

Title

Challenges of Sustainable Development in Societies: A Systematic Literature Review

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ABSTRACT

Purpose

Sustainable development is a relatively new policy dimension in most countries especially for the developing world. The year 2030 Agenda which was adopted by the 193 member states of the United Nations at the General Assembly held in September, 2015 provides for 17 sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals set out all aspects of trans-formative development from inclusive economic, social and environmental matters. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), further, sets out the benchmark for states to gauge themselves towards the collective sustainable development. The objective of this paper is to examine some of the identified buildings blocks and challenges of sustainable development.

Design/methodology/approach

In writing this paper, a comprehensive Systematic Literature Review of 10 peer-reviewed scientific journal articles, including a content analysis, was conducted.

Findings

The literature review revealed the following: (1) that the number of related publications on the topic has been growing throughout the last few years; (2) that the concept of Sustainable Development has taken root in most nation's development agenda today; (3) that external debt is one of the greatest impediments to sustainable development in the developing countries; (4) that corrupt practices in developing world have been found to have significant adverse consequences in the sustainable development of the affected countries; (5) that while it is easy to measure profit or the economic development in the country's currency unit for instance US dollar, the difficult part is in measuring social and environmental dimensions (6) that the failure to coordinate the development of policies across sectors could lead to ineffective policy design which brings about the challenge on how to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development (7) that the failure to integrate Intellectual property rights in our inventions (esp in developing countries) brings about the challenge on how to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development

Research Limitations/Implications

Given that sustainable development is a relatively new policy dimension and a critical aspect of inclusive national development further comprehensive research is necessary to address the broader concept and ensure developing countries attain a trans-formative development from inclusive economic, social and environmental dimensions.

Originality/Value

Studies in sustainable development are in a nascent stage. The present study attempts to extend the existing body of knowledge by identifying the buildings blocks and challenges of sustainable development.

Sustainable Development, Inclusive national development, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Benchmarking, Ecological capacity, Policies, Literature Review.