UNIT 23 ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Structure

23.1 INTRODUCTION

The present unit discusses the evolution of the concept of sustainable development and the present methods by which it is indicated or measured. The different and opposite views adopted by the developed and the developing nations are also discussed. Initially the idea of industrial development was aggressively propagated to root out all the evils of the society, but the methods' and policies adopted for it turned out to be wasteful and threatening to the very existence of mankind. With the rising awareness of this disaster, the world community came together to discuss and formulate several action plans to mitigate this problem. Today, the concept of sustainable development has become integrated in the policies of every area of development as the very human survival depends on it. Therefore it is imperative to understand and adopt the concept.

23.2 CONTEXTUALISING DEVELOPMENT

'Development' as a concept and aspect of state policy has a feel good effect on a modern mind. The magic mantra of development is thought to be the living spirit behind every human success in the field of industry, agriculture, transport and communication, space, health, hygiene, culture and entertainment, etc. Along with all these, it also infuses a sense of triumph in controlling and undertaking near complete transformation of society and

environment in shortest possible time. Development is accepted by everybody as the secular and rational way of conducting the affairs of the state in the general good, irrespective of the differences of gender, class, colour, caste and creed. Development is thought to be the only way out from all the ills that have accumulated over centuries and it is also,expected to mitigate the wrongs that have befallen to a class, section, region and individual either intentionally or otherwise. It would not be an exaggeration in saying that there are perhaps no other ideas like 'Development' that has gained unprecedented popularity, success and acceptance on a global scale with so little resistance, It is considered to be a game worth playing where there are all winners and no losers. Therefore, it is a venture worth pursuing.

The annals of human history are full of anecdotes and incidents that speak in volumes the way the idea of development emerged as the hegemonic concept on a global scale after it facilitated in the domination of a particular set of values over other value systems and ways of livelihood. It can be called unprecedented, as it continues to enjoy such an enviable position for such a long time, on such a large scale and with so little resistance against it. It is perhaps the only concept so far that has brought the totality of both environment and society within the folds of one single assemblage. It succeeded in building a global ensemble that even religions failed to do.

23.2.1 The Apparent

Development has a mesmerising effect upon the modern mind. It is valourised as the panacea for all our social evils and is celebrated as the reason for justifying each and every action of every individual and institution. Moreover, it is also considered the sole legitimiser of all our deeds.

The magic of development has become so pervasive that most thinkers attribute lack of it as the root cause of all the socio-cultural, politico-economic, psychological and environmental problems that most of the regions and communities are facing world over. Though, such a mind-set had dawned on human beings along with the graduation of capitalist development as the First World System for over the past three centuries, yet its formal acceptance as the fiindamental Principle of State Policy and Ideology of a particular system came into force in the aftermath of the speech delivered by 33ʳᵈ U.S President, Harry S. Truman, at the end of World War II in 1945. Truman gave new meanings lo development and hereafter, it was formally accepted as the goal of state policy and incorporated the same as the basis of the philosophy and ideology of the state. This also coincided with the formal inauguration of the so-called 'Development Decades', formation of 'Development Communities', launching of 'Development Projects' world over. From then onwards, development was used as a potent weapon in carrying war against poverty, exploitation, criminality and all other social evils and above all in the ultimate triumph of human over nature and its mighty forces and also in the consolidation of the "New Global Hegemonies'. This also brought an end to the old ideology and logic of *pax Britanica* that had prevailed since the days of Spanish Armada, 1588. It was replaced by *pax* Americana. The ethos and ethics of new hegemony were so complete and total that development was considered not only the last or end-point in the evolution of human beings in the field of economics, politics and culture but also of their dreams and imaginations. The concept has emerged so ensembling that one could hardly imagine a world and stage in the evolution

of human history that is not woven around development. To put the spirit of the age in one sentence, 'Development is being'. Thus, it is accepted uncritically and any reservation against it is considered non-compliance and disagreement with the ruling social ethos and global hegemony. Consequently lack of development is interpreted as serious handicap and disability. Communities and nations that are unable to break open the deadlock of stagnation are considered a threat to both peace and human dignity. Moreover, lack of development is synonymous to less choice, curtailment of freedom and serious violation of human rights too.

23.2.2 The Real

Unfortunately everything was not nice and fair with development. Lack of appreciation and intolerance towards other ways of life, value systems and material existence combined with the backing of state power transformed development from being a simple doctrine of economic prosperity into a tyrant, a violator of human freedom, dignity and ecological balance. Irawati Karve, the noted ecologist, had said "The injustice done by idealists, patriots, saints and crusaders are far greater than those done by the worst tyrants". It is also true in case of development. The nobel laureate Amartya Sen, in his book, "Development as Freedom" has opined that development is often considered a precondition for freedom, empowerment and democracy. These were also the sentiments re-echoed at the Rio Earth Summit on Environment in 1992. The conference sent a warning to humanity in these words:

"World scientists and politicians have remained pre-occupied and kept the humanity also pre-occupied with the dangers of nuclear wars and 'Auschwitz' and kept silence to other dangers. The new dangers that have threatened the humanity are the ones that have come from the very process of on going development. "Human beings and the natural world are on a collision".

Thus, once the halcyon days were over, the dark side of development became more conspicuous.

23.2.2.1 The General

Today, development means *pax economica* at the cost of *pax populi*. There is enough evidence to prove that the twin most significant 'accomplishments' and omnipresent curses of various ongoing development projects at the global level are; i) pollution leading to ecological disaster and ii) universalised alienation and annihilations of mankind. The saga of ongoing development and its various accompanying projects are responsible for making exterminism as the last stage in human civilisation. Exterminism is occurring not only through the use of nuclear bombs and discharge of radio active materials but also through various acts of development that are responsible for global warming, depletion of ozone, various types of environmental pollution leading to poisoning of water, soil, air and other food items. If these processes are not arrested then exterminism due to ecological crises including increase in the level of ultraviolet radiation will bring in disaster to both the environment and humanity and it will be the last stage in human civilisation. There is enough evidence to prove that due to increase in the level of green house gases, ultraviolet

radiations along with increasing use of medicines to cure diseases, excessive consumption of fertilisers and pesticides to increase agriculture production etc. have brought in genetic deformities in a large segment of the organic world and extinction of many species. Moreover, the global hegemonic powers are using their policies of development to get access to other economies, cultures, resources, environment and ultimately sovereignty of the weak individual, community and nations. Today, development has emerged as a powerful concept that is continuously creating and reinforcing a permanent wedge between the haves and have-nots. It is a policy of the powerful countries to construct and reconstruct the new colonies to suit its own interests.

23.2.2.2 The Specific

There is one particular aspect that has remained less conspicuous about development so far. It is related to the ways it excelled in enforcing universal and generalised alienation of human beings, colonisation of life and body space of each and every living being. Under the ruling ethos of development, human beings, the creators of commodities are lost into oblivion created by commodities. Today human beings are bereft of both life and identity while the commodities produced by them have both. In the midst of universal and generalised commoditisation of human beings, there are still differences among individuals and social groups. Development has created a permanent wedge not only between the · human beings in the developed and developing world but also between male and females, white and black, natives and immigrants, urban and rural, agriculture and industsial workers, etc. Though development succeeded in uniting the world into one global system yet it has been possible only by creating permanent divisions between citizens of one country and . another and among the people within one country. Human beings remained divided and differentiated on the bases of race, colour, caste, creed, religion, language, gender and economic achievements in the past. The modern humans are divided and differentiated on the basis of the levels of their development and differences in their ability to control the knowledge and instruments that are essential for development. Development has become a civilisational and cultural divide between the developed and the backward countries, and developed and backward communities. True to the logic of development, prosperity and affluence of a few is possible at the cost of the well-being of an over-whelming majority of population, regions and countries. Once again, it is imperative to the logic of development that good quality of life to a miniscule minority is· possible at the cost of low quality of life and falling standard of living of a vast majority. The economic gains of a few are at the cost of bringing in colossal global environmental degradation. Moreover, it is also noticed that economic prosperity has taken place at the cost of human culture, values and peace of mind. Economic development, the core of the development project, seems to have lost any sense and purpose. The pattern of on-going development shows that the basic goals of human welfare and freedom have lost its way, The aims of qualitative growth, the uppermost priority of every economic venture of the decades of 1980's too turned out to be mere delusion to millions of people world over, The worst victims of it are the inhabitants in the, post-colonial countries. We are in the age of economics with ethics and affluence without peace. In brief, development has run out of its progressive potentials. It has become unsustainable both for the human beings and the environment. Therefore, there is an urgent need to find an alternative,

23.3 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: CONCEPTUALISATION

23.3.1 Concept of Sustainable Development

The continuing antagonistic relationships between *pax economica* and *pax populi* and development and environment had been the main concern of thinkers for a long time. In other words: How to give a human face to economic development? How to be green in our thinking? How to maximise our happiness, peace, freedom and well-being without destroying our environment, etc.? These have been important issues before thinkers for a long time. The sustainable development, in fact, is mainly concerned with the question. Or to put it in one sentence how to sustain the present level of well-being and make it available 'to all.

The origin of the concept *Sustainable Development* is credited to Brundtland Commission Report prepared under the auspices of the United Nations' World Commission on Environment and Development. Sustainable Development, according to the report means:

> "*Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, improved living standard for all, better protected and managed ecosystem and a safer, more prosperous future*".

The conclusions of the conference were based on the realisation that:

> "*Economic activities cannot precede any longer under the banner of business as usual. Specifically it is no longer tenable to make economic growth us conventionally perceived and measured, the unquestioned objects of economic development policy. The old concept of growth which we designate 'throughput growth' with its reliance on an ever increasing throughput of energy and other natural materials, cannot be sustained and must yield to an imaginative pursuit of economic ends thnt are less resource intensive, The way we undervalue nature and natural capital services and fail to account for natural assets degradation often means that we are improving ourselves while imagining that our economies are growing. The new approach requires a concerted effort at remoulding consumers' preference and steering wants in the direction of environmentally benign activities, while simultaneously reducing throughput per unit of final product including services*"

The gravity of situation was well appreciated by the world community and it was realised that no individual, community and nation, however rich or powerful that may be, can mitigate the harms brought in by the ongoing process of development. It was also felt that "together we can come together in a global partnership for sustainable development".

23.3.2 The Convergent View

There is unanimity of opinions among scholars about the material achievements human beings have made in the last three centuries. Among these the achievements of the 20th century are spectacular. But, this has been possible at huge social and environmental costs.

Scholars have always expressed their apprehensions about the short-term material prosperity and warned people at large about the impending dangers and future crises. There are differences of opinions among scholars and philosophers on the approaches to be adopted for attaining sustainable development. People have taken positions ranging from spiritual and moral to crass materialist. Gandhi, for'example, was in favour of taking a moralist position when he said, "the earth has enough to satisfy the human needs but next to nothing to satisfy the greed of even one individual". His approach was based on the broader principles of non-violence and truth. According to him, the western approach to development has placed mind over hands, man over nature and technology over experience. It is the root cause of our moral decline and also unsustainable development. Gandhi was for the moral justification of every human action and according to him the western model of technology-induced development, which is primarily based on the principle of satisfying human greed, is immoral as well as violence against mankind and nature.

At the other extreme were those that advocated the philosophy of "being is having". According to the advocates of this pliilosophy the teclmological revolutions particularly in the last three centuries have endowed the modern human with all the possible comforts and possibilities. Today, we are more satisfied, confident and also enjoy greater freedom than our ancestors did three hundred years ago, Modern human has succeeded in mastering both time and space with every incremental doses of new teclmology. Technology has transformed our being. The new being is based on more choices and thus, more freedom.

There were many other views in between these two extremes. However, among the pioneers that made sincere and serious attempts in this direction were a group of scholars in Rome, in 1972. This was popularly known as the "Club of Rome". Their views were later on published in a book by Meadows entitled "Limits to Growth". These scholars have warned about the limits of an on going pattern of development and if the pattern ofpresent limitless growth continues, then tliere are likely to be'problems of its sustainability. They studied the fundamental limits to growth in global population, agriculture, resource use and industry and showed as how these factors interact with each other and how they exert pressure on the Iimited resource base of our planet. The report Concluded that even under the most optimistic assumptions about the blessing of advanced technology, the world is incapable of supporting and sustaining present rates of economic and population growth on the one hand and resource depletion and ecological crises on the other. They further warned that if the present trend of consumption continues, the resources on our planet would not last beyond a few decades from now. Therefore, they also suggested some way out of the impending impasse, which according to them lies in tackling all the problems together instead of adopting a piecemeal approach. Subsequently, United Nations' Conference on the theme of Environment and Development held at Stockholm in the same year also expressed serious concerns about the patterns of the ongoing development, The conference made a specific mention of the patterns of the way the ongoing development has placed tremendous stress on our environment on the one hand and the widened the gap between the developed and the developing countries on the other.

23.3.3 Principles of Sustainable Development

The outcome of the realisation of this grave situation was the *Agenda* 21: *Green Paths to the Future* or *Rio Declaration,* 1992. Though there are many highlights of the declaration,

the quintessence of it is presented in the underlying twenty seven principles:

- Human beings are at the centre of concern of Sustainable Development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.

- State has the sovereign rights to use their resources for development in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international laws. It is also the responsibility of the state to control any damage to the environment.

- Right to development must be fulfilled by maintaining inter-generational equity.

- Environmental protection should constitute an integral part of development process in order to achieve Sustainable Development.

- Eradication of poverty is an indispensable requirement for Sustainable Development. Cooperation between the states and individual can be more effective in improving the standard of living of the people.

- Least developed countries are. also environmentally most vulnerable. International communities must pay special attention and give priority in order to address the needs of these countries.

- States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve and restore the health and integrity of earth's ecosystem. Developed countries should shoulder greater responsibilities because their activities exert greater pressure on the global environment.

- To attain Sustainable Development, it is the responsibility of the states to reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption without compromising an 'ever-increasing higher quality of life to all people.

- States should cooperate to strengthen endogenous capacity-building measures for sustainable development through building proper scientific temper for enhancing, adaptation, diffusion and transfer of technology including innovations in technology.

- Environment should be the concern of everyone and issues related to it should be handled through the participation of concerned citizens at relevant levels. However, it is the responsibility of the state to provide relevant information and encourage awareness among the public including the dangers of hazardous materials and possible remedies for the same.

- Every state shall enact effective environmental legislations. It should also judge the relevance of the existing discriminatory legislation adopted by certain countries particularly against the poorer countries.

- Economic growth should be linked with Sustainable Development. States should ensure that the global economic system, particularly the world market relations and trade policies that are discriminatory against the poor countries, should be changed in order to achieve Sustainable Development.

States shall formulate laws to punish those who are responsible for environmental pollutions and environmental damage and male provisions to adequately compensate the victims of environmental degradation.

- States shall actively discourage the transfer of substances that are found to be harmful to human beings and cause environmental degradation.

- Every state will have to take precautionary measures to protect their environment depending upon their capabilities. However, lack of scientific lalow-how and technical lag shall not be taken as an excuse to carry on activities that are a threat to the environment and result in irreversible damages.

- The national authorities should work for internationalisation of environment costs as part of the total production costs.

- Environmental impact assessment shall become an integral part of the national economic policy.

- In case of natural disasters, it is the responsibility of the state to share the information with other states that are likely to be affected by such disasters. The international communities should come forward to help the states so affected.

- Sharing of infonnation regarding environmental issues among the states shall be the basis of building goodwill and faith among the states.

- Environmental management, sustainable development and gender empowerment are interdependent. Women should become the focus of all the three.

- Youth all over the world has greater responsibilities to implement sustainable development because it is mainly their generation, which is going to be the immediate victim and sufferer from ecological disasters.

- Right to protect one's identity should be the basis of sustainable development. It is particularly applicable to the indigenous communities. Every state should take appropriate measures to recognise indigenous knowledge and practices and involve these communities in the success of sustainable development.

- Freedom of people should include end of domination, occupation and oppression of people and their environment by the oppressors. Restoration of complete rights over the environment and natural resources should be part of the concept of freedom.

- War and sustainable development are antithetical to each other. Every state should ensure that minimum damages take place to the environment in case of wars.

- Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible.

- States shall resolve all their 'environmental disputes through peaceful means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

- Finally it appeals to every individual and state to cooperate and develop partnerships based on good faith in order to achieve sustainable development.

This was one of the most serious and concerted efforts on the part of the world community to demarcate the development agenda for the 21st century. It was a significant and bold decision in certain respects as it succeeded in forging unanimity among the highly heterogeneous community of nations.

23.4 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: THE DIVERGENT VIEW

There were more than 160 countries that had participated in the proceedings of the conference and thkre were definitely at least more than 480 agenda items in circulation at the venue of the conference. There were 160 proposals, tabled by the official representatives of the respective states. Then there was another set of 160 proposals that were overtly or covertly expressed through the voice of dissent in respective states. There was yet another set of 160 proposals that were articulated by the Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) of every country. So, it was decidedly one of the most difficult tasks before the UN to arrive at a consensus on such a contentious issue.

However, the most significant line of discord emerged between the perspectives of developed and developing countries on sustainable development.

23.4.1 The Perspective of the Developed World

The developed countries continue to hold their privileged position and were not willing to compromise on anything because they were of the opinion that this will prove detrimental to maintain high standard of living in these countries. In fact they blamed the increasing populations among poorer countries as a serious threat to the global environment. They approach sustainable development from the point of view of restoring pollution free environment for a healthy living.

23.4.2 The Perspective of the Developing World

As opposed to this, the perspective of developing countries showed a diametrically opposite picture. According to this view, the hegemonic control of the developed world over the trade, environment, resources, economy, technology, knowledge and politics, etc., is the single most important threat to the global environment, peace and development. They need a safe and protected environment because it is the basis of their individual and social survival. It was felt that with increasing destruction of environment due to ongoing developed projects mostly launched by the developed world, there have been phenomenal increase in the incidents of poverty, starvation and hunger in the post colonial countries. There is an apprehension among the developing countries that in the name of liberalisation, globalisation and privatisation, the world capitalism is out to reconstruct the colonies. But this time the new colonies are not only restricted to the geographical spaces but also cover the processes of colonisation of organism and life itself. The environment and the indigenous communities inhabiting the postcolonial countries are also under the threat in the new

patent regime for want of adequate technology available with them. Thus, the question of environment and sustainable development in case of the developing countries is intricately related to retaining their freedom, identity and existence.

23.5 WORKING LIST OF INDICATORS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT .

Apart from the above issues, the other contentious issue was: How to measure sustainable development? Or in other words, what are the indicators of sustainable development? Once again, it was difficult to arrive at a consensus on the nature as well as number of indicators to be selected for measuring sustainable development. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific under the auspices of the United Nations prepared a working list of Indicators of Sustainable Development. It was done under the Programme of work on Indicators of Sustainable Development of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

Table 1 : CSD Theme Indicator Framework

SOCIAL		
Theme	**Sub-theme**	**Indicator**
Equity	Poverty	Percent of Population Living below Poverty Line
		Gini Index of Income Inequality
		Unemployment Rate
	Gender Equality	Ratio of Average Female Wage to Male Wage
Health	Nutritional Status	Nutritional Status of Children .
	Mortality	Mortality Rate Under 5 Years Old
		Life Expectancy at Birth
	Sanitation	Percent of Population with Adequate Sewage Disposal Facilities
	Drinking Water	• Population with Access to Safe Drinking Water
	Healthcgre Delivery	Percent of Population with Access to Primary I-Ie'alth Care Facilities
		Immunisation Against Infectious Childhood Diseases
		Contraceptive Prevalence Rate

Education	Education Level	Children Reaching Grade 5 of Primary Education
		Adult Secondary Education Achievement Level
	Literacy	Adult Literacy Rate
Housing	Living Conditions	Floor Area per Person
Security	Crime	Number of Recorded Crimes per 100,000 Population
Population	Population Change	Population Growth Rate
		Population of Urban Formal and Informal Settlements

ENVIRONMENTAL

Theme	Sub-theme	Indicator
Atmosphere	Climate Change	Emissions of Greenhouse Gases
	Ozone Layer Depletion	Consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances
	Air Quality	Ambient Concentration of Air Pollutants in Urban Areas
Land	Agriculture	Arable and Permanent Crop Land Area
		Use of Fertilizers
		Use of Agricultural Pesticides
	Forests	Forest Area as a Percent of Land Area
		Wood Harvesting Intensity
	Desertification	Land Affected by Desertification
	Urbanization	Area of Urban Formal and Informal Settlements .
Oceans, Seas and Coasts	Coastal Zone	Algae Concentration in Coastal Waters
		Percent of Total Population Living in Coastal Areas
	Fisheries	Annual Catch by Major Species
Fresh Water	Water Quantity	Annual Withdrawal of Ground and Surface Water as a Percent of Total Available Water
	Water Quality	BOD in Water Bodies
		Concentration of Faecal Coliform in Freshwater
Biodiversity	Ecosystem	Area of Selected Key Ecosystems
		Protected Area as a % of Total Area
	Species	Abundance of Selected Key Species

ECONOMIC			
Theme	**Sub-theme**	**Indicator**
Economic Structure	Economic Performance	GDP per Capita
		Investment Share in GDP
	Trade	Balance of Trade in Goods and Services
	Financial Status	Debt to GNP Ratio
		Total ODA Given or Received as a Percent of GNP
Consumption & Production Patterns	Material Consumption	Intensity of Material Use
	Energy Use	Annual Energy Consumption per Capita
		Share of Consumption of Renewable Energy Resources
		Intensity of Energy Use
	Waste Generation and Management	Generation of Industrial and Municipal Solid Waste
		Generation of Hazardous Waste
		Management of Radioactive Waste
		Waste Recycling and Reuse
	Transportation	Distance Travelled per Capita by Mode of Transport

INSTITUTIONAL

Theme	**Sub-theme**	**Indicator**
Institutional Framework	Strategic Implementation of SD	National Sustainable Development Strategy
	International Co-operation	Implementation of Ratified Global Agreements
Institutional Capacity	Information Access	Number of Internet Subscribers per 1000 Inhabitants
	Communication Infrastructure	Main Telephone Lines per 1000 Inhabitants
	Science and Technology	Expenditure on Research and Development as a Percent of GDP
	Disaster Preparedness and Response	Economic and Human Loss Due to Natural Disasters

Source: http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/indicators/isdms2001/table_4.htm

It is evident form the list of indicators suggested above that sustainable development is possible only through a holistic multi-pronged approach. Any single approach that was suggested by many scholars falls short of what is minimum for the maintenance of quality of life and prosperity of environment. Take for example the Economic Approach to Sustainable Development propounded by Hicks-Lindahl emphasises on generating maximum flow of income while maintaining the stock of assets. The underlying assumption of this approach is to improve the economic efficiency of the resources that are scarcely available. It takes other associated factors as given. As opposed to this the Ecological Approach emphasises on the stability of biological and physical systems and above all on the sustainability of a global ecosystem, protections of bio-diversity etc. This approach too gives peripheral importance to other intervening factors. There is yet another approach popularly known as the Socio-Cultural Approach which emphasises on the maintenance of socio-cultural systems including reduction of destructive conflicts. According to the protagonists of this approach preservation of cultural diversity across the globe is a prerequisite for sustainable development. Once again this approach too failed to comprehend the issue in its totality.

A critical look at all these approaches therefore, suggests "instead of one approach we should talk of a set of approaches because technology does undergo change over generation". Thus, considering all these points, the list of indicators suggested by United Nations' Economic and Social Commission appear to be more acceptable than any other approach.

23.6 SUMMARY

"Sustainable Development" has become a catchword because it is directly linked to the survival of human beings, their civilisation and the very environment of which they are an inseparable part. In the name of the so-called development there are large-scale deforestations, atmospheric changes such as thinning down of life saving Ozone layer, loss of bio-diversity, growing volumes of wastes that are becoining unmanageable day by day. Moreover, human actions have caused poisoning of the life supporting systems of our environment namely: soil, air, water and organism. What is more surprising than all these, is that the economic gains made at such a huge social and environmental costs are restricted to a miniscule minority of the world population. Large section of world's population continues to live in perpetual poverty, hunger and starvation. Millions of people world over are dying every year for want of basic necessities of their life. Coexistence of opulence and squalor at one and the same time is also breeding new form of social tensions and violence. Terrorism, one of the extreme forms of violence, is essentially an unlawful activity of the victims of unilateral global hegemony. Therefore, sustainable development, if attended properly, holds the key to development with social justice and environmental conservation. This is also the key to safe future for the mankind.

23.7 EXERCISES

1) What do you understand by sustainable development?
2) How did the concept of sustainable development originate?
3) How do the perspectives of the developed and developing world differ regarding the concept of sustainable development?
4) What 'are the indicators of sustainable development?