Sustainable development as a concept, practice and an alternative for the existing economic order was proposed by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) known as Brundtland Committee, in 1987. Sustainable development is the kind of development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (WCED 1987). We have two major questions before us – (a) What needs to be sustained, namely, nature, life support system, and community (Parris & Kates 2003), and (b) What is to be developed, namely, individuals, the economy and society (Leiserowitz, Kates and Parris 2006). This debate has originated from the fear of environmental disorder that moved beyond boundaries when all the countries ratified Agenda 21 that binds sustainable development as policy priority in all economic, social and political space of the globe (Beckerman 1994). Though the Agenda binds equally all nations across the globe, United Nations claimed that it may not be possible to come up with a single blueprint of sustainability for the entire globe, as economic and social systems and ecological conditions vary significantly among countries. Irrespective of these differences, sustainable development as a global framework should be considered as the ultimate objective of this discourse (United Nations General Assembly, 1987) while each nation to have own agenda.

Sustainable development as a debate started with environment protection. Subsequently it has shifted to interrelation between production processes, environment and exploitation of resources for the production. The challenge of sustainable development is to maintain balance between environmental imperatives and economic growth (Seelos and Mair 2005) with equal attention to the social dimension to 'promote diversity, protection of human rights, reduce poverty, enhance workplace equity and social justice' (Rusinko 2010).

Entrepreneurial innovation with sustainability have played major role to preserve the eco-system (Cohen and Winn, 2007; Schaltegger and Wanger 2010). Among them social entrepreneurs\(^1\) are

\(^1\) Social entrepreneurs are the reformers and revolutionaries with social mission. They make fundamental changes in the way things are seen and done in the social space (Dees 1998). Social entrepreneurs make social change with
in the forefront to create a sustainable society. They take up innovative practices especially in developing nations; enhancing education, productivity, socioeconomic status of the marginalised people, physical health, waste management, energy retention and self-reliance of individuals and societies are to name a few. They also operate in enterprise mode to address social or/and environmental problems while also being financial sustainable. Such initiatives function within the guided philosophy of the sustainable development. As a result the field of social entrepreneurship is receiving increased attention across the globe as a prominent approach to achieve sustainable development (Drayton 2002b, Bornstein 2004, Spear 2006, Steyaert and Hjorth 2006, Nicholls, 2006). Social entrepreneurs require an ecosystem with inclusive policy environment, markets, incubators, mentors, impact investors and other stakeholders involved (Hatch 1997).

Against this backdrop, the Center for Social Entrepreneurship, School of Management and Labour Studies of Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai offers to organise and host National Conference on ‘Social Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development’ to deal with the sub-themes and the respective research questions below. Though indicative the questions are broad based addressing almost all aspects of the Theme of the Conference.

1. Concepts of Sustainable Development
   a) What are the theoretical frameworks for sustainable development?
   b) Are the existing theoretical frameworks on sustainable development really sustainable?

2. Institutional Approach to Sustainable Development
   a) Is corporate social responsibility relevant in sustainable development?
   b) Is civil society doing enough to promote sustainable development?
   c) Is education sector contributing to sustainable development? Why? Why not?

3. Social Entrepreneurship as an Approach to Sustainable Development
   a) How does social entrepreneurship contribute to sustainable development?
   b) Are the existing models of social entrepreneurship good enough to promote sustainable development?
   c) What kind of innovations is needed for sustainable development?

4. Policy and Governance on Sustainable Development
   a) What is the role of good governance in promoting sustainable development?
   b) What are the policy gaps that hinder sustainable development?

5. Technology as a Tool for Sustainable Development
   a) What are existing technologies in sustainable development?
b) Do we have the right ecosystem for technology solutions for sustainable development?
c) What is the role of technology in sustainable development?

6. Sustainable Livelihoods
   a) What are the dimensions of sustainable livelihoods?
   b) Are Public Works Programmes really offering sustainable livelihood solutions?
   c) What is the role of social entrepreneurship in providing sustainable livelihoods?

7. Environmental Sustainability
   a) What is the role of entrepreneurs to solve the sustainable development problems?
   b) What is the role of innovation in providing sustainable environmental solutions?
   c) What are the models to mitigate climate change issues?

The Conference will provide opportunity for authors of research papers, both theoretical and empirical, from India and also from other countries to share their work. We will also invite speakers from organisations engaged in working in the areas of sustainable development. We are confident that the Conference will prove to be a good platform for sharing not only our research experiences, research ideas and questions but also provide opportunities for networking and collaboration among scholars, academicians, NGOs, and other practitioners.

We invite you to join in this journey of learning and participate as a delegate in this Conference. We will be happy if you share this invite with your colleagues and friends.

Registration

Registration fee is Rs. 2000 per head which will include conference kit, lunch and a gala dinner. We will be happy to offer a discounted registration fee of Rs 1500 per head for delegates from academic institutions and NGOs. The delegate will have to pay registration fee through demand draft or multi-city cheque drawn in favor of ‘Tata Institute of Social Sciences’ payable at Mumbai to ‘Chairperson, Centre for Social Entrepreneurship, School of Management & Labour Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, V N Purav Marg, Deonar, Mumbai 400 088 (Maharashtra)’. The last date of registration is December 15, 2013.

Please feel free to contact the undersigned for any clarification and address your communications to,

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References:


