agenda consists of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, aiming to eradicate poverty, protect the environment, promote peace, and ensure prosperity by 2030.

The 17 SDGs include:

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 Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships for the Goals

The agenda emphasizes the principle of “leaving no one behind” while promoting balanced environmental, economic, and social development.

CHALLENGE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:-

- Despite its global acceptance, sustainable development faces several challenges:
- Climate change and global warming.
- Deforestation and biodiversity loss.
- Rapid industrialization and urbanization.
- Pollution of air, water, and soil.
- Overexploitation of natural resources.
- Poverty, inequality, and population growth.
- Weak environmental governance and inadequate law enforcement.
- Limited financial and technological resources in developing countries.

CONCLUSION:

Sustainable development has become an indispensable principle of environmental law, guiding governments, courts, and international organizations toward balancing environmental protection with economic and social progress. Through principles such as intergenerational equity, the precautionary principle, and the polluter pays principle, environmental law promotes responsible resource management and long-term ecological sustainability. The United Nations 2030 Agenda further strengthens global commitment to achieving sustainable development through the SDGs. Although significant challenges remain, effective implementation of environmental laws, international cooperation, and public participation are essential for achieving a sustainable and equitable future.

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