

HS 200: Environmental Studies

Topics to be covered by Pushpa Trivedi

1. Concepts of economic growth, development and Sustainable Development
2. National income accounting and Natural Resource Accounting
3. Approaches for environmental protection

B. Economic Development

- Growth accompanied by structural changes in the economy
- Structural changes
 - Production structure
 - Occupational structure
 - Alleviation of poverty
 - Demographic change

Human Development

- Income: Per capita income
- Health: Infant mortality rate, Maternal mortality rate, life expectancy at birth
- Education: Literacy rate, dropout rate, etc.

C. Sustainable Development (SD)

- The concept introduced in a 1987 report entitled *Our Common Future* by the World Commission on Environment and Development of the United Nations.
- This report is also referred to as ‘the Brundtland Report’ in honor of the Chairperson, Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, Prime Minister of Norway.

SD: Definition

- The Commission defined sustainable development as: "...development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."
- is "... a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development ... institutional change *and the ability of the biosphere to absorb the effects of human activities* are consistent with future as well as present needs."

- Natural Resource Accounting (NRA):

“A system of monitoring based on methodically organised accounts, representing the size of economically valuable and limited reserves of natural resources”.

- It measures stocks as well as flows, unlike that of national accounts which measure only flows.
- When markets function well, prices can be used for valuation. At times, monetary valuation is for natural resources are difficult due to the problems of market failure.
- Methodologies for valuation of natural resources are evolving.