



YONSEI UNIVERSITY

**Literature Review**

**Sustainable Development Approaches for  
Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation  
&  
Community Capacity Building for Rural  
Development and Poverty Alleviation**

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## **List of Abbreviations**

ABCD	Asset based community development
CCB	Community Capacity Building
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
FEEM	Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei
GSG	Global Scenario Group
IIASA - GEA	Global Energy Assessment
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PBL	PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency
SD	Sustainable Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEI	Stockholm Environment Institute
UN	United Nations
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNRISD	United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
WCED	World Commission on Environment and Development

## **1. Sustainable Development approaches for rural development and poverty alleviation.**

### 1.1. History of Sustainable Development and its significance to Rural Development.

Although the origins of Sustainable Development (SD) can be traced to the seventies, is in the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987 (WCED or “Brundtland Commission”) that the term is coined and also defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Le Blanc, D., et al. 2012:1). One of the defining moments for SD was the UNCED, known as the “Earth Summit”, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 with the agreement by member States to launch a process to develop a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs) that could be a useful tool for pursuing focused and coherent action on sustainable development (United Nations 2012:15; Le Blanc, D., et al. 2012:17).

But why sustainable development is significant for rural development? Poverty remains a predominantly rural problem, with a majority of the world’s poor located in rural areas (Dercon, S. 2009), it is estimated that 76 percent of the developing world’s poor live in rural areas, well above the overall population share living in rural areas, which is only 58 percent (Janvry, A. de, E. Sadoulet, and R. Murgai 2002; Giovannucci, D., et al. 2012:6). Poverty greatly limits the quantity and quality of food that people can purchase. Workers in developing countries often make only \$1 - 2 per day, with relatively less money in those regions, the economic demands for food is less, which in turn results in lower levels of either food production or distribution (Sheaffer, C. and

Moncada, K. 2009:68-70). In the other hand environmental limitations like soil resources, water and energy turn more difficult the scenario of rural area.

## 1.2. Theoretical and conceptual frameworks of Sustainable Development.

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development is the cornerstone of Sustainable Development, a set of 27 principles promoted concepts such as the centrality of human beings to the concerns of sustainable development (Principle 1); the primacy of poverty eradication (Principle 5); the importance of the environment for current and future generations and its equal footing with development (Principles 3 and 4); the special consideration given to developing countries (Principle 6); the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR, Principle 7). It also enshrined the two critical economic principles of polluter pays (Principle 16) and the precautionary approach (Principle 15). It introduced principles relating to participation and the importance of specific groups for sustainable development (Principles 10, 20, 21, 22) (Le Blanc, D., et al. 2012 :1).

Twenty years later was celebrated the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, was the agreement by member States to launch a process to develop a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs) that could be a useful tool for pursuing focused and coherent action on sustainable development.

Other frameworks like the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), are a clear demonstration that world leaders can come together to address the major challenges of our time – not only war and financial crisis, but also poverty (UNRISD 2010:3; Le Blanc, D., et al. 2012 :16).

A difference between the MDGs and the SDGs is the degree of agreement that exists among countries on the broad underlying objectives, as well between the contexts of the MDGs and the SDGs is the prevalence of collective action problems at the heart of sustainable development, and the frequent failure of countries at solving those problems (Le Blanc, D., et al. 2012:17-20).

### 1.3. Key policy goals and dimensions of Sustainable Development.

High-level Panel on Global Sustainability of UN in 2012, establish the most uniform and consistent review of principles related with any framework related with SD:

- It should be universal in character, covering challenges to all countries rather than just developing nations.
- It should express a broadly agreed global strategy for sustainable development.
- It should incorporate a range of key areas that were not fully covered in the MDGs
- It should be comprehensive, reflecting three dimensions of SD
- It should incorporate near-term benchmarks while being long-term in scope, looking ahead to a deadline of perhaps 2030.
- It should engage all stakeholders in the implementation and mobilization of resources
- It should provide scope for the review of these goals in view of evolving scientific evidence.

In the other hand, during the present research the task to identify a set of measurable indicators was difficult. Because indicators are elaborated starting from the dimensions of sustainable development I found out that there is no uniform criterion among organizations of the number and types of dimensions.

In Agenda 21, article 8.6 states that countries could develop systems for monitoring and evaluation of progress towards achieving sustainable development by adopting indicators that measure changes across economic, social and environmental dimensions (United Nations 1992:Art. 8.6), ironically in further documents UN considers institutionalization like a fourth dimension (United Nations 2007:39-40).

UNESCO considers three dimensions of sustainable development named before and also political dimension (democracy, politics, decision – making).

Jon Hawkes in his book “The Fourth Pillar of Sustainability: Culture's essential role in public planning”, contributes with ‘Cultural’ dimension for SD, states if a society’s culture disintegrates, so will everything else. Cultural action is required in order to lay the groundwork for a sustainable future.

#### 1.4. What have been accomplished, challenges and barriers in implementing SD goals

The High-level Panel on Global Sustainability also elaborated a comprehensive analysis about the progress in sustainable development, main indicators are described:

- Economic growth and inequality: last decades the world’s overall GDP grew by 75 per cent, however inequality has grown continuously.
- Poverty eradication: the world is comfortably on track to beat the MDG.
- Forests: the rate of deforestation has decrease; however, the world is still losing forest cover at an alarming rate.
- Oceans resources: overfishing now being classified as overexploited, or fully exploited, a situation substantially worse than two decades ago.
- Climate change: annual global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions grew 38 per cent between 1990 and 2009 and would lead to a likely temperature increase

- Biodiversity and ecosystems: evidence show that most habitats are in decline and the rate of species extinction appears to be accelerating.
- Gender: women have seen substantial improvements in rights, education, health, and labor opportunities, but there are still persistent differences across all societies.
- Education: remarkable progress has been made in education worldwide. Globally, literacy rates are improving, but progress is slow.
- Hunger: global food production has kept pace: today enough food is produced to feed all of us comfortably; however, access to food is another story.

The last decades were characterized by dramatic changes in technology that has influenced other spaces of the science, customs and cultural relations, and collateral effects in the environment, that creates new scenarios and challenges:

- Environmental and Social Costs of the Green Revolution (Institute for Food and Development Policy 2009).
- Climate change: is a risk to all countries and individuals.
- Environmental degradation: expressed as loss of fertile soils, desertification, unsustainable forest management, etc.
- Changes in the global economy: The interconnectedness of the global economy means that no country is immune to events in the larger global economy.
- Accountability and responsiveness: authorities at all levels are encountering new challenges from citizens who question whether they are acting in the long-term public interest.
- Nature and life support in 2050: Two thirds of world population living under water stresses, global deterioration of urban air pollution (UNDESA 2012:6).



- Food security: chronic hunger is fundamentally not an issue of just more food; it is an issue of access. Waste may be the single most important area that can be addressed with relative ease (Giovannucci, D., et al. 2012:8).

#### 1.5. Major institutions and players that should be transformed.

Continuous changes in world are pushing all institutions concerned with sustainable development to be transformed; non-governmental actors have also become key players in international relations and sustainable development. In the private sector, progressive companies are moving away from the voluntarism of “corporate social responsibility” and towards much harder-edged, genuinely systemic approaches - both in their own activities (such as main-streaming sustainability in supply chains through the use of standards or joining voluntary emissions trading markets) and in their public policy lobbying (for example, coalitions of companies demanding tougher emissions targets and greater long-term certainty in environmental regulation and pricing). Many global and national civil society organizations and movements are breaking out of single-issue portfolios and searching for more cross-cutting agendas. These organizations have crucial roles to play in influencing and implementing sustainable development at both the national and global levels, as well as the potential to open up more political space for sustainable development.

Nowadays a special phenomenon can change not only the attention but also participation of individuals in SD, the explosive growth of social networking technologies is continuing to empower individuals — and to have highly unpredictable political consequences. If used responsibly, these technologies could unlock positive political outcomes, particularly if “crowdsourcing” platforms enable more collaborative,

participatory and transparent approaches to governance and decision-making (UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability 2012 :27).

#### 1.6. Key policy recommendations for Sustainable Development.

Given the available evidence and scenarios, what can be said of the role of international cooperation in finding solutions to sustainable development challenges? According with Le Blanc a framework for international cooperation that aims to support sustainable development would necessarily put a heavy emphasis on three dimensions: (i) the need to eradicate poverty and hunger; (ii) the global ecological footprint of humanity; and (iii) the management of global commons. Ideally, such a framework should be adapted to the challenges of the future.

The adoption of sustainable development without renunciation of other objectives has translated into resistance from institutions at all levels to fully accommodate sustainable development as a guiding framework for their operations, which has resulted in the creation of dual or parallel “tracks” in many areas. Economic and financial governance has remained firmly outside of the remit of sustainable development. It has continued to function largely untouched by the concepts of sustainable development, both at the international and national levels.

UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability, UNDESA (2012) and Giovannucci, D., et al., states the following recommendations for Sustainable Development:

- Conserve resources and promote renewable energies
- Innovation
- Empowering people

- Education and skills for sustainable development
- Strengthening institutional governance
- Integration of goals
- Recommendations to food security

### 1.7. Implications of Sustainable Development in Peru

Peru is one of the 10 megadiverse countries in the world; it has the second largest Amazon forest, the most extensive tropical mountain range, 84 of the 104 life zones identified in the planet and 27 of the 32 world climates. It is also rich in glacier areas (71% of the tropical glaciers of the world) of utmost importance for human, agriculture, mining and electric power generation consumption. However due to the global warming during the last 35 years glaciers have lost over 22% of their surface, increasing the water stress problem generated by the uneven distribution of the population in the country, as most of the national population is settled on the Pacific side, which only receives 2% of the water resources of the territory.

At the same time, Peruvian economy is passing a dream period of successful growth, in 2012 Peru record one of the lowest inflation in the region. The excellent performance of world prices in minerals, the principal resource of Peru, produced an expansion of its international monetary reserves, putting the country in position to afford without problems all its debt; in the other hand the increase of industrial and service activities were traduced in a better collection of taxes.

Poverty rates had decreased in the last 7 years from 58.7% to 27.8% (National Institute of Statistic and Informatics) , however the inequity distribution of wealth shows one of its greatest contrasts along the Sierra region, the peruvian highlands with 8.7 million

inhabitants (32% of the national population) owns 62.3% of the rural population in poverty, while 22.6% are extremely poor.

The Millennium Development Goals have been incorporated as the general framework of the social policy of Peru. The economic growth of Peru has contributed to progress in MDG goal 1 ("eradicate extreme poverty and hunger"); however, it has had no influence on reducing inequalities and extreme poverty, which is still high in the rural areas of our country, where vulnerability to climate change is evident. Regarding to MDG 7 ("ensure environmental & sustainability") progress has been made between 2004 and 2008 in the legal and political framework.

The milestone is the creation of the Ministry of Environment in May 2008. Within the scope of mitigation, progress has been achieved with regard to economic growth that has resulted in the reduction of emissions, such as the promotion of renewable energy and biofuels. Also has been generated, more information regarding with vulnerability and formulation of policies to adaptation; however, these are the first steps toward ensuring environmental sustainability, considering that Peru is highly vulnerable to climate change.

## **2. Community Capacity Building for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation**

### 2.1. Sustainable community capacity building

Among literature related with Community Capacity Building (CCB), Antonella Noya give us an interesting concept, stating that in essence, CCB is a process of enabling those living in poverty to develop skills and competencies, knowledge, structures, and strengths, so as to become more strongly involved in community, as well as wider society life, and to take greater control of their own lives and that of their communities.

However the author warn to lectors that obscured con-notations has also emerged, especially when third parties interests darkens the welfare of the community. CCB is essentially, therefore, not a neural technical process: it is about power and ideology and how these are meditated through structures and processes.

## 2.2. ABCD concepts and model to support sustainable rural development

ABCD is a path that leads toward the development of policies and activities based on the capacities, skills, and assets of lower income people and their neighborhoods (Kretzmann, J. and McKnight, J. 1993:5).

Related to these are additional needs for the development of listening skills, understanding issues of capability and power, learning to step back, learning to ask about what people have done well and learning not to judge, criticize or rush (O'Leary, T. 2006:6).

An approach of ABCD model used by the Ford Foundation which supports grantees in building assets that individuals, organizations, or communities can acquire, develop, improve, or transfer across generations. These include:

- Financial holdings of low-income people, Natural resources such as forests, wildlife, land, and livestock that can provide communities with sustainable livelihoods, are often of cultural significance and provide environmental services such as a forest's role in cleansing, recycling, and renewing air and water.
- Social bonds and community relations—the social capital and civic culture of a place—that can break down the isolation of the poor, strengthen the relationships that provide security and support, and encourage community investment in institutions and individuals.

- Human assets such as the marketable skills that allow low-income people to obtain and retain employment that pays living wages; and comprehensive reproductive health, which affects people's capacity to work, overcome poverty, and lead satisfying lives.

### 2.3. Case of ABCD in community development project: United we can.

This is an illustrative case presented by Ann Dale and Lenore Newman, in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, a community with intractable problems of drug addiction, mental health issues, persistent poverty and homelessness. The name of the network is United We Can, targeting 'binners' who dive into the large blue garbage bins for recyclables to return to retailers for cash.

With a first donation of \$150.00 organize a one-day bottle depot in a local park. Their objective was to pay street people to bring in empty cans and bottles which at that time were non-refundable, each of divers were paid a maximum of \$10.00 for their non-refundable, the activity was a complete success. The Harcourt administration in 1991 expanded the deposit refund system for beverage containers, again, street people lined up for the workshops at local community centers, and binners realized from these workshops that they could create their own deposit system.

Over a period of five years, the initial core network evolved to become a legal non-profit organization. The group approached VanCity Community Loan Fund for a line of credit, which was eventually secured; \$12,500 from VanCity itself and \$12,500 from a benefactor. United We Can was established as a formal depot in 1995 in that first year, 4.7 million containers were recycled – putting \$360,000 back into the community through handling fees. The charitable side was created in 1996 and United We Can has evolved into a social enterprise, since this time. Today, United We Can employs thirty-

three people full-time, most of whom had not been previously employable. The enterprise's annual revenue is 1.6 million dollars, and they recycle 50,000 bottles a day.

There are currently four other business streams in development. The Collection Services, with the use of truck and tricycle hauling, is now offering container collection directly from larger volume commercial and residential consumers in the downtown area.

This article focuses on the exogenous factors evidence was clear that leadership and his ability to augment his community's linking social capital s. In addition, his outstanding communications skills and his ability to communicate to diverse stake- holders from multiple sectors are also contributing factors.

#### 2.4. Accomplishments and challenges of ABCD model.

Across the world participatory approaches to development such as asset based and livelihood approaches have moved from locally successful projects into scaled up programmes promoted by local regional government and international agencies such as the World Bank (O'Leary, T. 2006:4).

ABCD model has accomplished a wide range of success cases around the world and disparities conditions. Under the scope of sustainable community capacity building, the analysis fulfills the three dimensions of sustainability, as social, economic and environment. However as was mentioned before still remains some challenges including the manipulation of communities, misappropriation of terminology, co-option of activists, conditional funding and state controlled power games such as divide and rule have also emerged.

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