

# **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN VEDANTIC PERSPECTIVES**

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## **Abstract**

In 1970s, seeing the limits of growth and seeking to maintain a steady state condition, economic planners brought the concept of “sustainability” to achieve an economy which was in equilibrium with the basic ecological support system. In 1980s, “sustainable development” was conceived as the pattern of resource use that aims to meet human needs while preserving the environment so that these needs can be met not only in the present, but in the infinite future also. By 2007, the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development listed some forty-two areas coming within the scope of the sustainable development. Economic prosperity, social equity and environmental quality have been fixed as the triple bottom line concerns in sustainable development. Still, for a common man, both social inequity and environmental challenges appear to be increasing. Thus, for many, the concept is more charming than meaningful. This paper begins the discussion from Principle 1 of Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992) and attempts to explore some of the possible reasons behind such differences in the vision and the outcome. Anthropocentrism appears to be the major cause of such imbalances in society as well as environment. Finally, the whole issue of human development, equity and environment has been analyzed pertaining to Vedantic perspectives, where the concern goes much beyond humanity and ecology. Vedantic view holds that human beings are an important part of creation, but not at the centre of creation. Both the inanimate and animate components of nature form a part of continuum with their respective functions and purpose. Any stress in the system, either in the form of social inequality or environmental pollution is basically due to the human actions motivated away from the purpose of their creation. A sustainable development plan therefore must recognize the values and functions of that component of nature with respect to the whole cosmic world.