

# Sustainable Development Policies: A Study of some aspects in Rural part of India

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## ABSTRACT

*The concept of sustainable development has passed through several stages since the end of the 1950s. Sustainable development has three dimensions: economic, environmental, and social. These are frequently referred to as the triple bottom line, and are used to gauge the success of a particular development program or project. Poverty Reduction is one of the most significant targets that Nations struggle to achieve, in the continuing efforts to achieve the eight Millennium Development Goals that had been set by United Nations (UN). An attempt has been made in this paper to highlight some of the facts of implementation of the same in Rural parts of India.*

**Keyword:** *Sustainable Development, Rural Development, Sustainable development Policies, Good Governance, MDGs, poverty reduction, Inclusive Growth, Safe drinking water.*

## 1. Introduction

The concept of sustainable development has passed through several stages since the end of the 1950s when the focus was on the “development” alone after World War II. In 1972 when the conference of Stockholm was held, a full political attention for issues related to environmental protection and safeguarding conditions of health and safety for people and ecosystems gained attention for the first time. (Keijzers, 2005:2) [1]

The concept of sustainable development was officially mainstreamed in 1987 in the “Brundtland” Report entitled “Our Common Future” which pointed that: the main idea of the concept of sustainable development is to deal with development as a process to meet the current needs for present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. And for achieving that “Sustainability” is the term chosen to bridge the gulf between development and environment. (Rogers, 2008:22) [2]

## 2. A literature review of Sustainable Development:

Economic, environmental, and social are the three main dimensions of the Sustainable development. Critical objectives for sustainable development were identified by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) in 1987: (Elliott, 2006:13) [3] are enlisted as-

- ✓ Reviving & Changing the quality of growth.
- ✓ Meeting essential needs for jobs, food, energy, water and sanitation.
- ✓ Ensuring a sustainable level of population.
- ✓ Conserving and enhancing the resource base.
- ✓ Reorientation of technology and managing risk.
- ✓ Merging environment and economics in decision-making.

Recognizing that poverty eradication, changing consumption and production patterns, and protecting the natural resource base for economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development. Thus, the key factors governing sustainable development are: poverty, population, pollution, participation, policy and market failures (including good governance), and prevention and management of disasters. (Rogers, et. al. 2008:47) [2]

The Brundtland Commission, in its report in 1987, recognized some essential requirements for sustainable development such as:

- A secure political system that insure the effective participation for their citizen in decision-making.
- An appropriate economic system that provides solutions for arises crises from disharmonious development.
- Friendly ecological production system that respects the commitment to save the environmental base for development.
- A technological system that support sustainable patterns of trade and finance.
- An international system that committed toa sustainable patterns of trade and finance.
- A flexible and self-correction administrative system. (Elliott, 2006:13) [3]

Indian policies and Millennium Development Goals on it highlights are given as directly in the first and seventh goals as follows:

**Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (UNDP, 2015 ) [4]**

**Goals and Targets (from the Millennium Declaration)**

**Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**

Target 1.A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1.25 a day.

Target 1.B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people.

Target 1.C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

**Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability**

Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources.

Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water.

Target 11: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

**Source:** <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/poverty.shtml> URL: 2:09 AM 9/3/2015

That goals was adapted by the majority of world state under flag of the UN.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) which India one of the main member offered a report about SDGs adapted and based on the 22 goals and 67 indicators given in the publication "Taking SDGs Forward" as adopted by the Thirteenth SAARC Summit. (SAARC, 2010:7) [5]

Goal number (12) which head as: Improved Hygiene and Public Health, and under it the following SDGs Indicators:

1. Proportion of population with access to safe drinking water.
2. Proportion of population having access to sanitation.

The fact, this paper aims to discuss the basic services associated with the measurement of poverty reduction activities such (safe drinking water and sanitation availability) . The level of this services give use a clear picture on poor people lives and how it will improve the living and decrease the rate of disease and improve the level of their health, to focus on the seventh goal, which carries the issues related to improving the general living conditions of the poor people.

So, Targets 10 and 11, under the seventh Millennium main goal, and Target 1 and 2 under the 12th of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation's Sustainable Development Goals which concentrate for the research.

### 3. Objective of Study:

The primary objective of the research is to investigate and explore the extent and the level of basic services in rural part of India according to sustainable development policies. This will be done in effort to highlight the sustainable development policies in general, and select one of the 8th millennium goals to see the progress on it, estimating the previous policies which applied by Indian government and see whether it attempted MDGs or not.

To achieve the main objective of this study, the following secondary objectives should be attempted:

1. Pull a few of efforts on subject of sustainable development.
2. Highlight the poverty states of Indian society in late decade.
3. Study the various policies for improving the water basic services (safe drinking water) that reduce poverty rates in Rural part of India.

#### 4. Hypothesis:

Ho1. There is significant change in poverty states of society in rural part of India.

Ho2. The Indian developed policies for water basic services (safe drinking water) have helped to reduce the rate of poverty in Rural part of India.

#### 5. Methodology:

The study embodied a literature reviews as well as a descriptive investigation to achieve its objectives.

- In order to measure the level of what has been achieved researchers have adopted the Millennium goals and targets as a measurement tool to measure the level of services and whether it hit the needed point or not.
- Analyze the tables issued by the official bodies to charts which served the study objectives of this paper; it was clarified and comments, also, we commit to collect data from more than one source.
- Prepare tables and design the appropriate charts depending on the computational tools and programs.
- A personal observation notes have been used in some points such as identifying the safety of drinking water.

#### 6. Observations and Analysis:

In order to achieve the primary objective of the research we depend on different formal statistical reports and we found the following:

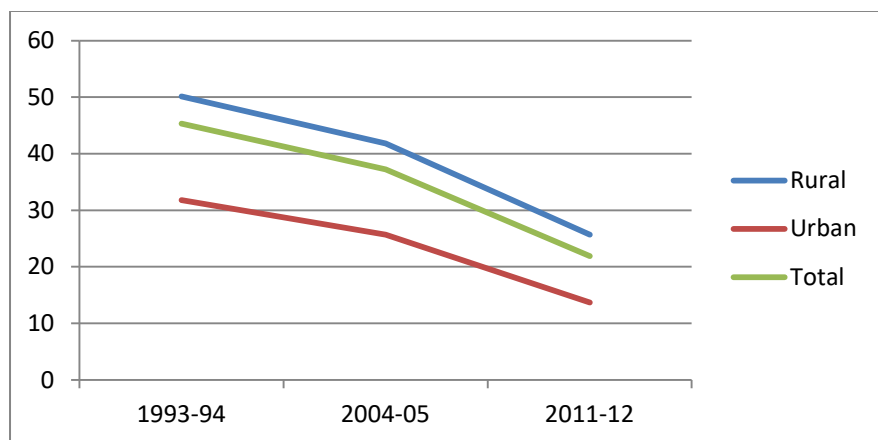
##### 6.1 The incidence of poverty:

According to the official reports obtained we see that there a noticeable improvement decrease the poverty ratio during the period 1993 to 2012. The total ratio of poverty has decreased from 44.3% in 1993-94 to 21.9% in 2011-12. See Table & chart (1)

Table (1) Incidence of Poverty [6]

Poverty Ratio (%)		Number of Poor (Million)				
Rural		Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total
1993-94	50.1	31.8	45.3	328.6	74.5	403.7
2004-05	41.8	25.7	37.2	326.3	80.8	407.1
2011-12	25.7	13.7	21.9	216.5	52.8	269.3
Annual average decline (%) , 1993-94:2004-05		0.75	0.55	0.74		
Annual average decline (%) , 2004-05:2011-12		2.32	1.69	2.18		

Source: SAARC Development Goals: India Country Report 2013 . NewDelhi: Central statistics office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.



**Chart (1)** Percentage of poverty rate through (1993-2012)

## 6.2 Safe drinking water services:

Resources indicate that The overall proportion of households having access to improved water sources increased from about 68.2% in 1992-93 (about 60.9% for rural and 87.6% for urban) to 84.4% in 2007-08 (79.6% for rural and 94.4% for urban). The latest estimates based on DLHS 2007-08 show a downturn following the NFHS estimates for 2005-06 registering a much better situation with the overall proportion of about 88% (84.5% for rural and 95% for urban). (SAARC, 2010:68) [5]

**Table (2)** Estimated rate of access to improved water sources in India

Year	Total	Rural	Urban
1992-93	68.2%	60.9%	87.6%
2007-08	84.4%	79.6%	94.4%

**Source:** Prepared by researchers according to SAARC Development Goals: India Country Report 2013. NewDelhi: Central statistics office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India.

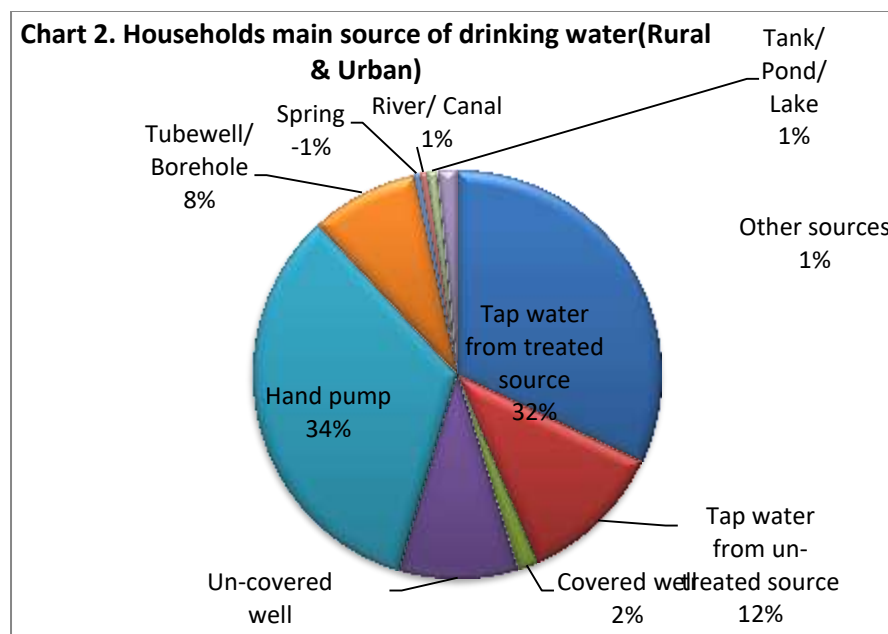
Through the table (2) we see there is an improvement in the percentage the population whom obtained one of drinking water sources (in general) in the past decade, But let us identify the sources of water and trying to figure out whether they are a healthy drinking water sources.

The following table shows the rates and types of water sources used for drinking. From this table was derived the following three figures to show the contribution percentage of each source of drinking water sources and the share of Urban and Rural.

**Table (3)** Percentage of Households by main source of drinking water

Item	Percentage of Households main source of drinking water	Total	Rural	Urban
1	Tap water from treated source	32.0	17.9	62.0
2	Tap water from un-treated source	11.6	13.0	8.6
3	Covered well	1.6	1.5	1.7
4	Un-covered well	9.4	11.8	4.5
5	Hand pump	33.5	43.6	11.9
6	Tubewell/ Borehole	8.5	8.3	8.9
7	Spring	0.5	0.7	0.2
8	River/ Canal	0.6	0.8	0.2
9	Tank/ Pond/ Lake	0.8	1.1	0.4
10	Other sources	1.5	1.4	1.7

**Source:** Census of India 2011, Houses, Household Amenities and Assets, Figures at a Glance.



**Chart -1:** Households main source of drinking water (Rural & Urban)

Through the Table (2) and the chart (2) illustrated generally that the main sources of drinking water in rural and urban areas represent about (95%) combined of: (32.0%) Tap water from treated source, (11.6%) Tap water from un-treated source, (9.4%) Un-covered well, (33.5%) Hand pump and (8.5%) Tubewell/ Borehole. While secondary sources, which represents 5% of the total resources are as follows: (1.6%) Covered well, (0.5%) Spring, (0.6%) River/ Canal, (0.8%)Tank/ Pond/ Lake and Other sources (1.5%).

By personal observation only it can classified that the following sources as a safe healthy sources of drinking water, a (Tap water from treated source & Covered well), while the rest of sources are not totally safe and healthy to be drinking water. By analogy to this, it can be seen that services submitted to the population in that aspect is less than the desired goal, which placed in the MSDs, which hopes that the 50% of population would have accession to safe healthy drinking water by 2015.

It is clear that there are differences in the services received by the population in both rural and urban areas. Population who receive drinking water service in urban areas gets 62% of drinking water through Tap water from treated source, while rural population gets only 17.9% through Tap water from treated source. The majority of citizens in rural areas use unsafe water sources such as: Hand pump 43.6%, Tap water from un-treated source 13% and Un-covered well 11.8%. This affirms our pointed out before, that this is incompatible with the principles of inclusive growth.

## 7. Discussion:

India's poverty ratio has decreased during the period 1993 to 2012. According to table (1) total ratio of poverty (in rural and urban) has decreased from 445.3% in 1993-94 to 21.9% in 2011-12. dialogue about the services that related to the poverty reduction polices such as drinking water , Tap water from treated and un-treated source and all other source of drinking water, but the important question is: what are the sources of drinking water that is safe?; Which be referred to by the seventh goal of the Millennium Development Goals, as well as by Target 12 in The documents of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), and determine whether those sources are all safe or not.

There is a clear signs that quality of water in these sources is not at the required level and cannot be described as a safe healthy drinking water.

And that claim is supported by SAARS's 2010 report which issued that: While the share of those with access to an improved water source is much higher than that for sanitation, the quality of service is poor and most users that are counted as having access, receive water of dubious quality and only on an intermittent basis. (SAARC S. A., 2010, p. 67) [5]



These are a part of the common problems that community face usually in the rural areas due to the cost and difficulty of offering the services to all citizens. But it can overcome these problems and find alternative friendly environment solutions, including new technologies for filtration water. And searching for the best way to deploy desalination and filtering tools for drinking water, especially with regard to (Hand pump) and (Tap water from untreated source).

## 8. Conclusion:

According to the study and the data analysis it is found that the following conclusions can be drawn :

- In the field of poverty we can see there is a noticeable improvement decrease the poverty ratio. And we can see that in table and chart (1) which clear that There is a general significant change in poverty states of society in rural part of India in late two decades, which poverty rate decreased from (50.1%) in 1993 to (41.8%) in 2004 down to (25.7%) in 2012 according to the official's reports.
- According to table (2) and charts (3&4) we can see the current service polices about drinking water aren't efficient enough and it's achievement still below the desired level and need to be improved.

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