

## **Synopsis**

# **“YOUTH EMPOWERMENT For SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”**

**“A study on Youth Empowerment for Sustainable  
Development from Selected NGOs of Gujarat State”**



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**SYNOPSIS**  
**“YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT”**

*{“A STUDY ON YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT FROM SELECTED NGOS OF GUJARAT STATE”}*

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## INTRODUCTION

“My hope of the future lies in the youths of character, intelligent, renouncing all for the service of others, and obedient – good to themselves and the country at large”

-Swami Vivekananda

Youth are the building blocks of any nation. Youth are the assets if trained and moulded with rigorous training and practice. Youth is that wonderful time in life when energy is limitless, human creativity is at its best and the 'never say die' spirit is at its peak. Demographically, the India of today is at its youngest and the best. India with a large and young population has a great demographic advantage. The average age of the 125 billion-strong Indian population will be 29 years in 2020, even younger than China and the US. There will be a significant addition of about 63.5 million new entrants between 2011 and 2016, with a large number of young persons in the 20-35 age group. This is a great opportunity for India and the Indians. Taking advantage of such an opportunity is contingent upon progress on the human development front to fully reap the benefits of the demographic dividend. It is essential that the economy has the ability to support the increase in the labour force and the youth have the appropriate education, skills, health awareness and other enablers to productively contribute to the economy.

Young people in all countries are both a major human resource for development and key agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation along with environment protection. Their imagination, ideals, considerable energies and vision are essential for the continuing development of the societies in which they live. The problems that young people face as well as their vision and aspiration are essential components of the challenges and prospects of today's societies and future generations.

This demands the commitment of the entire nation to all-round development of the youth of India, so that they can realize their full potential and contribute productively to nation-building process. This can be done by empowering youth.

## **Youth Empowerment**

The United Nations Human Settlements Program (UNCHS-Habitat) defines youth empowerment as “the circumstances and factors which enhance the development of citizenship and productiveness among young people as they move into adulthood. It is concerned with the adaptation of government structures and institutions to protect and deliver children’s, youths” and human rights, including the right to participation”. The word 'empowerment' means giving power. The word "empowerment" has been known to be a very slippery concept within the development discourse . It has meant various . things to different people and constituencies and has covered such issues as good governance, legitimacy of governments, the transformation of economies to self-reliant endogenous human - centered development, a process enabling collective decision-making and collective action and popular participation. Precious youthfulness of the country if ignored and left untrained, unskillful, undiscipline it would be equally dangerous to destroy the nation. Therefor the need to empoeer youth has arisen due to several reasons like

- To enable youth to acquire such knowledge, skills and techniques which will help them in their personal and social growth as well as foster in them sensitivity towards problems in the society and environment.
- To promote national integration and international understanding by developing youth leadership and providing a forum for youth from diverse background.
- To promote regional co-operation and exchange between people of various countries.
- To foster initiatives for unfolding the potential of youth through a constant process of self evaluation and self –exploration.

Empowerment, therefore, has become the mechanism through which these broad goals can be achieved . The concept affirms the need to build the capacity of communities to respond to a changin genvironment by inducing appropriate change-internally as well as externally through creativity, innovation and commitment to sustainable development goals. The principles embodied in the concept of empowerment include inclusiveness, transparency and accountability. In addition, a strategy for empowerment has to be a multifaceted, multi-dimensional process involving the mobilization of resources and

people's capacities. The process has to foster the right and directive spirit to overcome self-fiction and develop power and potential within to bring change and coherence in the community in which one lives.

## **Development**

Development is a hot topic today as it has traversed boundaries in terms of keeping a nation in the limelight in one way or the other because we all strive to develop. We as a nation have witnessed a long history of changes be it from social, economic, political or environment front.

Majorly development is bracketed with economic development but the researcher intends not to commit to that and take a look at the holistic picture to bring out the real picture.

Before understanding anything about Sustainable Development we need to understand what is “Development”?

In layman terms “Development” is a qualitative change in positive direction.’ ‘Development’ is a concept which is contested both theoretically and politically, and is inherently both complex and ambiguous as well as made difficult to understand. Recently it has taken on the limited meaning of the practice of development agencies, especially in aiming at reducing poverty and the Millennium Development Goals.” Development is better reflected in quality of life than in standard of living of human beings. In layman terms, positive change is development. It is often intermixed with Growth which is not same as development as growth can be negative also whereas development is always positive. In deed growth and development do not have to conflict; they can reinforce each other.

If development means good and better change, questions arise about what is good and what sort of change matter. Any development agenda is value-laden not to consider good things to do is a tacit surrender to fatalism. Perhaps the right course is for each of us to reflect, articulate and share our own ideas accepting them as provisional and fallible.

It is also true that Since development depends on values and on alternative conceptions of the good life, there is no uniform or unique answer to it. In the same vein it is pertinent to

mention what Chambers opines: A common theme o within most definitions is that 'development' encompasses 'change' in a variety of aspects of the human condition. Indeed, one of the simplest definitions of 'development' is probably Chambers' notion of 'good change' , although this raises all sorts of questions about what is 'good' and what sort of 'change' matters (as Chambers acknowledges), about the role of values, and whether 'bad change' is also viewed as a form of development. So, we can articulate that different nations have tried to give different interpretation to the meaning of development. In other words it can be concluded that what may be any sort of development for USA may not be so for Afghanistan and so on.

The United Nations Development Programme uses a more detailed definition according to them development is to lead long and healthy lives, to be knowledgeable, to have access to the resources needed for a decent standard of living and to be able to participate in the life of the community.' But the irony is that Development is such a complex issue that it is often equated with economic growth. Leading American economist Herman Daly says Growth is - the quantitative increase in size of biophysical matter. Daly has argued economic growth is based on the "limitless transformation of natural capital into man-made capital" whereas development - the qualitative improvement in economic welfare from increased quality of goods and services as defined by their ability to increase human well-being. This infers to promoting increased economic activity only insofar as it does not exceed the capacity of the ecosystem to sustain it.

In nutshell the end goal is the Human development in one way or the other. Prof. Amartya Sen defines "Human development, as an approach, is concerned with what I take to be the basic development idea: namely, advancing the richness of human life, rather than the richness of the economy in which human beings live, which is only a part of it." On the other hand Mahbub ul Haq (1934-1998) founder of the Human Development Report said that "The basic purpose of development is to enlarge people's choices. In principle, these choices can be infinite and can change over time. People often value achievements that do not show up at all, or not immediately, in income or growth figures: greater access to knowledge, better nutrition and health services, more secure livelihoods, security against crime and physical violence, satisfying leisure hours,

political and cultural freedoms and sense of participation in community activities. The objective of development is to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives."

### **Unsustainable Development**

Over the Centuries man has made progress and strides in various fields like science and technology, space exploration, nuclear technology, education and economy, environment and so on. The spectacular success in turn has not made life harmonious and pleasant. In an ever fast changing curve of society social unrest has increased giving way to many of the ills like increasing pollution, fast depleting of natural resources, increasing Crime, Drug addiction, high rate of divorce and many others. The fact is that in modern times Development has brought with it many ills too which have penetrated deep into our whole system. For example, haven't we been able to notice the change in the climate over the years? Summers are far hotter since many years; weather is even more unpredictable.

It is a high time to see things from all the perspectives to get the holistic picture otherwise will be taken for a ride in the lure of Consumerism, Industrialism, Modernism and the so called Globalization. Our consumption patterns have changed which have directly impacted the regenerating capacity of our holy Mother Earth as is evident from increasing pollution levels and global warming. It is very ironic that we have witnessed planning, re planning and what not to achieve the holistic development but all in vain and disastrous development is at hand.

The end result is launching of endless number of schemes in the name of welfare of weaker sections, target groups, etc. But, the genesis of the problem lies in the fact that we have been taken for a ride in one way or the other in the name of development. Even after years of Independence we are living under poverty, millions go hungry; in fact very few control the wealth. Globally, we are far more worried about our future as problems like climate change, population, terrorism, economic inequalities have become a matter of great concern now ever than before. Nationally, two India's live in the same country; on one hand are the poor Indians and the other hand dominant powerful Indians.

According to United Nations data almost a billion people go hungry every day. One out of every five people - 1.4 billion - currently lives on \$1.25 a day or less. Rapid urbanization is exerting pressure on fresh water supplies, sewage, the living environment, and public health. 828 million people live in slums today and the number keeps rising. Greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise and more than a third of all known species could go extinct if climate change continues unchecked. Agriculture is still the single largest employer in the world so is the case with India. The above facts shows the real direction we are going in notwithstanding all the technological advancement we have achieved which has in turn made mankind lazier and over comfortable. Global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions continue to rise, with 80% emitted by only 19 countries .Despite global efforts to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, they continue to rise due to the increasing use of fossil fuels. Over 60% of Greenhouse Gases are emitted by three economic sectors Energy, industry, and forestry. The average amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the Earth's atmosphere shows a steady rise over the last two decades. Global mean temperature increased by 0.4°C between 1992 and 2010. The 10 hottest years ever measured on temperature scale have all occurred since 1998. Oceans are also warming, while sea-level rise continues unabated.”

It's a known fact that no one wants his or her environment to be degraded and depleted but today humanity needs social contact ever than before to make changes. But, unequal economic, socio-historical and political conditions have created an iniquitous society. We are passing through a period of history transforming from feudal agricultural society to industrial society and we all know this is a very painful and agonizing period as transition period has its pros and cons. Hence, cry for Sustainable Development by wise citizens and responsible Government alike. So we need to look into all the aspects to understand the concept of Sustainable Development because it affects our life in every possible manner and from every perspective.

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

According to Remigijus Ciegis “although the essence of the concept of sustainable development is clear enough, the exact interpretation and definition of sustainable development has caused strong discussions It is possible that the terminology problem



occurs in the dual nature of the sustainable development concept, covering development as well as sustainability” Similarly Speeding stated that this was probably the reason for the emergence of a significant number of books, chapters, and articles containing words “sustainable” and “sustainability” in their titles yet providing no definitions of the concept.

Different disciplines offer various definitions on sustainable development, mostly oriented towards separate sectors - e.g. environmental, economic, and social which make things more interdisciplinary and complex.

In 1992, the World Bank described sustainable development with a laconic phrase “sustainable development is development that continues” (World Development Report, 1992). In 1992, the Rio de Janeiro declaration on Environment and Development described sustainable development as long- term continuous development of the society aimed at satisfaction of humanity’s need at present and in the future via rational usage and replenishment of natural resources, preserving the Earth for future generations (Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992).

Pearce, Markandya and Barbier provided a more generalized definition of sustainable development that includes the creation of a social and economic system that guarantees support for the following aims: increase in the real income, the improvement of the level of education, and the improvement in the populations’ health and in the general quality of life.” IE1CN, UNEP, and WWF emphasized that sustainable development; sustainable growth and sustainable consumption were used as equivalent concepts. However, in reality these concepts are not identical. Besides, the very term sustainable growth bears intrinsic contradiction: no physical unit can grow endlessly. Holdgate stated that development understands of the potential of resources. Sustainable development of renewable natural resources means taking into consideration the limits of the development process, even if those limits are changed by technologies. Sustainability of technology may be evaluated according to whether it increases productivity at the same time preserving environmental and other boundaries. This definition in fact throws up many questions for those who think development is their birth right even at the cost of

exploiting limited resources. Munasinghe presented an even broader view of sustainable development, defining it as the process of increasing the spectrum of alternatives allowing individuals and communities to realize their aspirations and potential in the long perspective, at the same time maintaining the regeneration ability in economic, social, and ecological systems.

The UN Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in 1972, was the first major international gathering to discuss sustainability at the global scale though the theoretical framework for sustainable development evolved between 1972 and 1992 through a series of international conferences and initiatives. In keeping due respect to all the interpretations and to provide exact understanding of this concept, it is the duty of the researcher to give definition provided in Brundtland commission's report "Our Common Future" which discloses the idea of sustainable development best and says "sustainable development is the kind of development, which satisfies the current needs without endangering the future generations to satisfy their own." This definition of sustainable development is the most frequently cited one and seems to be more exhaustive than the majority of others. The following picture shows the real wording of the Chairman of the Commission:

The definition presented in the report of the Bruntland commission contains two essential concepts:

1. The concept of needs, especially the needs of the world's poor, which should be given priority;
2. The idea of limitations arising from the effect of technologies and social structures on the ability of the environment to satisfy present and future needs.

Pearce defines Sustainable Development in simple terms as: (i) development subject to a set of constraints which fix resource harvest rates at levels no higher than managed or natural regeneration rates, and (ii) the use of the environment as a waste sink based on waste disposal rates that do not exceed rates of (natural or managed) assimilation by the

ecosystem in question. Sustainable Development, it has been argued, cannot be realized without a change in human activities, and this can only be achieved by: (i) adopting specific environment-saving measures for production and consumption, and (ii) directly changing production and consumption patterns.

Hence it is noteworthy that human needs are in the focus of attention, and thus the concept of sustainable development is very dynamic and ever evolving. Thus, sustainable development is not about a choice between environmental protection and social progress, but rather more about striving for economic and social development that would be compatible with environmental protection.

“Marking the twentieth anniversary of the Stockholm Conference, the Earth Summit adopted the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, a global plan of action for sustainable development. The Rio Declaration contained 27 principles of sustainable development, including principle 7 on “common but differentiated responsibilities,” which stated: “In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. The developed countries acknowledge the responsibility that they bear in the international pursuit of sustainable development in view of the pressures their societies place on the global environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command. Agenda 21 included 40 separate chapters, setting out actions in regard to the social and economic dimensions of sustainable development, conservation and management of natural resources, the role of major groups, and means of implementation. In Agenda 21, developed countries reaffirmed their previous commitments to reach the accepted UN target of contributing 0.7 percent of their annual gross national product (GNP) to official development assistance, and to provide favourable access to the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, in particular to developing countries. Three seminal instruments of environmental governance were established at the Rio Summit: the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the non legally binding Statement of Forest Principles. Following a recommendation in Agenda 21, the UN General Assembly officially created the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) later that year. The Rio Summit was very successful from a political standpoint: it had the world’s attention and active

engagement and attendance by virtually every national leader. Its challenges lay in two areas: first, too much of an emphasis on the “environment pillar” in the negotiations and secondly, all too little implementation of goals established under Agenda 21, particularly those related to development aid and cooperation.” This evidently clears the picture about the journey about the International efforts toward Sustainable Development.

The results and accomplishments of the Earth Summit included

- the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21
- the Framework Convention on Climate Change
- the Convention on Biological Diversity
- a set of principles regarding desertification and sustainable forestry practices;
- the establishment of an NGO body called the Earth Council
- a new business organization called the World Business Council on Sustainable Development

“Acceptance of sustainable development as a guiding principle is evident from the fact that since the Brundtland report and the Rio Summit, sustainable development has transitioned from being an interesting yet at times contested ideal, to a concept that enjoys widespread endorsement by international institutions, governments, businesses, and civil society. The nearly universal adoption of sustainable development as a guiding principle is, in part, due to its flexibility. It allows various stakeholders to adapt the concept to their own purposes. This strength, however, is also a liability because various interpretations have led to confusion and compromised implementation.” But still sustainable development remains fundamentally an environmental issue which has tilted approach to only side. The CSD focused on environment and sidelined other aspects which gave Sustainable Development a home in climate change paradigm only. For practical purposes Sustainable development is intended to encompass environment, economy, and social issues; but is often bracketed in environmental issues only. The integration of the three pillars of economic development, social development, and environmental improvements still remains a challenge. But unsustainable trends continue despite the progress on sustainable development on paper but plundering of resources has made severe negative environmental impacts. Natural resources are exploited at an

unprecedented rate. Incomes and wealth also reveal a large and growing gap between the rich and poor. Overall the world remains extremely unequal on every front. Inclusive development is not a reality as it is made to be believed by all of us. The researcher believes that sustainable development is based not only on economic, social, ecological, or institutional dimensions, but rather on all of them as an integrated whole.

However, “the term sustainable development is not without its critics. Disagreements over the meaning of the term continue today as the phrase is criticized for having a veneer of environmental respectability while promoting continued unsustainable economic growth. Despite the disagreements over the meanings and definitions, the concept has become a central feature in many nations’ environmental policy planning

Sustainable development obliges humanity to use, develop, manage, and care for the environment and planetary resources in a manner that supports the stewardship of all creation (including all natural resources, and the welfare of all living beings), and the continuity of cultural and spiritual heritage of each community, as well as the maintenance of harmony between people and nature for present and future generations

Furthermore, the sustainable development concept implies a fusion of two imperatives: the right to develop (economically, socially, politically, and culturally) and the need to sustain the environment. In other words, all future development must be achieved in a sustainable -and equitable manner. Thus, the concept denotes a balance between sustainability and equitability: Sustainability brings environmental concepts into the development process, and equitability injects developmental matters into national and international environmental protection efforts.

## **EXISTING INTERPRETATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

While there is lot of literature available in market on the subject of Sustainable Development but the researcher relied on the leading authority on defining the interpretation of the subject and to cite the different interpretations presented in a very well balanced way depicted by Mudacumura Gedeon M.

In general, most existing concepts of sustainable development can be categorized into three major perspectives:

**The human-centric perspective**, which emphasizes the primacy of humaneconomic needs and values (for both current and future generations)

**The eco-centric perspective**, which stresses the inherent value or goodnessin environmental sustainability beyond human needs

**The dualistic perspective**, which, tends to focus on both human needs andenvironmental concerns.

First, under the *human-centric perspective*, which is also known as the anthropocentric paradigm, the idea of sustainable development emerged as a means to express the concern for the continuing satisfaction of human needs across generations, which increasingly appeared to be under challenge by the worsening ecological disorder and rapid resource depletion. In this regard, the IUCN report emphasized the conservation of resources with a view to overcoming the deteriorating ecological condition challenging human development.

More importantly, the Brundtland Report clearly expressed the primacy of human needs of the current and future generations in its definition of sustainable development, an anthropocentric view. For this Brundtland Report, which has been one of the most frequently cited sources of the sustainability concept since its publication in 1987; the “exploitation of resources” should be consistent with present and future human needs/ Since the publication of the report of WECD, there has been a significant expansion of conceptual debate on sustainable development dominated by such a human-centric perspective for which the main focus is on the maintenance of the ecological support system needed for the continuing survival of the human species . The “thorough put” approach of Daly also holds this view of sustainable development by stressing the principle that the “physical flow from nature’s sources” (which passes through the

economy and returns to “nature’s sinks”) should not decline and the ecosystem’s regenerative capacity should be sustained, so that the access of future generations to the ecosystem’s resources remains at least equivalent to that of the present generation”.

It is important to mention that those who analyze sustainable development in the context of poorer developing countries also favor the human-centric perspective; they prescribe self-reliant economic progress, improvements in people’s living standards, and satisfaction of basic needs as a means to stop environmental degradation and enhance sustainable development, because poverty and scarcity often compel people to become over reliant on ecological resources.

2) *The ecocentric perspective* represents an understanding of sustainable development that is almost the opposite of the human-centric perspective in terms of its overwhelming emphasis on the significance of ecology as an end in itself rather than as a means for satisfying present and future human needs. However, there are some major theoretical strands within this perspective, including the so-called deep ecology, ecofeminism, and ecosocialism. The proponents of deep ecology, including its founder, Arne Naess, are critical of the human-centric perspective (also known as “shallow ecology”) and its tendency to dichotomize human species and nature, assess the environment in terms of its use value to human concerns, and so on. For this deep ecology approach, there is no separation between humans and natural environment, all species have equal rights to life, and all should live in harmony and it also believes in the intrinsic value of nature and its living beings and nonliving objects irrespective of whether they are useful or valuable to human species.

The ecocentric perspective is also endorsed by the proponents of ecosocialism, which is similar to the so-called social ecology introduced by Murray Bookchin. The main contention of eco-socialism is that the realization of sustainable development is hardly possible under the capitalist market system, which is largely responsible for ecological destruction, and that this capitalist development has to be replaced with an ecology-driven socialist development.

3) *The dualistic perspective* tends to pay attention to both the human and ecological dimensions of sustainable development. Some authors emphasize the need for recognizing the crucial relationship between the “economic system” and the “ecological system” in order to ensure both the continuity of human life and the diversity of ecological conditions. Because of this linkage between human existence and the ecological system, the challenge is how to maintain the basic human living condition without jeopardizing the ecological system that supports that condition. This argument regarding the human-ecology relationship in sustainable development is strengthened further by stressing the interaction and interdependence between human needs and ecological integrity. It is believed that the goals of economic development and ecological sustainability can be mutually reinforcing rather than contradictory.

In line with the dualistic outlook on sustainable development, there are authors whose policy stance is to make sure that human economic activities remain within the ecological bounds, that the ability of nature to provide the life-support system is recognized and respected, and that the role of environmental inputs in raising the quality of life is appreciated. Greater importance is also given to the maintenance of a self-sustaining ecological system while pursuing human development. However, the mode of development itself may need to be changed—and that may require serious compromises in economic growth that involves harmful practices—in order to maintain ecological sustainability. In this regard, there have emerged certain reform efforts within the traditional human-centric perspective, such as the so-called anthropocentric reformism, which is less concerned about the anthropocentric outlook in relation to environmental problems and pay; more attention in this regard to hazardous human practices that “steer from ignorance, greed, illegal behavior, and shortsightedness”

“From the preceding analysis, it can be understood that the dualistic perspective on sustainable development attempts to stress the importance of both human progress and ecological sustainability, instead of focusing too much on the use of the environment to satisfy present and future human needs (as in the human-centric perspective) or on the intrinsic value of the ecological system above human needs (as in the case of eco-centric



perspective). The use of this dualistic perspective can be found not only in conceptual and theoretical literature; it is also pursued in some empirical studies on sustainable development emphasizing its operations indicators. For instance, in presenting the sustainability indicators, Kadekodi (1992) covers human quality-of-life indicators (e.g., life expectancy health standard, income level, and consumption pattern) as well as ecology-related indicators (e.g., atmospheric temperature, air and water quality forest cover, plant and animal species, and soil quality). In nutshell, these perspectives have given a very balanced outlook about the concept of the Sustainable Development which is all but more important for taking up any empirical studies.”

### **Principles defining Sustainable Development:**

Incidentally the researcher came across the well articulated principles defining the concept of Sustainable Development which gives a very balanced approach toward defining the concept which are as following:

1. Sustainable development requires the promotion of values that encourage consumption standards that are within the bounds of the ecologically possible and to which all can reasonably aspire.
2. Meeting essential needs depends in part on achieving full growth potential, and sustainable development clearly requires economic growth in places where such needs are not being met.
3. Though the issue is not merely one of population size but the distribution of resources, sustainable development can only be pursued if demographic developments are in harmony with the changing productive potential of the ecosystem.
4. Sustainable development must not endanger the natural systems that support life on Earth; the atmosphere, the waters, the soils, and living beings.
5. Growth has no set limits in terms of population or resource use beyond which lies ecological disaster but ultimate limits there are, and sustainability requires that long before these are reached the world must ensure equitable access to the constrained resources and re-orient technological efforts to relieve the pressure.

6. Most renewable resources are part of a complex and interlinked ecosystem and maximal sustained yield must be defined after taking into account system-wide effects of exploitation.
7. Sustainable development requires that the rate of depletion of non- renewable resources should foreclose as few options as possible.
8. Sustainable development requires the conservation of plant and animal species.
9. Sustainable development requires that the adverse impacts on the quality of air, water and other natural elements are minimized so as to sustain the ecosystem's overall integrity.

Despite lot of development on all fronts still we are witnessing a lot of poverty, fast spread of disease, high unemployment, and frequent natural disasters. Development models of today per se have created uneven balance thereby making Sustainable development the end casualty. The basic problem of our growth models is that it is plundering the resources which are all but finite in order to satisfy the wants of all which is totally impossible. Overconsumption has in turn widened the rich-poor divide. In the light of the above facts, the question arises that have the Development models preached and followed by us changed the real ground realities? Have they created more jobs? Has the poverty levels decreased? Are people healthier now? In fact has the quality of life improved, if at all?

Today we are witnessing a jobless growth and fast economic growth is not solving many of our problems. Still, millions go hungry. People living under poverty line are alarming. Crime has increased manifold, cruelty against women has increased sharply, and terrorism is an added phenomena affecting World Powers in every possible way. Too much reliance on non-renewable resources has impacted their capacity and depletion at fast rates has created an uneven balance in their regeneration. Finite resources are exploited andplundered at fast rates. Overall health has been the biggest sufferer.

Through technology has brought many pleasing pleasures for human beings but at the same time it has created more diseases and uncertainties in life. Diseases like HIV/ AIDS, Cancer, Diabetes are dangerous diseases affecting people today in more than one

way. Adequate sanitation facility, shelter is still a dream for many people. On top of it Overpopulation has put increased pressure on scarce land.

Well in trying to understand the concept, all the dimensions are important. Basically, sustainable development has three main pillars (dimensions); social, economic, Environmental which may be elaborated in the following ways:

### **Economic**

### **Social**

Social sustainability encompasses human rights, labor rights, and corporate governance. When there is equitable resource allocation, eradication of poverty, equal opportunity of education, good health to all members of the society, especially the neediest ones it is truly a Social Sustainability.

Social Sustainability has the following dimensions

**Equity** - the community provides equitable opportunities and outcomes for all its members, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable members of the community

**Diversity** - the community promotes and encourages diversity

- **Interconnected/Social cohesions** - the community provides processes, systems and structures that promote connectedness within and outside the community at the formal, informal and institutional level
- **Quality of life** - the community ensures that basic needs are met and fosters a good quality of life for all members at the individual, group and community level (e.g. health, housing, education, employment, safety)
- **Democracy and governance** - the community provides democratic processes and open and accountable governance structures.
- **Maturity** - the individual accept the responsibility of consistent growth and improvement through broader social attributes (e.g. communication styles, behavioral patterns, indirect education and philosophical explorations)

Cross cultural diversity and interaction among various communities in a country like our's is one of the pillars to achieve social good. Diversity is in fact our strength. There is a saying; the development that does not benefit all is not development at all. It must not be for just few. Equity is the essence of our life. If we can't have equitable development then it's unjust. Social sustainability involves good health, security, education, jobs, women empowerment and many more. If we can make people better off, poverty can be eradicated it is going to be the first step in Social Sustainability. Clean water, good food, proper health care, education, clean environment, are the basic pillars of Social sustainability. Today we are witnessing destructive conflicts in society which has polarized situation. This needs to be tackled at the forefront first. Empowerment and broader participation of people at the grass root level will make social sustainability far stronger. Decentralization of decision making will go a long way in making people self reliant and really empowering people. Migration from rural to urban areas has aggravated problems and more and more slums have come up which has created social unrest in one way or the other. In fact Man-land ratio has increased pressure on natural resources which needs a serious relook.

Social sustainability needs to be build on following grounds:

1. Encouraging better involvement of people in decision making
2. Ending the inequality between rich and poor
3. Equitable sharing of resources by all
4. Balanced policies for holistic development
5. Eradication of poverty, hunger, diseases, malnutrition, unemployment, and illiteracy

### **Environment**

Ecology has been the mainstay of all the discussions on Sustainable Development as people think of nothing else, but, Ecology when it comes to Sustainable Development. But it is imperative that the interconnectedness of all the three aspects is understood equally in order to gaze the real issue. Environment and poverty are interrelated issues because we humans have the duty to protect our Mother Earth. "The environmental interpretation of sustainability focuses on the overall viability and health of living

systems - defined in terms of a comprehensive, multi-scale, dynamic, hierarchical measure of resilience, vigor and organization”. Our Nature has blessed us with a lot of wonderful things. But we are in turn plundering everything at a very fast rate. Natural resources degradation, pollution and loss of biodiversity are detrimental because they increase vulnerability, undermine system health, and reduce resilience

Environmental Sustainability means the capacity to increase and bring up the value of the environment and its peculiarities, while assuring the protection and the renewal of natural resources and the environmental patrimony. Maintaining natural resources is a must and conservation of biodiversity should be the top priority.

## **INDICATORS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Sustainability is an essentially integrative concept which combines almost all the aspects like economy, social and environment .An indicator is a pointer toward the direction of the development. It alerts us to a problem before it gets too bad and helps recognize solutions to fix the problem. These are different from traditional indicators of economic, social, and environmental progress.

Measures such as GDP growth, ecological well being, and social progress are all such indicators which describes and points to the direction of Sustainable Development. Some of such multidimensional indicators are like following:

**Human Development Index (HDI)**

**Gross National Happiness (GNH)**

**Ecological Footprint (EF)**

**The Happy Planet Index (HPI)**

HDI was created by the Pakistani economist Mahbub-ul-Haq and the Indian economist Amartya Sen in 1990 with help from Gustav Ranis of Yale University and Lord Meghnad Desai of the London School of Economics and published by the United Nations Development Programme and also used in annual Human Development Report. The first Human Development Report in 1990 laid out a vision of economic and social progress that is fundamentally about people enlarging their choices and capabilities. Since then,

there has been substantial progress: many developing economies continue to grow rapidly and raise standards of human development.

The HDI measures the average achievements in a country in three basic dimensions of human development:

1. A long and healthy life, as measured by life expectancy at birth.
2. Knowledge, as measured by the adult literacy rate (with two-thirds weight age) and the combined primary, secondary, and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (with one-third weight age).
3. A decent standard of living, as measured by the log of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita at Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) in terms of US Dollar.
4. It is used to determine and indicate whether a country is a developed, developing, or underdeveloped country and also to measure the impact of economic policies on quality of life.

One of the inventor of HDI Prof. Amartya Sen defines "Human development, as an approach, is concerned with what I take to be the basic development idea: namely, advancing the richness of human life, rather than the richness of the economy in which human beings live, which is only a part of it."

### **Gross National Happiness (GNH)**

Gross National Happiness (GNH) is an attempt to define quality of life in a more holistic and psychological terms than Gross National Product. The term was coined by Bhutan's King Jigme Singye Wangchuck in 1972. GNH was designed in an attempt to define an indicator that measures quality of life or social progress in more holistic and psychological terms than only the economic indicator of GDP. It serves as a unifying vision for the Five Year planning process and all the derived planning documents that guide the economic and development plans of Bhutan. Like many psychological and social indicators, GNH is somewhat easier to state than to define with mathematical precision. While conventional development models stress economic growth

as the ultimate objective, GNH is based on the assertion that true development of human society takes place when material and spiritual development occur side by side to complement and reinforce each other.

The four pillars of GNH are the promotion of equitable and sustainable socio- economic development, preservation and promotion of cultural values, conservation of the natural environment, and establishment of good governance. Low rates of infant mortality, for instance, correlate positively with subjective expressions of well-being or happiness within a country.

### **Ecological Footprint (EF)**

Ecological Footprint (EF) compares human consumption of natural resources with Earth's ecological capacity to regenerate them. The ecological footprint is a measure of human demand on the Earth's ecosystems. It represents the amount of biologically productive land and sea area necessary to supply the resources for human population consumption, and to assimilate associated waste. Using this assessment, it is possible to estimate how much of the Earth (or how many planet Earths) it would take to support humanity if everybody followed a given lifestyle.

### **The Happy Planet Index (HPI)**

The Happy Planet Index (HPI) is an index of human well-being and environmental impact. It was introduced by the New Economics Foundation (NEF), in July 2006. In the 2012 ranking, 151 countries were compared, and the best scoring country for the second time in a row was Costa Rica, followed by Vietnam, Colombia, Belize and El Salvador.

The HPI is based on the principle that most people want to live long and fulfilling lives, and the country which is doing the best is the one that allows its citizens to do so, whilst avoiding infringing on the opportunity of future people and people in other countries to do the same. As such, the HPI is not a measure of which is the happiest country in the world. The HPI is best conceived as a measure of the environmental efficiency of supporting well-being in a given country. The Happy Planet Index is an innovative

measure that shows the ecological efficiency with which human well-being is delivered. It is the first ever index to combine environmental impact with human well-being. Each country's HPI value is a function of its average life satisfaction, life expectancy at birth, and Ecological Footprint per capita.

The Index shows the relative efficiency with which nations convert the planet's natural resources into long and happy lives for their citizens. In ultimate analysis its results could help us to move towards a world where we can all live good lives without costing the earth. The nations that score well show that achieving, long, happy lives without over-utilizing the resources is possible.

### **Three Pillar of Sustainable Development**

This is one of the most well-known models created using the three dimensions - Economy, Environment and Society. The diagram shows three interlocking circles with the triangle of environmental (conservation), economic (growth), and social (equity) dimensions. Sustainable Development is modeled on these three pillars. This model is called 'three pillars' or 'three circles model'. It is based considering the society, but does not explicitly take into account 'human quality of life' and says that all the three aspects are one way or the other. This model is perhaps one of the models with very "basic" approach which is needed for a long term Sustainable Development because all aspects are interlinked. If we exploit less of our natural resources we will have a clean environment. In turn if we strive for good economics rather than plundering limited resources we will have good economics which in turn will help in making a just society, a socially sustainable society.

### **Need for Sustainable Development**

In our age current models of development or progress has been questioned about their eventual sustainability. "Starting from Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment (1972), the Ottawa Conference on Conservation and Development (1986), the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development or the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro (1992) and it is going on and on. Endless conferences, seminars, reports,



books, and journals as well as conventions, protocols, and institutions have been happening ever since the common concise of all people awake about the coming problems we may be facing if we don't solve the problem existing at present." Earth Summit (1992), including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Rio Declaration (for sustainable development), and the Agenda, 21 (pre-scribing specific preventive and remedial measures) brought in more clear understanding of the concept. Kyoto Protocol (1997) which is perhaps the most talked about today sets the targets to be followed by various categories of countries (excluding developing countries) within the specific time frame with regard to greenhouse gases. Our Common Future indeed led to the present prominence of the concept.

"Over the past 20 years total population in the industrialized countries has increased by 28%. These countries are facing many problems such as environmental degradation, over dependence on non-renewal sources of energy, declining standards of living. These problems are more acute in developing countries. These countries have formed their economic systems on Western Models ignoring their indigenous requirements. A great deal of harm has been done to agriculture sector. The percentage of cultivable land has been decreasing over the years due to increase in population and non-judicial use of resources which has given rise to man induced degradation of limited resources. Forests are being destroyed and concrete jungles are taking their place. It is within the cities that most of the world's resources are consumed. As most of these resources originate in rural areas, production decisions taken by urban enterprises bear a powerful influence on their existence. Rapid ecological changes are taking place which are endangering the cities in particular. History has led to vast inequalities, leaving almost three-fourths of the world's people living in less-developed countries and one-fifth below the poverty line. This has been compounded further by the long-term impact of past industrialization; exploitation and environmental damage. Human health in its broadest sense of physical, mental and spiritual well-being is to a great extent dependent on the access of the citizen to a healthy environment. Citizens of developing countries continue to be vulnerable to a burden of diseases. Traditional diseases such as malaria and cholera, caused by unsafe drinking

water and lack of environmental hygiene, have not yet been controlled. In addition, people are now falling prey to modern diseases of different kinds such as Cancer and AIDS, and stress-related disorders. Many of the widespread ailments among the poor in developing countries are occupation-related. The concepts of interrelatedness, of a shared planet, of global citizenship cannot be restricted to environmental issues alone. They apply equally to the shared and inter-linked responsibilities of environmental protection and human development. Development in this new century has to be even more conscious of its long-term impact. The problems are far more complex and Our common future can only be achieved with a better understanding of our common concerns and shared responsibilities.”

## **VALUES UNDERLYING THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION**

Following are the 8 major goals set under the auspices of United Nations for the achievement of the long term Sustainable Development:

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) benefit from the valuable lessons learned from Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These also carry forward the unfinished agenda of MDGs for continuity and sustain the momentum generated while addressing the additional challenges of inclusiveness, equity, and urbanization and further strengthening global partnership private sector. They reflect continuity and consolidation of MDGs while making these more sustainable by strengthening environmental goals.

## **Non-governmental Organisation**

A non-governmental organization (NGO) is an organization that is not part of a government and was not founded by states. NGOs are therefore typically independent of governments. Although the definition can technically include for-profit corporations, the term is generally restricted to social, cultural, legal, and environmental advocacy groups having goals that are noncommercial, primarily. NGOs are usually non-profit organizations that gain at least a portion of their funding from private sources.

NGOs play a critical role in all areas of development. People and policy makers are agree on one thing that NGOs play a very important role in development. Role of NGOs vary over the years as the policy of government changes. NGOs are almost dependent on polices of government. Socio economic development is a shared responsibility of both i.e. government and NGOs. Role of NGOs are complementary but vary according to polices of government. If we closely pursue the voluminous literature on NGOs many roles can be found according to the expectations of people.

The NGOs are the planner and implementer of development programmers, mobiliser of local resources and initiative, catalyst, enabler and innovator, builder of self reliant sustainable society, mediator of people and government, supporter and partner of government programme in activating delivery system implementing rural development programmes, etc. They are also seen as the agents of information, factor of improvement of the poor, and facilitator of development education, training, professionalisation, etc.

Basically NGO's role is to prepare people for change. They empower the people and enhance better living through progrme implementaon.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **Title of the Study:**

“Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development”

### **Sub title:**

“A study on Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development from selected NGOs of Gujarat State”

### **Background of the Study:**

Youth constitute a large percentage of India's population. But despite their critical role in nation building, it is often observed that the country has not invested seriously in them, thereby making them an army involved in unprofitable activities. According to the initial figures of the 2011 census, the youth population in the country including adolescents is around 550 million. Youth is the social capital of any society, nation and the world. Youth comprises a significant proportion of the world's population that heavily influences and is equally affected by social, political and economic and environmental conditions present all around them.

A vision of prosperous peaceful and technologically advanced society is therefore unrealizable in an environment where youth are not properly groomed and positioned. This is because the energy, skill and aspiration of youth are invaluable assets that no country can afford to squander.

There, the present study attempts to examine a conceptual meaning of Youth empowerment and sustainable development activities. The sustainable development activities are linked to Economic, Social and Environment Development. The study will also focus on challenges of youth empowerment for sustainable development.

**Magnitude of the Problem:**

The present form of development somewhere leads to the environmental problems which have been treated as externalities. Now there is a need to internalize this and treat this as negative resource. A major fault in the present system is that pollution and ecological degradation are caused by one set of people and clean up and restorations are done by another set. Both involve heavy expenditure. The famous example of this is the river Ganga where money is spent in both creating and mitigating pollution.

According to Pollution Index 2015 Kanpur, India rates 95.46 which rank 7 in the world. There are list of cities like Faridabad which ranks 18 in the World having 91.07, Noida, India 90.62 and Mumbai 88.97 and ranking 22<sup>nd</sup>. Vadodara 82.38 which ranks 47 and Ahmadabad 74.24 which ranks 79 in the world. There are many cities of India enlisted in Pollution index.

**Vicious cycle of unsustainable development:**

Global warming is the global warning in present era. For instance an increasing population leads to more vehicles on the road and contributes largely in air pollution. Trees that produce oxygen and carbon dioxide are cut down, further reducing air quality. The expansion and maintenance of basic city services to accommodate current growth and projected future growth added to an already heavy tax burden. The consequences of growth core despondingly diminish the quality of life of people and animals on the planet.

**Sustainable Development**

More than one hundred definitions of sustainable development exist, but the most widely used one is from the World Commission on Environment and Development, presented in 1987. It states that sustainable development is “Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Sustainable development promotes the idea that social, environmental, and economic progress is all attainable within the limits of our earth’s natural

resources. Sustainable development approaches everything in the world as being connected through space, time and quality of life.

In terms of the world being connected by space, consider the following: Pesticides sprayed in Chile have the potential to harm fish stocks off the coast of Japan. The air pollution we emit in Los Angeles affect the quality of air in Asia. On the flip side, clean air practices on one continent will positively impact air quality across the ocean.

The earth's connection to time is demonstrated in how we, today, are either benefitting or suffering from the choices of our grandparents and other ancestors. Their decisions about how to farm their land, for example, continue to impact the agricultural practices of today. Looking to the future, the economic choices we make and policies we endorse today will be the ones affecting our children and grandchildren as adults.

Sustainable development constantly seeks to achieve social and economic progress in ways that will not exhaust the earth's finite natural resources. The needs of the world today are real and immediate, yet it's necessary to develop ways to meet these needs that do not disregard the future. The capacity of our ecosystem is not limitless, meaning that future generations may not be able to meet their needs the way we are able to now.

## **Youth and Sustainable Development**

Young people have an enormous stake in the present and future state of Earth. Almost half of the human population is under the age of 25. If young people's resources of energy, time, and knowledge are misdirected towards violence, terrorism, socially-isolating technologies, and unsustainable consumption, civilization risks destabilization. Yet, there is a powerful opportunity for society if young people can participate positively in all aspects of sustainable development. In order to do so, young people need education, political support, resources, skills, and hope for the development.

The development of youth leadership has been a central concern of my professional work. Young people have a lot to offer to sustainable development and should participate

in planning for our planet's future. This rich collection of theoretical and practical approaches captures the growing response of young people to this challenge.

## **Empowerment**

Empowerment as the process of multiplying power or creating autonomy on a social system, to help people take charge of their efforts, promoting the ability to act collectively to solve problems.

## **Significance of the Study**

Youth or young people are very significant but commonly overlooked element of significant sustainable development. Actively engaging youth in the sustainable development programs and efforts can implicitly acknowledge youth as viable and efficient members of the community and has the potential to result in deeper rooted and more sustainable community change and development. Today the youth of the state are in confused state and facing struggle with lot many things. It is hence argued that increased investment in youth development yields greater economic growth and social wellbeing for generations to come. Missed investments in young people's intellectual and human potential are a missed opportunity for generations and also costly to reverse, both for youth and for society. In order to achieve the positive outcomes in the areas of education, employment, health and citizenship, to fight poverty among the youth, a holistic approach to youth development has become an urgent matter that should focus, not only on young people themselves, but also on all the related factors that help shape their behaviors, such as families, communities, schools, media, the legal environment and different established systems of values and social norms.

The issue of youth development, empowerment and leadership is increasing in importance through the development agenda of national governments, regional entities and international development organizations, that include the AU Commission's efforts to build youth capacities for quality and meaningful participation in development and decision making processes. Most notably, there is a new and strong momentum to promote the participation of youths and youth groups, in a wide range of policy dialogues

and policy development initiatives to ensure that youth perspectives are addressed in these processes and taken into account for implementation.

Sustainable Development is a broad and contentious area of practice. Some academic literature keeps these discussions running, to the frustration of others (academics and practitioners alike, and students) who admit to 'sustainability' fatigue. The current buzz word is 'resilience' (capability to adapt to economic/environmental shocks - e.g. global financial crisis/climate change), for which there is a significant degree of interest among practitioners and academics for its system-oriented (complex adaptive systems) thinking. This thinking, like the ecosystems approach, places environmental considerations at the centre of interdependent relations with economic / social dimensions of society. So where do we stand? Consensus around 'sustained' development (whatever that may be) needs to be questioned. What development processes are we sustaining alongside efforts to deliver on fairness (social justice) and environmental stewardship? Are the global growth-oriented economic models sufficient, considering recent events? If not, how can this and other risks be managed? This study intends to explore the power of community-led enterprise (social innovation) to overcome vulnerability by working toward greater financial stability and social well-being that is environmentally responsible. The Transition Movement as well as 'The Great Transition' (Source: New Economics Foundation) suggests this is only possible by a wholesale rethinking of society/economy.

The youth approach towards sustainable development is not a long-standing staple in either the community development or youth development fields. Attitudes and approaches to young people and their involvement in sustainable development have shifted over time and continue to shift this up to this day. The youth field has, over the years, recognized that young people are in great need of skills, knowledge and different personal and social characteristics.

### **Sustainable Development and Millennium Development Goals**

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) mark a historic and effective method of global mobilization to achieve a set of important social priorities worldwide. They



express widespread public concern about poverty, hunger, disease, unmet schooling, gender inequality, and environmental degradation. By packaging these priorities into an easily understandable set of eight goals, and by establishing measurable and time bound objectives, the MDGs help to promote global awareness, political accountability, improved metrics, social feedback, and public pressures. As described by Bill Gates, the MDGs have become a type of global report card for the fight against poverty for the 15 years from 2000 to 2015.

The Rio+20 Summit in June, 2012, has issued a report recommending that the world adopt a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The SDGs are an important idea, and could help finally to move the world to a sustainable trajectory. The detailed content of the SDGs, if indeed they do emerge in upcoming diplomatic processes, is very much up for discussion and debate.

Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals are having a crucial importance in the field of Social Work. Both the fields are interlinked and connected for the better living of the human mass.

**Objectives of the study:**

1. To assess the role of empowerment in creating behavioural change of youth towards sustainable development
2. To know about the knowledge and skills provided by NGOs for Sustainable Development (With respect to Environment, Economic & Social)
3. To study the contribution of youth towards sustainable development
4. To analyze the challenges that youth face in obtaining empowerment training and practice for sustainable development
5. To assess the legal awareness concerning environment and its protection among youth

**Operational Definitions:**

The following terms were used in the study as per the definitions or explanations given below.

## **Youth**

The present study considered the age group of 15-35 years as youth, this consideration is with the government of India that defines, “youth as persons in the age group of 15 to 35 years of age” (Ministry of youth and Sports Affairs 2003: 1) but in the current Policy Document (2014 NYP) the youth age-group is defined as 15-29 years.

## **Youth Empowerment**

Empowering youth is defined as “creating and supporting the enabling conditions under which young people can act on their own behalf, and on their own terms, rather than at the direction of others.”

For the present study the term youth empowerment would mean a process where young people are encouraged to take charge of their lives. They do this by addressing their situation and then take action in order to improve their access to resources and transform their consciousness through their beliefs, values, and attitudes.

## **Behavioural Change**

Behaviour change can refer to any transformation or modification of human behaviour.

For the present study the behavioural Change is considered as revolutionize the behaviour of youth towards sustainable development.

## **Sustainable development**

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs is a standard and widely accepted definition of Sustainable Development but for the purpose of present research the following definition is taken into consideration. A dynamic process which enables all people to realize their potential, and to improve their quality of life, in ways which simultaneously protect and enhance the Earth's life support systems

**Knowledge**

Knowledge means facts, information, and skills acquired through experience or education; the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject.

For the present study knowledge would mean the information obtained by youth for sustainable development and inculcated in day-today life the sustainable development practices.

**Skills**

Skills mean the ability to do something well; expertise. For the present study skill would mean the ability of the youth to gain something new to protect environment, enhance economy and strengthen societal bondages for better life.

**NGOs**

NGO is a non-profit organization that operates independently of any government, typically one whose purpose is to address a social, political, environmental, human right and legal issues.

For the present study the NGOs would gain the meaning of its origin and NGOs would mean the Non-governmental Organizations working for youth empowerment towards Sustainable Development.

**Contribution**

Contribution means the part played by a person or thing in bringing about a result or helping something to advance.

In the present study the contribution would mean the knowledge imbibed from the NGOs about Sustainable Development and the youth contributing or assisting other to do the same for making the planet a better place to live in.

**Challenge**

According to Collins dictionary a challenge is something new and difficult which requires great effort and determination.

For the present study the challenge would mean as a difficulty faced by youth to obtain something.

### **Legal Awareness**

Legal awareness sometimes called Public legal education, is the empowerment of individuals regarding issues involving the law. Legal awareness helps to promote consciousness of legal culture, participation in the formation of laws and the rule of law.

For the present study legal awareness would mean the knowledge of environmental laws that assist the individuals to know and practice legal culture for sustainable development.

### **Research Hypothesis:**

(H0) There is no significant relation between educational qualification of the respondents and their parent's education

(H0) There is no significant relation between membership criteria and membership fees in the organization

(H0) There is no significant relationship between the educational qualification of father and mother, the type of family and monthly family income of the respondents.

(H0) There is no significant relation between cultivating positive attitude change towards protecting environment and Sustainable Development activities for environment.

(H0) There is no significant association between turn off the tap water while brushing the teeth and the age group of the respondents.

(H0) There is no significant association between turn of the tap water while brushing the teeth and male and female respondents.

(H0) There is no significant association between monthly income of the family and raising money to support environmental cause.

(H0) There is no significant association between raising money to support an environmental cause and respondents' availability of resources to explore the environmental education.

(H0) There is no significant association between belief in social trends in device proliferations and family monthly income of the respondents.

(H0) There is no significant difference between youth development programmes and principles of sustainable development in the organizations.

**Research Variables:**

**Dependent Variables** – Empowerment, Sustainable Development, Social Dimension, Economic Dimension, Environmental Dimension

**Independent Variables** – Socio-demographic variables like age, educational status, religion, occupation, received information, source of information, behaviour, values, social norms, leadership, attitudes, skill, knowledge and training.

**Target population:** - The youth from Gujarat state who have received training for sustainable development from NGOs

**Criteria for selection of samples:** - The researcher has gone to the charity commissioners of the districts of Gujarat state, and obtain the list of organizations registered under Societies Registration Act and Mumbai Public Trust Act. From these organizations the researcher identified the NGOs working in imparting empowerment training for sustainable development. And Sample was selected in accordance with the number of trainees undergo in a year.

**Inclusive Criteria:**

This study includes only

1. The youth who have received training from NGOs imparting empowerment training for sustainable development
2. The youth who are obtaining the training and executing the sustainable practices for sustainable development
3. Those who are present at the time of study for the training

**Exclusive Criteria:**

The youth who have not received training

**Research Design:**

Since the study is combination of descriptive and exploratory method as it explores the knowledge, awareness, training and perception of youth regarding sustainable development.

It is descriptive in nature as it describes the various dimensions of youth empowerment towards sustainable development, the behavioural practices of youth and knowledge about sustainable development.

Therefore research design is exploratory cum descriptive.

**Universe:**

The universe of the study consists of different NGOs of Gujarat state. The youth who have obtained training and who undergo training are at the final stage in different youth organizations across Gujarat state.

**Sampling method:**

Purposive sampling was used to select the NGOs and random sampling was used to collect data from the respondents.

**Population of the study:**

There are 10 NGOs identified from Gujarat working for Sustainable development. They are registered and working for last 05 years. Aggregate youth under training are 100 in each NGO in a year. The study will focus on  $10 \times 100 = 1000$

**Sample of the study:**

The Population of the study comprises of youth undergoing training from identified NGOs. The youth are 1000 in number.

Sample will be taken 20% of population i.e. 200 respondents

**Sample Size:**

Ten Non-governmental organizations identified from Gujarat working for Sustainable Development. The organisations completed at least five years of its existence and contribution in Sustainable Development. Every year these NGOs train 100 youth. So, the population would be 1000 youth and Sample would be 20% of the population i.e. 200 youth.

**Tool of Data Collection:**

The tool for the data collection was Interview Schedule.

**Quantitative method:**

Structured Interview schedule was used to collect data consisting of closed ended questions. The tool was comprised of questions covering socio-demographic variables as well as the information of the agency. Further the tool elaborated questions related to behavioural change towards sustainable development and knowledge and skills obtained from NGOs and pertaining to legal awareness was assessed.

**Data Analysis and Treatment:**

A standard statistical package (SPSS) [version 20.00] was used to examine and tabulate the data. Initially the data was filled in and checked. After cleaning the data for any errors, relevant statistical methods such as measures of central tendency, cross tabulations, correlations, and inferential statistics such as Chi-square, ANOVA were used to understand relationships between the study variables. Appropriate tables, graphs and other data displays as needed were developed from the data.

**Ethical Considerations:**

Research can be a valuable tool for gathering information about what respondents want. This research involves the voluntary participation and trust of the respondents. The researcher has treated the respondents with dignity and had made an attempt to avoid violating the trust. For the present research study no respondent was forced to respond to the questions asked.

Ethical clearance and Consent was obtained from respondents

**Expected Outcomes from the study:**

- NGOs working for Sustainable Development and Youth obtaining training for Sustainable Development will have impact assessment. The guidelines would be provided to the NGOs to be more effective in bringing behavioral change among the youth of today for future.
- Youth shall identify and dialogue over new threats and opportunities to sustainable development and mobilize in accordance as they arise.
- Youth will develop plans for action based on a thorough knowledge and understanding of the issues being addressed, gained from specialists in these fields.
- Youth will be able to continually share experiences and ideas with others for progress to be made.
- Youth will be able to build the capacity of other youth.
- Youth are better able to access economic and social opportunities share in economic growth, live healthy lives, and contribute to household, community, and national wellbeing.
- Youth have a stronger voice in, and are better served by local and national institutions, with more robust and youth friendly policies.
- After receiving the training the empowered youth work as a change agent in bringing about sustainable development.
- The youth would be trained towards behavioral change with respect to sustainable development

**Limitations of the Study:**

As far as the limitations of the study are concerned, there are few in term of methodology and theory. Lack of sufficient local study literature and research study in this area has proved to be major limitation. For assessing the behavioural change Psychological tests and well established scales were not used.



## **Chapter Scheme**

### **CHAPTER-I**

**Introduction and Research Methodology:** This chapter includes the terminologies like Youth, Youth Empowerment, Development, Unsustainable Development, Sustainable Development, Principles of Sustainable Development, Pillars of Sustainable Development, Indicators of Sustainable Development, Need for Sustainable Development, Social Work and Sustainable Development and the role of NGOs in Sustainable Development.

The chapter further states the Research Methodology adopted for the study.

### **CHAPTER-II**

**Review of Literature:** In this chapter the conceptual as well as research reviews are written and research gap is identified.

### **CHAPTER-III**

**Research Setting:** In this chapter the information of the NGOs (Working on Sustainable Development) is provided from where the researcher has collected data for the present study.

### **CHAPTER-IV**

**Data Analysis and Interpretation:** The data containing to demographic details of the respondents is analyzed in this chapter. The chapter also represents the details of the volunteers who receive training from the NGOs for Sustainable Development.

### **CHAPTER-V**

**Findings, conclusion and suggestions:** Findings, conclusion and suggestions would be discussed in this chapter and scope for further study would be given in this chapter.

## MAJOR RESEARCH TRENDS

For this study 200 youth volunteers were taken as respondents who have undergone Sustainable Development Training from NGOs of Gujarat State. Here, are few major research trends drawn from the study.

- The equal number i.e. 20 (10%) of participants were taken from each (10) organization.
- The majority of the respondents i.e. 40 (20%) stress that the organization conducts activities like Education, Training, Youth Development, Environment Protection and Sustainable Development Education.
- The majority i.e. 185 (92.5%) respondents joined the organization as volunteers.
- The majority of the respondents i.e. 180 (90%) respondents replied that they had 100 member trainees in a batch.
- Majority of the respondents i.e. 93 (46.5%) had a trainer who had 3-6 years of experience in training.
- Majority of the respondents 150 (75.0%) stated that the trainer they had had postgraduate level of educational qualifications.
- The majority of the respondents 116 (58.0%) received training for 01 Year.
- The majority of the respondents i.e. 114 (57.0%) were of the age group of 21-25.
- The majority of the respondents i.e. 103 (51.5%) were female.
- Majority of the respondents i.e. 176 (88.0%) were from Hindu by religion.
- Majority of the respondents i.e. 94 (47.0%) belong to the General caste.
- The maximum i.e. 151 (75.5) respondents are single.
- Majority of the respondents i.e. 91 (45.5%) have completed Post Graduation level of study.
- The majority i.e. 67 (33.5%) respondent's father completed Graduation level study.
- The majority of the respondent's mother i.e.55 (27.5%) qualified SSC examination.
- Majority of the respondents i.e. 116 (58.0%) have 01 male sibling.
- Majority of the respondents 101 (50.5%) have 01 female sibling.
- Majority of the respondents i.e. 84 (42.0%) respondents have 02 siblings.

- Majority of the respondents i.e. 122 (61.0%) belong to joint family.
- Majority i.e. 124 (64.2%) respondent's father occupation is service.
- Maximum i.e. 167 (83.5%) respondent's mother do household work.
- Majority i.e. 81 (40.5%) respondent's sister pursue their study.
- Majority i.e. 103 (51.5%) respondent's brother pursue study.
- Majority i.e. 76 (38.0%) respondent's average monthly income of the family is more than Rs 20,000/-
- The majority i.e. 87 (43.5%) respondents family have 3-4 dependant members.
- Maximum respondents i.e. 153 (76.5%) owe Pakka House.
- Maximum i.e. 175 (87.5%) respondents are of the opinion that they create environmental awareness materials.
- Maximum i.e. 191 (95.5%) respondents are of the opinion that they Cultivate the positive attitude change towards protecting environment.
- Majority i.e. 109 (54.5%) respondents always prefer public transport.
- Majority i.e. 106 (53.0%) respondents sometimes participate in tree plantation campaign.
- Majority i.e. 115 (57.5%) respondents always believe in reduce, reuse and recycle concept of Environment related components.
- Majority i.e. 61 (30.5%) respondents regularly turn off the tap while brushing teeth.
- Majority i.e. 63 (31.5%) respondents sometimes raise money to support environmental cause.
- Majority of the respondents i.e. 80 (40.0%) respondents sometimes believe in Social trends in device proliferation (multiple mobile phones, TVs in every room, dual computer screen use, etc).
- Majority of the respondents i.e. 74 (37.0%) are of the view that they usually get Youth Development Programme in the agency.
- Majority i.e. 130 (65.0%) respondents are satisfied with on-going youth development programs in the organization.
- Maximum i.e. 191 (95.5%) respondents understand the climate change.

- Majority i.e. 58 (29.0%) respondents are of the opinion that the organization is sometimes committed to the principles of Sustainable Development, 58 (29.0%) respondents are of the opinion that the organization is usually committed to the principles of Sustainable Development
- Majority i.e. 108 (54.0%) respondents agree on present way of life would be sustainable if current patterns of natural resource use and consumption are maintained.
- The majority i.e. 105 (52.5%) respondents agree to the statement Economic development, social development and environmental protection are all necessary for sustainable development.
- Majority i.e. 98 (49.0%) respondents are of the view that sometimes Education for sustainable development emphasizes education for a culture of peace.
- Majority i.e. 106 (53.0%) respondents agree to the view that Sustainable consumption includes using goods and services in ways that minimize the use of natural resources and toxic chemicals, and reduces waste.
- Majority i.e. 116 (58.0%) respondents agree to the statement Education for sustainable development seeks to balance human and economic wellbeing with cultural traditions and respect for the earth's natural resources.
- Majority i.e. 86 (43.0%) respondents agree to the statement that we cannot slow the rate of climate change.
- Majority i.e. 117 (58.5%) respondents agree to the statement that Maintaining biodiversity—the number and variety of living organisms—is essential to the effective functioning of ecosystems.
- Majority i.e. 122 (61.0%) respondents agree to the statement that Poverty alleviation is an important topic in education for sustainable Development.
- Majority i.e. 100 (50.0%) respondents sometimes go walking or by bike to places instead of car.
- Majority i.e. 90 (45.0%) respondents sometimes invest the savings in funds that are ethically responsible.
- Majority i.e. 78 (39.0%) respondents regularly practice reduce, reuse, and recycle water as much as possible at home.

- Majority i.e. 68 (34.0%) respondents regularly practice to ensure that there is gender equity at home, work and volunteer environments.
- Majority i.e. 88 (44.0%) respondents are of the view that the course which they took where sustainable development was sometimes discussed.
- Majority 80 (40%) respondents sometimes talk to others how to help people who live in poverty and environment protection.
- Majority of the respondents i.e. 85(42.5%) change their attitude to protect environment and favoured to environmentally friendly goods.
- Majority of the respondents i.e. 75 (37.5) regularly conduct activities for environment protection.
- Majority of the respondents i.e. 95 (47.5%) sometimes bring awareness among people about segregating waste into degradable and non-degradable.
- Majority of the respondents i.e. 87 (43.5%) respondents sometimes organize activities for social and economic development.
- Majority i.e. 114 (57.0%) respondents agree about Man has the fundamental Right to freedom, equality ad adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and wellbeing ad bears a solemn responsibility to protect and improve the environment for present and future generations.
- majority of the respondents i.e. 132(66%) agree that Economic and social development is essential for ensuring a favourable living and working environment for man and for creating conditions on earth that are necessary for the improvement of the quality of life.
- Majority of the respondents i.e. 134(67%) are agree that Social and economic resources should be made available to preserve and improve the environment.
- Majority of the respondents i.e. 109(54.5%) respondents are agree that rational planning constitutes an essential tool for reconciling any conflict between the need of development and the need to protect environment.
- Majority of the respondents i.e. 97(48.5%) respondents are disagreeing that Planning must be applied to human settlements and urbanization with a view to avoiding adverse effects in the environment.

- Majority of the respondents i.e. 83 (41.5%) respondents know two training institutes which provide training for sustainable development.
- Majority of the respondents i.e. 181 (90.5%) said yes to have resources at hand to explore the environmental education.
- Majority of the respondents i.e. 107 (53.5%) respondents get sometimes for training for sustainable development.
- Majority of the respondents i.e. 139 (69.5%) are in favor of need of online training for sustainable development.
- Majority of the respondents i.e. 84 (42.0%) respondents find fees apt for sustainable development training.
- Majority i.e. 135 (67.5%) respondents are satisfied in learning about sustainable development.
- Majority of the respondents i.e. 142 (71.0%) disagree to view that lifestyle has become fast that does not allow participating and thinking for sustainable development.
- Majority of the respondents i.e. 115 (57.5%) respondents disagree that day today choices have no scope for Sustainable Development.
- Majority of the respondents i.e. 142 (71.0%) respondents have partial knowledge about Environment Protection Act 1986.
- Majority i.e. 115 (57.5%) respondents partially know the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999.
- Majority i.e. 98 (49.0%) respondents partially know about the Water (Preservation & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
- Majority i.e. 119 (59.5%) respondents are partially aware about the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.
- Majority i.e. 94 (47.0%) respondents don't know the Green Tribunal Act, 2010.
- Majority i.e. 101 (50.5%) respondents partially know about Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Majority i.e. 127 (63.5%) respondents agree on Environmental policies of the state should enhance and not adversely affect the present or future development potential.