

Sustainable Development- Environment, Climate Change and the City of Mumbai

Atthar, Rashida; Guest lecturer and mentor Climate project, NGos Insitutions and St Xavier's College Mumbai, India, atthar.rashida@gmail.com

Sustainable development has been my area of study and research since the late 1990's. As a researcher I was drawn to this alternative concept of development and was convinced it is the most relevant form of development for developed and developing countries. My paper will look at the various concepts of Sustainable development in different fields and how it has evolved in the past decades to the present 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs). How the values for sustainable development education and training in the universities can lead to its effective implementation and practical adaptation in various work areas. Practical examples as a resource person for nature education for young people will be shared and how it changes the entire outlook of young adults towards nature and development.

The paper will bring out inter-linkages between SDG 3 good health SDG 4 quality education and SDG 13 climate action and the policies towards forests and trees in particular in local context of Mumbai city. The paper will draw cause and effect linkages and how citizen participation and awareness is the key to bring about transformation towards a sustainable society and talk about solutions. The case studies from India like the chipko movement and other movements will be analysed to bring out how ecosystems have been conserved by such movements. Similarly linkages will be drawn from global to local level and how what happens in one part of the world can affect the life of people in another part of the world.

When there are various variables to a problem it becomes a complex problem and the paper will examine the theoretical framework and concept from psychology and sociology and how people respond to ecology and climate change and what could be the indicators to assess the performance towards problem solving of the ecological crisis at present.

The paper will bring out a framework for practical application of sustainable development in the university system in particular environment subject and how nature principle and values can be interwoven in the syllabus and also how citizens can work with local governments to bring about clean energy transportations and solar and wind energy in everyday use and improve the city's air quality leading to low carbon development. The paper will emphasis the role of anticipatory action for sustainable development to bring about institutional awareness and changes to prevent the collapse of a city like Mumbai due to fragmented approach to environment planning at present leading to a climate crisis.