



Short Review Paper

Social work practice for Atmanirbhar Bharat towards sustainable development

Basavaraj Biradar* and Sangeetha R. Mane

Department of Social Work, Karnatak University, Dharwad, India
basavarajbiradar82@gmail.com

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Abstract

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The "three pillars" of sustainable development are the economy, society, and the environment. People, their environments, and their economic systems are inextricably linked, and this is true across disciplines. On May 12, 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a special economic package of Rs 20 Lakh crore with the goal of making India self-reliant and independent against the tough competition in the global markets and to help empower the poor migrant laborer's who have been adversely affected by COVID-19. He named this initiative "Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan" (Self-reliant India Movement) with Social Work Practice towards Sustainable Development. Objectives of the Paper are To Understand Social Work and Sustainable Development and to know Social Work Practice for Atmanirbhar Bharat towards Sustainable Development. The aims of the paper have been accomplished, and the paper itself has been crafted in light of the findings that were obtained. It relied on secondary sources such as books, periodicals, and websites, among other types of media, to compile its information. Throughout the entirety of this paper, the descriptive method was utilised for the study on Social Work Practice for Atmanirbhar Bharat towards Sustainable Development.

Keywords: Social Work Practice, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Sustainable Development.

Introduction

"The earth has enough for every man's need, but not for every man's greed!" - Mahatma Gandhi

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The "three pillars" of sustainable development are the economy, society, and the environment¹.

The idea of sustainable development has gone through several stages of development since it was first proposed. Numerous institutions and organisations took part in the historical development of the idea, and they continue to work hard today to put its goals and ideals into practise. Despite being acknowledged in a variety of human endeavours, the idea has undergone numerous critiques and interpretations over the years.

One of the most frequently used definitions in the literature is that of sustainable development. The core concepts and aspirations, as well as the challenges of implementing them, have remained largely unaltered while the concept has evolved to meet the demands of a modern, complex global context. However, certain objectives have been revised, and new objectives have been set.

The Millennium Development Goals 2015 define the problems that humanity must overcome in order to not only achieve sustainable development but also to survive on Earth. These goals are all incorporated into this framework¹. The secret to the world's general prosperity is sustainable development. The most widely used definition of sustainable development is found in the report "Brundtland," which describes it as "development that fulfils the requirements of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs, were created in order to protect the environment and achieve sustainable development by 2030. There are 17 SDGs, and each has a set of objectives².

Objectives of the Paper: i. To Understand Social Work and sustainable Development, ii. To know Social Work Practice for Atmanirbhar Bharat towards Sustainable Development.

Methodology

The aims of the paper have been accomplished, and the paper itself has been crafted in light of the findings that were obtained. It relied on secondary sources such as books, periodicals, and websites, among other types of media, to compile its information. Throughout the entirety of this paper, the descriptive method was utilised for the study on Social Work Practice for Atmanirbhar Bharat towards Sustainable Development.

Five pillars of Atmanirbhar Bharat: Prime Minister Narendra Modi expounded on the five pillars or characteristics India has that will help it fight the outbreak during his fifth address to the country amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The prime minister's fifth televised address on Covid-19 has "Atmanirbhar Bharat," or an independent India, as its main theme. In order to achieve this, PM Modi outlined the five pillars that form the basis for an independent India. He said as follows: i. Economy: We require an economy that produces quantum leaps rather than incremental changes. ii. Infrastructure: Modern India needs infrastructure that will define it. iii. System: We require a system that actualizes the aspirations of the twenty-first century and is not based on the laws and customs of the past. This system must be built on technology. iv. Democracy: We are the largest democracy in the world. Our strength is a dynamic demographic. It provides the fuel for our attempts to make India self-sufficient. v. Demand: Our economy benefits from the cycle of supply and demand. We must completely utilise this power.

In a major effort to revive the Covid-devastated economy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on also announced massive new financial incentives on top of the previously announced stimulus packages for a combined stimulus of Rs 20 lakh crore, saying the coronavirus crisis has given India an opportunity to become independent and take the lead globally³.

Need of the Sustainable Development and Social Work for Atmanirbhar Bharat: The World Summit on Sustainable Development was held in South Africa in August 2002. (WSSD). The greatest obstacle to international progress was discussed at the Summit, and it was determined that this was due to the vast income gap between countries. Many developing countries, as well as the maintenance of the standard of living in the wealthy countries, rely heavily on access to mineral riches. Careful removal of these resources helps developing nations invest in healthcare, education, and social infrastructure. Visions of Atmanirbhar Bharat inspire us to keep going. Earlier study provides us with some guidance in this area, and we propose a comparable intervention across the entirety of India by doing action research in every village with the help of all stakeholders, the government, resource people, institutions, and organisations. Due to its adaptability, decentralisation, sustainability, and capacity for continual improvement, we view this concept as a viable option⁴.

If social workers are going to make meaningful contributions to the solving of social problems that have their origins in global social, political, and economic realities, they will need to acquire new levels of knowledge and adopt new models of practise. New models of practise in human services should at least take into account the global scope of the societal issues that bring clients, client groups, and other stakeholders to the attention of the field. They should be supported by data and provide constructive recommendations for meeting specific social needs through various social development strategies⁵.

The actions performed by occupational social workers in the future will increasingly involve linking resources for work organisation to the diverse community. Social workers expanded the scope of their work activities within the workplace by utilising community organisation skills for networking, needs assessment, and programme development within the community, in addition to more conventional roles of advertisement and consultation in corporate giving initiatives⁶. The idea of the new India that the Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has in mind is the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan or Self-Reliant India campaign. The Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan (Self-reliant India campaign) was launched by our PM on May 12, 2020, and a special economic and comprehensive package of INR 20 lakh crores - equivalent to 10% of India's GDP - was declared to combat the COVID-19 pandemic in India⁷.

Current Prospects of Social Work: A method is always used in the direction of achieving a given goal since it is widely acknowledged to be an orderly manner of conducting business. Social workers employ a variety of techniques to assist individuals of all ages and social backgrounds improve their social skills and better manage their difficulties. It is not up to social workers to pick and choose which concerns and problems to address. Even the most challenging problems are seen by them as opportunities to assist others in finding solutions⁶. The workings of today's society are growing increasingly complex. The survival of the fittest is the catchphrase of today's world. The number of the poor, disadvantaged, and defenceless has increased as a result. Social work has a big part to play in this.

Social work uses resources to address these individuals' issues and attempt to lessen their suffering and anguish. Societal workers seek to stop social issues brought on by things like alcoholism, drug misuse, unemployment, poor access to healthcare and education, and other issues. Problem solving and change are the main focuses of professional social work. Social workers thus act as change agents in society as well as in the lives of the people, families, and communities they assist. In keeping with its all-encompassing focus on people and their circumstances, social work employs a variety of skills, strategies, and activities. Social work interventions span from involvement in social policy, planning, and development to person-focused psychosocial processes.

In order to develop participatory mechanisms for self-governance and management without unnecessary external dependence and interference, social workers' community practise needs to concentrate on utilising the existing capacities and extending the capacities of individuals, groups, leaders, organisations, and institutions. To achieve this, they must actively interact with community-based organisations, people's organisations, local NGOs, other groups, and institutions (councils), which are the cornerstones of community self-governance and management.

Flexible structures and processes for self-governance and management of a variety of community development activities in the areas of health, education, employment, housing, culture, natural resource management, and economic output must be built via networking among different groups⁸.

India should be mostly self-sufficient, providing for all essentials of life, including governance and access to food, clothing, clean water, sanitation, housing, and other necessities. Self-defence and other amenities that a group needs to function socially. When deciding what was best for India, Mahatma Gandhi did not promote cultural chauvinism but rather intellectual independence. After so many years, COVID-19 once more served as a wake-up call to implement Be Vocal for Local and Atmanirbhar Bharat. A self-sufficient India will therefore "integrate not isolate"⁹.

Social Work and Sustainable Development: Meeting fundamental human needs, integrating environmental development and conservation, establishing equality, safeguarding social self-determination and cultural variety, and protecting ecological integrity should all be addressed by sustainable development. Although the idea of sustainable development has changed in the past, its core tenets and objectives have helped people behave more conscientiously and adapt to environmental constraints. This is the rationale behind the concept's adoption in various spheres of human endeavour¹. Social work education and the job itself have a bigger role to play in how society changes. Support for education and field work can work together to help for the good of all the different groups in society. In order to meet both current and future demands, it also seeks to manage resources wisely. The largest issue now is how quickly natural resources are depleting, whether it is oil, minerals, electricity, food, etc. Natural resources have been the most severely impacted by the fast industrialization. When it emphasises involving residents and stakeholders, sustainable development will be improved. The vision will ultimately become a reality only if everyone works toward creating a society where economic freedom, social justice, and environmental protection coexist and make our current and future generations better off than they are now with Social Work Practice for Atmanirbhar Bharat¹⁰.

Strategies for Sustainable Development: There are numerous possible strategies that can be helpful in achieving sustainable development.

Science and Technology: Appropriate technology is local, eco-friendly, resource-efficient, and culturally fit. Local labour and resources dominate. Indigenous technology are more useful, cost-effective, and sustainable. Nature is often modelled utilising the region's natural conditions. "Design with nature" describes this. Technology should reduce waste and resource utilisation.

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Approach: The 3-R strategy, which promotes minimizing resource usage, using resources repeatedly rather than adding them to the waste stream, and recycling items, is very effective in accomplishing sustainability goals. It lessens waste production and the strain on our resources pollution, too.

Promoting Environmental Education and Awareness: Making environmental education the focal point of every learning process would significantly aid in changing peoples' attitudes and thought patterns regarding our planet and the environment. Early exposure to the subject will help young children develop a sense of earth-based belonging. Our thoughts and behaviour will increasingly embrace "Earth thinking" which will significantly aid in the transition to sustainable lives.

Resource Utilization as Per Carrying Capacity: The maximum number of organisms that a system can sustain over the long run is referred to as its carrying capacity. The carrying capacity concept becomes even more complicated when applied to humans. The reason for this is that, in contrast to other animals, humans require a wide range of other necessities in order to maintain their standard of living. The carrying capacity of a system is a key factor in its sustainability.

Improving Quality of Life Including Social, Cultural and Economic Dimensions: Development should not be restricted to a small group of already wealthy individuals. Instead, it should call for benefit-sharing between the wealthy and the less fortunate. Additionally, the cultural history of the tribal and ethnic populations should be preserved. In both policy and practice, there should be significant community involvement.

The goal of sustainable development is not to obstruct the development process; rather, it refers to how we use our resources to build relationships between the current and the future generations¹¹. The role of social workers in assisting in the creation of a sustainable future is becoming increasingly crucial as environmental and economic developments threaten to expose individuals who are already susceptible to socioeconomic issues. The all-encompassing vision of social work and sustainability may, however, be at odds with prevalent notions of goals for the government, businesses, and non-profit organisations, such as cost-cutting, efficiency, value for money, contract design, and compliance.

Discussion and Suggestions

In order to meet both current and future demands, sustainable development must strike a balance between preserving the natural world and fostering economic growth among humans. It entails a holistic approach to equity in development and sectoral actions over time and space. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to combine efforts in economics, sociology, and environmental protection. The study underlines the relevance of sustainable development in the modern, globalised society.

What sustainability proponents really want to preserve, though, is human growth, and sustainable development is crucial to human development. Peace, freedom, development, and protecting the environment were the four overarching goals that people all around the globe worked toward in the latter part of the twentieth century⁵.

There is a significant literature deficit on sustainable development in India, according to this thorough evaluation of Indian practises. The least studied of the 17 SDGs are those relating to gender equality, inequality reduction, peace and justice, partnerships for goal-achievement, a just and decent economic system, industry, innovation, and infrastructure, sustainable cities and communities, and responsible consumption and production. There are enough gaps in the areas of sanitation, clean energy, and connecting government policies to the SDGs¹².

Conclusion

Over the past few years, management has established social work as a component of welfare services for community industrial workers. The practise of social work in the workplace is cutting edge. Social workers have been incorporated into the personnel systems of numerous businesses and industries, both large and small, to assist staff members and their families with personal, familial, and societal issues. Humanitarianism and more efficient and productive production have been the dual goals. The corporate and industrial transformations that are already taking place and are expected to accelerate in the twenty-first century might provide social work with challenges of enormous scope and importance³.

Many countries aren't even close to developing in a way that is sustainable, and the gap between developed and underdeveloped countries has grown. Sustainable development is hard to put into practise because many countries haven't reached a certain level of social and economic development yet. This is partly because they don't have enough money or technology, but it's also because they have different political and economic goals. It should be practice for Atma Nirbhar Bharat towards Sustainable Development.

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