INTRODUCTION

Thought of sustainable development first arises as a reaction towards the greedy growth culture who wants to have maximum for them ignoring the requirements of others and of the future. The undue exploitation of both, the natural resources and the produced resources in name of economic development has reached the phase where it being incompatible with the long-term protection of the planet and to the basic requirements of larger portion of the population. Sustainable development is the rational management of human, natural, and economic resources that aims to satisfy the essential needs of humanity in the very long term. It insist on the need of preserving the overall balance by preventing the exhaustion of natural resources, reducing and recycling the production waste, optimising the production and energy consumption and changing the life style from consumerism to conservatism and optimization. Sustainable development depends upon the way in which things are taken into consideration. Hence life style has a very imperative role in attaining sustainable development.

In last 50 years, the definition and theoretical explanation of sustainable development has increased thousand folds but still work on its practical implementation is very limited. The prime focus of this work is the application part of nonviolence codes in the context of sustainable development which is Non Violent Life Style (hence forth NVLS) model. NVLS model best suits the prerequisites of sustainable development at both individual and higher level and will push the development to higher ridges in a very holistic way. Nonviolence is used as an ethics in many religions, philosophies and theories across the world. Hence it would be very wide area of discussion and research if every related philosophy or religions is taken in descriptive manner. This research is completely based on the life style pattern as suggested by the Jain philosophy with some brief aspects of nonviolence codes mention in other religions and philosophies for better understanding of concept.

Jainism has the nonviolence oriented life style which aims at achieving salvation by practicing nonviolence and self control. Jainism through its various codes of conduct restricts the violence to the minimum possible level in the daily activities which is indispensable for human survival. Jain culture teaches to avoid not only physical violence but takes care of violence at the thought and speech level. Jainism encourages spiritual development through cultivation of personal
wisdom and through reliance on self-control. Its code of conduct restrain person from excess utilization of all sort of resources. It also prohibits certain occupations / business which involve excessive violence. For eg. - occupations in which furnaces are used, trees are cut, animals, birds, fish, etc. are tortured or killed, occupation of fermented goods as liquor, etc. Jain life style implements nonviolence in each phase of life to the utmost integrity. This unique characteristic of Jainism is noteworthy in the context of sustainable development.

The purpose of this work is to unveil the application of nonviolence code of conduct of Jainism from thinking to the implementation stage of sustainable development. The basics of Jainism – nonviolence and self control are the crucial ingredients to take care of future requirements with the present need and nature’s balance. In my work, I have tried to explore the application part of Jainism’s various codes of conduct, dimensions and prospects of Non Violent Life Style mentioned in Jain canonical texts and literatures which can be used as an effective tool for attaining the sustainable development. Along with the codes of conduct, I have also taken into consideration the thought process i.e. process of formation of thoughts. If nonviolence is incorporated at thought level by training or otherwise, the action too will have impact of nonviolent virtues.

The whole work of research is divided into 9 chapters. First two chapters discuss the general facts and background of sustainable development and nonviolent values. Third chapter describes the NVLS model and the rest six chapters individually deal with six components of NVLS model in detail.

First chapter has the detail description of sustainable development. It describes how current excess resource utilization has created a danger to the future generation and ecological balance. Today, the greed of becoming millionaire billionaire at any cost of environment and humanity has pushed the globe into the red zone of violence, struggle, global warming, economic disparity, pollution, tsunami and other hazardous phenomenon. The chapter reveals the interdependency of the main three components of sustainability – social, environment and economy. Any changes in one factor will have an impact on other factors. Development must combine three main elements: fairness, protection of the environment, and economic efficiency. It further describes the scope of work which has multi layered task varying from individual capacity to global level.
Where there is work, there will be hurdle. Since sustainable development is a global concept and involves participation of minds at various levels, it is also facing many roadblocks in its way. Some of the main hurdles are political framework, economical pattern, demographic changes, environmental degradation, and lack of education.

The second chapter briefly describes about the lifestyle, nonviolent values of different cultures and thinkers. Lifestyle, in simple words, denotes the way we live. Man is a social person. If his lifestyle is not proper, it will create problems for the self as well as for others. Hence, sustainable lifestyle must have nonviolence in its heart so that before doing anything, a person will think of its appropriateness before deciding further course of action. Many religions and philosophies have nonviolence as its ethics but all have their own interpretations. This chapter outlines in brief about the teaching and thoughts of major traditions and thinkers regarding nonviolence.

The third chapter is the brief description of NVLS model and its component. NVLS model comprises six components which have utility in all three aspects of sustainable development—social, environmental, and economical. The six components are Nonviolent Thought Process, Nonviolent Action, Nonviolent Communication, Nonviolent Culture and Way of Earning, Nonviolent Environment, and Nonviolent Media. All these components have their own utility and are interrelated with each other. In general definitions, sustainable development has considered three aspects but in this research work, the fourth aspect of moral values has also been added. Nonviolence itself is the highest degree of morality. Moral values have the power to create a sustainable environment having flourishing social harmony, mutual trust, respecting every form of life, and avoiding misunderstanding and delusion.

From the fourth chapter, individual description of six components begins. As all the components are interrelated, hence the sequence of these chapters is not in any orderly arrangement. Many permutation and combinations of these components are possible at the application level. Fourth chapter deals with the Nonviolent Thought process. Thought has very strong linking with action. Type of thoughts affects the way of action/reaction. Nonviolent thought process describes the application of nonviolence in thought process. It describes the origin of thoughts, flow of thought process, and training in nonviolence as per Jain philosophy. Fifth chapter deals with Nonviolent
Action. It describes the type of nonviolent codes related to the action as describe in the Jain’s scriptures and texts along with different nonviolent way of protest and persuasion used in the world. It also describes how a small nonviolent action in daily routine results into a big impact towards protection of the environment and in increasing economic efficiency. Next chapter Nonviolent Communications depicts the importance of way of communication in the sustainable development process. As sustainable development is the global concept, lots of interaction is needed with different people, groups while discussing, applying, taking feedback of policies and strategies hence caution is required in choosing the appropriate words and proper gestures for effective communication. Culture and ways of earning are important elements to be considered while preparing the policies for sustainable development. Same policies can’t be applicable to all the people. People from different culture have different requirements and different earning sources. A culture having nonviolent virtue will have more understanding, more cooperation, less violence and less crime. Proper way of earning decreases the chances of corruption, black money, excessive consumption, funding to terrorism and many other criminal activities. Chapter eight deals the very important issue of Non Violent environment. Here environment means both biotic and social environment. In biotic context, it means the preservation of natural resources, recycling and renewal of waste product and optimum utilization of the produced resources. Social environment means environment having mutual trust, communal harmony, cooperation and peaceful coexistence of all. Existence of nonviolent environment is utmost requirement for sustainable development. Ninth chapter is the requirement of new generation- Nonviolent Media. Now a day’s media is very powerful way of communication that’s why there is a specific need to make a its chapter separate from that of nonviolent communication. Nonviolence in media means to present the truth without mixing superficial things. Media should guide the society in right direction, prohibits the transmission which creates communal riots, violence and environment of hate. It should give preference to the constructive news, innovations, highlights cultural heritage, motivate healthy debates, raises general issues and many more positive communications.

A sustainable development project needs to be based on a better-developed mode of consultation between the common masses and the members it comprises, political cooperation with a common consensus, a better practical strategies, proper communication till the ground level, ‘think global act local’ policy and a dedicated action towards the achievement of goal within the
timeframe. And for application of all this stages successfully, NVLS model can be practical solution. NVLS model helps in improving the quality of lifestyle by optimizing the resource utilization both natural and produced, avoiding unnecessary violence, reducing income disparities, improving social cooperation and mutual trust, increasing sharing concept, access of basic requirement of food, water, education to all etc. In nut shell it is a process of moving from consumerism to the conservatism in order to improve the quality of life across globe without compromising with nature’s balance and future requirement.
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