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The components of sustainable development - a possible approach

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Abstract

The sustainable development of society refers to three major components of human existence: economical, ecological and human. The first component is essential, in the sense that the aim of social and economical activity is to satisfy human needs or desires, resulting for the three dimensions of human existence: biological (present in the interactions with the physical, natural environment), social/collective/collective (as a member of some social groups), rational/psychological/spiritual (induced by internal traits, particular to one human being). The relation between economical growth and the protection of the environment is an essential problem in the approaching sustainable development because the approach of economical growth not only by GDP, without trying a quantification of medium and long term advantages, resulting from environmental protection is only a basic form, unacceptable in sustainable development analysis. The human component in sustainable development has a major role, because the concept of equity incorporates several forms of manifestation in regards of sustainable evolution of human society.

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1. Introduction

The future of our planet is a matter of great concern. Environmental issues and how man / human communities affect ecosystem concerns have been part of human society from the beginning. Sustainable development has become a recognized goal for human society since the deterioration of environmental conditions in many parts of the world (Bossel, 1999). Therefore humanity is forced to pay more attention to the environment. This is becoming more and more important as modern industrial society requires even more burdens on nature (Wall & Gong, 2001). Thus it is found that the concept of sustainable development has an important role in business and resource

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conservation in the 21st century. This paper aims at presenting the role of sustainable development so that human actions do not violate the terms of the sustainability of life on this planet. The paper is divided into four major sections. Second section contains two subsections: the first presents the concept of sustainable development; the second subsection outlines the importance of sustainable development for the nation. Next section outlines the components of sustainable development. The research concludes with the discussion and conclusions.

2. Literature review

2.1. Defining sustainable development

Sustainable development is a juxtaposition of two elements of major importance. The first term " *durable* " represents durability and sustainability, while the word " *development* " aimed at expanding or construction the potentialities of; bring gradually to a fuller, greater, or better state. The concept of sustainability is a complex approach which is spoken in a period when environmental problems caused by various human activities require serious solutions. By analyzing various definitions of literature, the authors present the evolution of the concept of sustainable development since 1987 and to date, Table 1. It can be seen that all these definitions involve common and different imperatives. Most definitions integrate many buildings under development: expansion, growth, progress, development and satisfaction. So, all conceptualizations show a directly proportional relationship between economical growth and population satisfaction.

Table 1. Definitions of sustainable development

Authors	Year	Country	Definition
WCED	1987	United States of America	"Sustainable development is meeting the needs of present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs." (WCED, 1987).
Pearce, D., Markandya, A. and Barbier, E.	1989	United Kingdom	"Sustainable development involves devising a social and economic system, which ensures that these goals are sustained, i.e. that real incomes rise, that educational standards increase that the health of the nation improves, and that the general quality of life is advanced."(Pearce et al., 1989).
Harwood, R.R.	1990	United States of America	"Sustainable development is a system that can evolve indefinitely toward greater human utility, greater efficiency of resource use and a balance with the environment which is favourable to humans and most other species."(Harwood, 1990).
Meadows, D. H.	1998	United States of America	"Sustainable development is a social construct, referring to the long-term evolution of a hugely complex system – the human population and economy embedded within the eco-systems and biogeochemical flow of the planet."(Meadows, 1998).
Van der Merwe, I. and Van der Marwe, J.	1999	Sud Africa	"Sustainable development is a program for changing the process of economic development so that it ensures a basic quality of life for all people and at the same time protects the ecosystems and community systems that make life possible and worthwhile."(Van der Merwe & Van der Marwe, 1999).
Viorel, H.J.	2002	Romania	"Sustainable development is a form of economic growth which satisfies welfare needs of society in terms of short, medium and long term, it must meet the needs of the present without, however, compromising the of future generations."(Viorel, 2002).
Stefanescu, F.	2003	Romania	"Sustainable development must be understood as a type of economic development that ensures meeting the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own requirements and applicable measures aimed at long intervals and long-term effects." (Stefanescu, 2003).
Beck, U. and	2004	United Kingdom	"Sustainable development is currently a powerful global counter-

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