

A Theoretical Perspective on Sustainable Development Tactics in Nigeria

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Abstract: Sustainable development is a complex and multifaceted concept encompassing social, economic, environmental, and cultural dimensions. This paper provides an overview of sustainable development, its history, and its significance in addressing the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The paper highlights the need for a balanced approach prioritizing social solidarity, environmental responsibility, and economic efficiency. It also explores the theory of social solidarity, which emphasizes the importance of human connection and cooperation in achieving sustainable development in Nigeria.

Keywords: Sustainable development, Social solidarity, Environmental responsibility, Economic efficiency, COVID-19 pandemic, Social cohesion, Human rights, Economic growth

INTRODUCTION

In its modern conception, sustainable development is no longer limited to one aspect. Still, it has been expanded to include the social, political, economic, cultural, and environmental elements and its various activities. It is an interconnected process of sustainable activities that adheres to an integrated approach based on justice and participation, as the idea of sustainability first came into being concurrent with development to broaden the scope of action.

The possibility of creating a new strategy offered by sustainable development has significant consequences for peace and security concerns. Scholars use “Sustainable development” more frequently than “development.” Every social scientist, social organization, politician, and leader often discusses it. Insofar as it has led to imbalances in the environment and between nations, the industrial, technical, and economic progress humanity has experienced over the past 100 years has not proven to be a proper development.

The environment’s degradation due to the irresponsible and excessive use of our planet’s resources has threatened to, and in fact, has already negatively impacted the growth different cultures have seen. Industrial and infrastructure initiatives are unquestionably tools for development. The usefulness and viability of such projects were previously primarily evaluated in terms of their potential financial rewards (Dinesh, 2015).

Development must be accomplished without violating anyone’s human rights, especially those of individuals whose lives will be directly and physically impacted by such undertakings. The phrase “sustainable development” refers to this new, constructive strategy. Achieving stable, long-lasting, genuine, and sustainable international peace, security, and prosperity is now widely acknowledged as requiring sustainable development.

Therefore, coping with the COVID-19 pandemic’s negative repercussions requires sustainable development to be a top priority. Sustainable development addresses all facets of society (water, health, food, services, education, income, awareness, institutional building, good governance, etc.). It aims to achieve the best use of resources while benefiting society’s members and ensuring the rights of future generations.

HISTORY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Growing awareness among people, governments, institutions, and nations led to the emergence of a novel idea for development under the term sustainable development, which began to take shape during the Stockholm Conference in Sweden in 1972, where discussions on how to use the natural resources that are available to any country to achieve economic and social development without depleting them but rather preserving them so that they remain available for use in the future took place as it was announced that protecting and improving the human environment represents a fundamental issue related to the welfare of peoples. The Global Committee on Environment and Development’s (Burnland) Committee report was released in 1987 in response to the demand for a thorough explanation of sustainable development.

When the committee released its report, “Our Common Future,” it defined sustainable development as “development that ensures responding to the needs of the present generation while not infringing on the rights of future generations to live at a level equivalent to or agreeing with the present generation, if possible.” The report also developed proposals on how to implement it. The United Nations General Assembly presented and adopted the committee’s recommendations, and the next stage was for all nations to commit to sustainable development formally.

The idea was formally established in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and even then, it has entered virtually every language’s governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations’ lexicon. The International Commission for Sustainable Development of the United Nations convenes annually with participants from all nations (Dinesh, 2015).

The International Labor Conference agreed in 1990 to accept the concept of sustainable development as the cornerstone for all ILO operations while highlighting the need for proportionality in development programs and coordinated resource use. A meeting known as the “Earth Summit” was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and it was then that all nations pledged to use sustainable development as a strategy to avoid harming the environment, human health, or the economy via the exploitation of natural resources in an irrational manner. Sustainable development aims to increase awareness of human existence, make wise use of natural resources, preserve them for a long time, and meet the needs of future generations.

THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Sustainable growth was defined as the development that promotes economic progress and necessitates a just distribution of its benefits, regenerates the environment, and avoids environmental destruction. The advancement of women’s status in society, the protection of people and the environment, and sustainability in its broadest sense are all issues of equitable distribution of development opportunities between the current and future generations. If sustainable development increases people’s options, the poor benefit significantly.

Sustainable growth does not harm the productive energy of future generations and delivers it to them in the same situation that the present generation inherited. It pointed out that sustainable development is not limited to the resources consumed and inherited only for future generations; rather, through adequate guidance to the quality of the environment and the total production capacity of the economy, including technical equipment, factories, and the knowledge structure (Al-Jawarain, 2019). Sustainable development is also defined as —a pattern of progress whereby the needs of the present are met without being at the expense of future generations or weakening their ability to meet their basic needs

It develops and improves reality conditions through processes that depend on studying prior experiences and scientific developments to change the facts, understand them to make them better, and establish plans. In the broadest sense, sustainable growth is a comprehensive activity for all sectors, whether in the state, organizations, public, or private sectors.

The COVID-19 pandemic crisis sent global shockwaves and raised significant concerns about how it might affect sustainable development’s objectives. The virus can slow down the sustainability process, or it might be pushed forward. A UN study titled “Joint responsibility and global solidarity” is relevant here. In addition to how to handle this problem and what part donors, businesses, and decision-makers may play in addressing the crisis, moving forward with the goals of sustainable development, and dealing with the viral epidemic that had several social and economic repercussions, The report showed how the COVID-19 pandemic affected nearly 13 of the 17 goals of sustainable development. Tragically, decades of progress in eradicating poverty put this pandemic at risk, aggravating high levels of inequality within and between countries and societal changes in some countries.

This pandemic, which was quickly and widely produced, demonstrated the importance of the close connection between the three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental, as well as the need to create a new global economy. It began as a local health crisis in the Chinese city of Wuhan. It quickly expanded to a worldwide economic, social, and environmental crisis that exceeded all geographical boundaries in record time.

A complex crisis necessitates working toward a more sustainable future; therefore, a sustainable economy cannot be without social and environmental protection. This is the fundamental tenet of sustainable development encapsulated in the 17 sustainable development goals that the United Nations adopted.

As a result, the need to balance social and environmental concerns with developmental concerns has become a problem that plagues humanity. For instance, how can economic development be achieved while causing the least pollution, ecological harm, and resource consumption? Achieving social justice has also emerged as a requirement when formulating national development policies.

DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development necessitates a long-term structural plan for the world’s economic and social systems to permanently reduce the strain on the environment and natural resources while sustaining economic growth and social cohesion. The only progress that successfully balances these three elements can be maintained throughout time. In contrast, disregarding one of the three components may jeopardize the overall success of the development process. Because a synergy of these many consequences is desired, it is widely believed that sustainable development comprises three dimensions:

- Social Solidarity
- Environmental Responsibility
- Economic Efficiency

Although important as an analytical and public policy tool, sustainable development includes additional strategic features crucial to its implementation, such as a society’s cultural specificities, political institutions, or democratic participation. Furthermore, it must be conceptualized within a world experiencing globalization and has been profoundly affected by the economic, political, social, and technical developments that have marked the last two decades.

Within a holistic view of development, sustainable development is an equilibrium of its environmental, social, and economic dimensions; this necessitates the use of a transdisciplinary approach, which includes a dialogue between the technical, natural, and social sciences, as well as sectoral interaction between public bodies, private individuals, and civil society organizations. Various stakeholders have divergent understandings of sustainable development in many circumstances based on their specific interests and beliefs. As a result, the aims of each dimension might conflict in some places.

Table 1. Dimensions of Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development	<i>Social Solidarity:</i> People’s equality of opportunities, including welfare, quality of life, and sustainable human development - development should liberate individual capacities and meet human needs, ending poverty and improving individuals’ quality of life in the long run, offering a secure life with full rights and liberties - and social solidarity.
	<i>Environmental Responsibility:</i> The capacity to exploit natural resources without jeopardizing ecosystem stability and integrity reduces the environmental load.
	<i>Economic Efficiency:</i> Increasing the efficiency of financial and technological operations, encouraging investment and productivity, economic growth, and the potential for economic production.

THE THEORY OF SOCIAL SOLIDARITY

This school of thought is based on the idea that men are socially connected. As a result, because society is a complicated web of many circumstances, legislation should strive to promote solidarity and collaboration among various members of society. This section will look at the work of Duguit and Durkheim.

Durkheim’s Social Solidarity Theory

In *The Division of Labour in Society* (1893), Durkheim used mechanical and organic solidarity as part of his theory of forming societies. Mechanical Solidarity is prominent in pre-industrial communities based on members’ similarities. Its members share vital ideas, educational backgrounds, and worldviews and live parallel lives. The Inuit of the Arctic are one example. Solidarity, according to Durkheim, is “a social cohesion based on the dependence that individuals have on each other in more advanced societies.” Organic Solidarity, on the other hand, refers to communities held together by the division of labor, which makes individuals reliant on one another.

Farmers, for instance, could produce food to feed factory employees, who in turn make the tractors that enable the farmers to. It is clear and widely acknowledged that Durkheim’s concentration was always on social solidarity in some way. In reality, he views it as a synonym for the natural condition of society, with its absence denoting a social sickness or divergence from that state. All of his art is infused with the idea of solidarity. While his doctoral thesis (1893) was devoted to the demonstration of the fundamental role of the division of labor in creating, maintaining, and reinforcing social solidarity, his first course of lectures at the University of Bordeaux, read in the years 1887–1888, was not by chance titled, “Social Solidarity” (Durkheim [1984] 1997).

It is true that Durkheim progressively drifted away from the term “solidarity,” most likely due to the word’s widespread use outside of social research and the thinker’s reluctance to fall prey to the idols of the theater or the market. Additionally, the term was scarcely ever used or noticed in the scientific literature of students at his institution (Legal Desire, 2020).

In his two well-known works from 1931 and 1934, “Social Cohesion in Polysegmentary Societies” and “Fragment of a Plan of General Descriptive Sociology,” his devoted student and nephew Marcel Mauss preferred to talk of “social cohesion” rather than “solidarity.” The second of these writings briefly mentions the two Durkheimian kinds of the latter. Even though Durkheim never really used the term “solidarity,” he continued to study and work to support the phenomena up to the end of his life (Mauss, 1969).

Leon Duguit’s *Social Solidarity Theory*

Leading public law expert and French jurist Leon Duguit was born in France. Durkheim and Auguste Comte profoundly influenced him. He introduced the concept of social solidarity, which describes how people work together socially for survival.

Social solidarity is the essence of unity. “Social Solidarity” refers to a society’s resilience, cohesion, shared consciousness, and viability. In his book *Social Solidarity*, Leon Duguit illustrates how men depend on one another. Nobody can continue to exist without relying on other guys. Cooperation and social interdependence are, therefore, crucial for human life.

The goal of the law is to encourage social cohesion among people; however, Leon Duguit regarded it as a terrible law that does not promote social cohesion. Additionally, he asserted that every man was responsible for advancing social cohesion. For instance, everyone abides by the codified laws of India. As a result, it encourages social solidarity.

Mathieu Deflem from the University of South Carolina wrote an essay on Emile Durkheim and social solidarity. Publisher: Cambridge University Press, whose summary of Emile Durkheim’s life’s work in terms of law and social solidarity reads as follows: “Emile Durkheim’s singularly most notable accomplishment was his persistent and successful efforts to establish sociology as an academic discipline (Brown, 2013). Durkheim had no counterparts in terms of the clarity with which he formulated the substantive and formal subject matter of sociology, the originality of his methodology, and his capacity to establish a sociological school of thought. The sociology of law has the good fortune to draw on both Durkheim’s contributions to sociology in general and the sociological study of law in particular.

Sociologists are familiar with Durkheim’s examination of law in his sociological investigation of the moral underpinnings of the division of labor. Durkheim looked to the development of law as a sign of the shifting moral underpinnings of society to experimentally investigate the transition of humanity from the mechanical to the organic type. The primary goal of Durkheim’s work, which was to demonstrate how individualism is preserved in modern society by a spirit of solidarity, is still relevant today. Regarding the empirical validity of Durkheim’s legal theses, such as the transition from repressive to restitutive legislation, this approach’s worth is not fully realized; Durkheim’s sociology of law includes an original method for studying law and outlining an empirical model of how law functions in society. The central tenet of this strategy is the realization that academic and evaluative viewpoints are made possible by society’s normative aspect.

In the end, solidarity is the psychological notion that is degraded in societies because people still need to get together in groups or classes to have common interests, goals, and sympathies, even though humans have always been social creatures, even before the social contract. It alludes to the strong social bonds that link individuals into a single body. In sociology and other social sciences, as well as in philosophy and bioethics, the phrase is frequently used (Legal Desire, 2020).

In the context of sustainable development in Nigeria, social solidarity can be used to critique the tactics used by the government and other stakeholders. Some criticisms have been listed below:

Lack of Community Engagement: The Nigerian government’s approach to sustainable development often prioritizes top-down planning and implementation, neglecting the involvement of local communities. This failure to engage with communities undermines social solidarity, as it ignores different groups’ unique needs and perspectives.

Inequitable Distribution of Resources: The government’s focus on economic growth and development has led to an uneven distribution of resources, with limited access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and clean water. This perpetuates social inequality and erodes social solidarity, as individuals feel disconnected from the benefits of development.

Corruption and Mismanagement: The widespread corruption and mismanagement of resources in Nigeria undermine trust in the government and institutions, further eroding social solidarity. When citizens perceive that their leaders are more concerned with personal gain than the community’s well-being, they are less likely to feel a sense of belonging or shared responsibility.

Environmental Degradation: Nigeria’s rapid urbanization and industrialization have led to environmental degradation, such as air and water pollution. This not only affects the physical health of citizens but also erodes their sense of well-being and connection to their environment. As a result, social solidarity is weakened, as individuals feel disconnected from the natural world and their communities.

Inadequate Infrastructure: Nigeria's inadequate infrastructure, including poor roads, inadequate transportation systems, and limited access to energy, hinders economic development and social cohesion. This creates a sense of frustration and discontent among citizens, further eroding social solidarity.

Lack of Transparency: The Nigerian government's lack of transparency in decision-making processes and financial transactions perpetuates a culture of mistrust and cynicism. This undermines social solidarity, as individuals feel their voices are not heard, and their leaders are not accountable to them.

Inadequate Education and Skills Training: Nigeria's education system is plagued by insufficient funding, poor infrastructure, and a lack of relevant skills training. This hinders human capital development and perpetuates social inequality, further eroding social solidarity.

For Nigeria to attain sustainable development, the critiques listed above must be addressed by fostering social solidarity via community involvement, fair resource distribution, anti-corruption initiatives, environmental preservation, sufficient infrastructure development, openness in decision-making, and financial support for education and skill development. Nigeria may create a more cohesive and sustainable society by prioritizing these topics and encouraging shared responsibility and solidarity among its people.

THE THEORY OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Along with the growing popularity of ecologically sustainable development, environmental responsibility (ER) has garnered much attention (Johan & Reyer, 2019). ER is crucial for helping nations develop ecological policies, corporations lower risks, and improve environmental performance (Cai et al., 2015; Dilla et al., 2019), and society as a whole become more sustainable (Li et al., 2016).

Given the significance of ER, several researchers from other disciplines have dedicated themselves to studying ER during the past few years, giving rise to the interdisciplinarity of the ER area of study. As a result, ER research now incorporates a variety of theories and methodologies from many fields, and fresh study areas are routinely identified. Readers may have trouble identifying current study priorities and research gaps in this topic from a sea of publications if they depend on non-visualization technologies, as knowledge growth is dynamic (Darko et al., 2019).

The responsibility for internalizing environmental externalities within national governments is vital to fulfilling the environmental Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Corporate environmental responsibility (CER) practices will support government action by reducing environmental externalities and assisting in executing national ecological goals. As a result, a framework that outlines the motivations for CER practice and the organizational path that a corporation must follow to achieve environmental sustainability is required. However, they are irrelevant because mixed economies have various institutional settings, and most existing CER frameworks are based on free market principles.

Regarding corporate environmental responsibility, there are two levels of analysis to consider: micro- and macro-perspectives. The macro-perspective relates to environmental and resource economics and ecological economics research. In this context, the argument regarding responsibility is linked to sustainable development (Barbier & Markandya, 2012) and typically involves policy analysis. We shall go into considerable depth on this literature because it is well-established (L  l  , 1991; Pearce and Warford, 1993).

We primarily investigate the microeconomic approach, which focuses on individual actors' responsible conduct. This viewpoint looks at both markets and households. This is the examination of socially responsible investment in the context of environmental responsibility, in which investors evaluate financial assets based on responsibility traits.

Environmental responsibility is a fundamental aspect of modern ethics and governance. According to the principle of environmental responsibility, people, groups, and governments have a moral duty to accept accountability for their deeds and environmental effects.

One of the core principles of the theory of environmental responsibility is anthropocentrism, which recognizes that humans are the primary cause of environmental degradation (Callicott, 1999). This perspective emphasizes that humans are morally obligated to take responsibility for their actions and environmental impact. This principle is supported by interconnectedness, which acknowledges that the natural environment is interconnected and that human actions can have far-reaching ecological consequences (Capra & Luisi, 2014).

Another fundamental principle of the theory of environmental responsibility is the concept of responsibility itself. This principle emphasizes that individuals, organizations, and governments are morally obligated to take responsibility for their actions and environmental impact. This includes reducing ecological harm, mitigating its effects, and promoting sustainable practices (Singer, 2002).

The theory of environmental responsibility also recognizes the importance of justice and equity in environmental decision-making. This principle acknowledges that environmental degradation can disproportionately impact vulnerable populations and that there is

a need for justice and equity in environmental decision-making (Hartman & DesJardins, 2011). This involves making sure that underprivileged populations are not disproportionately impacted by environmental degradation and acknowledging the rights of indigenous peoples to their traditional lands and resources.

The theory of environmental responsibility has significant implications for environmental policy and decision-making. For example, it emphasizes the importance of individual responsibility for reducing environmental harm, including reducing energy consumption, conserving water, and reducing waste. It also emphasizes the significance of corporate social responsibility, which includes limiting ecological damage and implementing sustainable practices.

In addition, the theory of environmental responsibility emphasizes the importance of integrated decision-making that considers the natural environment's interconnectedness and the long-term consequences of human actions. This involves considering how pollution, deforestation, and climate change affect ecosystems and human communities.

Several case studies demonstrate the importance of the theory of environmental responsibility. For example, the scientific consensus on climate change highlights the need for individuals and governments to take responsibility for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The destruction of rainforests highlights the need for individuals and corporations to take responsibility for their role in deforestation and its impact on biodiversity.

The theory of environmental responsibility is a critical concept in understanding our moral obligation to protect the environment. The principles of anthropocentrism, interconnectedness, accountability, and justice provide a framework for understanding our relationship with the natural environment and our responsibilities towards it. We can work towards a more sustainable future by recognizing our individual and corporate responsibilities, prioritizing justice and equity, and promoting sustainable practices.

Like many other developing countries, Nigeria faces numerous challenges in pursuing environmental responsibility and sustainable development. Despite the government's efforts to implement sustainable development strategies, several obstacles hinder the country's progress. Here are some of the challenges associated with environmental responsibility tactics used for sustainable development in Nigeria:

Lack of awareness and education: Many Nigerians lack awareness about the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable development. Education and training programs are needed to raise awareness about environmental issues and promote sustainable practices.

Corruption and mismanagement: Corruption and mismanagement of natural resources have contributed to environmental degradation and unsustainable development in Nigeria. Effective governance and accountability are essential to ensure environmental resources are managed sustainably.

Poverty and inequality: Poverty and inequality are significant obstacles to sustainable development in Nigeria. Many Nigerians struggle to access necessities like clean water, sanitation, and healthcare, making adopting environmentally friendly practices difficult.

Inadequate infrastructure: Nigeria's infrastructure, including transportation, energy, and water supply systems, is inadequate and often unreliable. This hinders the implementation of sustainable development projects and contributes to environmental degradation.

Limited access to funding: Nigeria faces significant funding challenges, which limits its ability to invest in sustainable development projects and address environmental issues.

Climate change: Nigeria is vulnerable to climate change, which has already affected its agriculture, health, and infrastructure. Climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies are essential for sustainable development in Nigeria (Bikomeye, Rublee & Beyer, 2021).

Conflict over land use: Conflicts over land use between different stakeholders (e.g., farmers, herders, indigenous communities) hinder the implementation of sustainable development projects and contribute to environmental degradation.

Lack of enforcement of laws and regulations: Environmental laws and regulations are often not enforced effectively, allowing unsustainable practices to continue.

Dependence on non-renewable resources: Nigeria's economy heavily depends on non-renewable resources like oil, contributing to environmental degradation and unsustainable development.

Inadequate data collection and monitoring: Inadequate data collection and monitoring systems make it challenging to track progress toward sustainable development goals and identify areas for improvement.

Limited capacity for environmental management: Nigeria's environmental management capacity is limited, making it challenging to address environmental issues effectively.

Socio-cultural factors: Socio-cultural factors, such as traditional practices and beliefs, can hinder the adoption of sustainable practices in Nigeria.

Urbanization and migration: Rapid urbanization and migration have pressured urban infrastructure, contributing to environmental degradation and unsustainable development.

Limited engagement with local communities: The government's failure to engage with local communities in decision-making can lead to resistance to sustainable development initiatives.

Inadequate waste management: Inadequate waste management practices in Nigeria contribute to environmental degradation, pollution, and public health concerns.

To overcome these challenges, Nigeria must develop a comprehensive strategy addressing the root causes of environmental degradation and promoting sustainable development. This can involve increasing awareness and education, strengthening governance and accountability, investing in infrastructure and technology, and engaging with local communities in decision-making processes.

THE THEORY OF ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY

The theory of economic efficiency is a fundamental concept in economics that aims to understand how to allocate resources optimally. It is based on the idea that resources are scarce and that individuals and organizations must decide how to use them to maximize their benefits.

One of the core principles of the theory of economic efficiency is the concept of Pareto optimality. Named after Vilfredo Pareto, this principle states that a situation is considered efficient if it is impossible to improve the allocation of resources without making someone worse off (Pareto, 1896). In other words, an efficient allocation maximizes all individuals' total satisfaction or utility.

Another fundamental principle of the theory of economic efficiency is the concept of marginal analysis. This principle states that financial decisions should be based on different alternatives' marginal benefits and costs. In other words, individuals and organizations should consider each option's additional benefits or costs to make informed decisions (Mankiw, 2014).

The theory of economic efficiency also emphasizes the importance of markets and competition in achieving efficient outcomes. According to this theory, competition among firms and individuals drives innovation, leading to better products and services at lower prices. This is because firms are incentivized to produce goods and services that meet the needs of consumers, as this is the most profitable way to operate (Friedman, 1962).

The theory of economic efficiency also has implications for government policy and regulation. For example, governments may use policies such as taxation and subsidies to influence the allocation of resources and promote economic efficiency. However, care must be taken to ensure these policies do not distort the market and lead to inefficient outcomes.

Several case studies demonstrate the importance of the theory of economic efficiency. For example, developing new technologies, such as smartphones and computers, has significantly improved productivity and efficiency. E-commerce has also led to greater competition and lower consumer prices.

The theory of economic efficiency is critical in understanding how to allocate resources optimally. The principles of Pareto optimality, marginal analysis, and market competition provide a framework for understanding how individuals and organizations decide how to use their resources. By applying these principles, governments and businesses can promote economic efficiency and improve overall well-being.

The pursuit of sustainable development in Nigeria is hindered by the challenges posed by economic efficiency tactics, which have been implemented to boost economic growth and development. While these tactics, such as privatization, deregulation, and liberalization, have been designed to increase economic efficiency and productivity, they have also led to various negative consequences that undermine sustainable development. For instance, the privatization of public enterprises has resulted in job losses, reduced access to essential services, and increased inequality. Similarly, the deregulation of key sectors such as energy and telecommunications has led to a lack of effective regulation and oversight, resulting in environmental degradation and social unrest. Furthermore, trade liberalization has exposed the country's vulnerable industries to foreign competition, leading to a decline in domestic manufacturing and a widening trade deficit. These challenges highlight the need for a more nuanced approach to economic development in Nigeria that balances economic efficiency with social and environmental considerations.

Like many other developing nations, Nigeria has problems adopting economic efficiency strategies to achieve long-term growth. Some of the challenges are:

Inadequate Infrastructure: Nigeria's infrastructure, including transportation, energy, and water supply, is inadequate and inefficient, making it difficult to implement sustainable development projects.

Corruption: Corruption is a significant barrier to effectively implementing economic efficiency tactics. It leads to mismanagement of resources, inefficiencies, and a lack of transparency.

Limited Access to Finance: Many Nigerian businesses and individuals lack access to finance, making investing in sustainable development projects difficult.

High Energy Costs: Nigeria's energy costs are high, making it difficult for businesses to operate efficiently and sustainably.

Limited Human Resources: Nigeria faces a shortage of skilled professionals, particularly in engineering, technology, and sustainable development.

Inadequate Data and Information: The availability and quality of data and information on sustainable development indicators, such as environmental impact and social costs, are limited in Nigeria.

Inadequate Institutional Framework: Nigeria's institutional framework for sustainable development is inadequate, with unclear roles and responsibilities among government agencies and other stakeholders.

Lack of Public-Private Partnerships: Public-private partnerships are essential for achieving sustainable development. However, they are often lacking in Nigeria due to a lack of trust and collaboration between government and private sector entities.

Environmental Degradation: Environmental degradation, such as deforestation, soil erosion, and pollution, is a significant challenge in Nigeria, undermining efforts to achieve sustainable development.

Climate Change: Climate change is a significant challenge in Nigeria, impacting agriculture, water resources, and human health.

Limited Government Revenue: Nigeria's government revenue is restricted, making investing in sustainable development projects difficult.

Inefficient Use of Resources: Nigeria's economy is characterized by inefficient use of resources, with a significant amount of resources being wasted due to inefficiencies in production processes and distribution channels.

Limited Private Sector Participation: The private sector is critical to sustainable development. However, its participation is limited in Nigeria due to a lack of trust and collaboration between government and private sector entities.

Inadequate Regulation: Nigeria's regulatory framework for sustainable development is insufficient, with unclear regulations and enforcement mechanisms.

Lack of Public Awareness: Public awareness about the importance of sustainable development is limited in Nigeria, making it difficult to mobilize public support for sustainable development initiatives.

Developing and implementing effective policies and strategies that promote economic efficiency tactics for sustainable development in Nigeria is essential to address these challenges. This includes:

- Improving infrastructure and institutional frameworks
- Promoting public-private partnerships
- Increasing access to finance
- Enhancing human resources and skills development
- Improving data and information management
- Encouraging public awareness and participation
- Implementing efficient resource allocation mechanisms
- Promoting green technologies and renewable energy
- Developing climate-resilient infrastructure
- Improving environmental management and conservation practices

By addressing these challenges and implementing effective policies and strategies, Nigeria can achieve sustainable development and improve the well-being of its citizens.

TRIPPLE BOTTOM LINE (TBL)

The Triple Bottom Line (TBL) is a concept developed by John Elkington in 1994. It suggests that businesses and organizations should measure their success not only in terms of financial performance but also in terms of social and environmental outcomes. The TBL framework is designed to provide a comprehensive approach to measuring sustainability by considering the three bottom lines: economic, social, and environmental.

Table 2: The Three Bottom Lines

Economic Bottom Line	* Measures the financial performance of a business, including profits, revenue, and return on investment.
	* Focuses on creating value for shareholders and stakeholders.
	* Examples of economic metrics include: + Gross Domestic Product (GDP) + Net Profit Margin + Return on Investment (ROI)
Social Bottom Line	* Measures the impact of a business on society, including employee well-being, community engagement, and stakeholder relationships.
	* Focuses on creating value for employees, customers, and the broader community.
	* Examples of social metrics include: + Employee satisfaction and engagement + Customer satisfaction and loyalty + Community development and philanthropy
Environmental Bottom Line	* Measures the impact of a business on the natural environment, including climate change, pollution, and resource depletion.
	* Focuses on reducing the environmental footprint of a business and promoting sustainable development.
	* Examples of environmental metrics include: + Carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions + Waste reduction and recycling + Water conservation and efficiency

The following equation often represents the TBL framework:

$$\text{Profit} + \text{People} + \text{Planet} = \text{Profit}$$

This equation suggests that businesses can achieve financial success by prioritizing the well-being of people and the planet. By doing so, companies can create long-term value for their stakeholders and contribute to sustainable development.

The TBL framework has been widely adopted by businesses and organizations worldwide and is considered a vital tool for measuring sustainability and achieving long-term success.

Here are some key benefits of the TBL framework:

1. **Holistic Approach:** The TBL framework provides a comprehensive approach to measuring sustainability by considering economic, social, and environmental outcomes.
 2. **Stakeholder Engagement:** The TBL framework encourages stakeholder engagement and participation in decision-making processes.
 3. **Improved Decision-Making:** The TBL framework provides a framework for making informed decisions that balance economic, social, and environmental considerations.
 4. **Enhanced Reputation:** Businesses prioritizing the TBL will likely improve their reputation among stakeholders.
- The TBL framework is valuable for businesses and organizations seeking sustainable development and long-term success.

The Triple Bottom Line (TBL) approach, also known as the 3Ps (People, Planet, Profit), can help Nigeria achieve sustainable development by adopting a holistic approach that considers development's economic, social, and environmental aspects. Here are some ways the TBL approach can contribute to sustainable development in Nigeria:

People (Social):

1. **Social equity:** The TBL approach prioritizes social equity, ensuring all Nigerians have access to essential services, education, and healthcare, thereby reducing poverty and inequality.
2. **Community engagement:** The approach encourages community participation and engagement in decision-making, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility.
3. **Human capital development:** By investing in education, training, and skills development, Nigeria can build a competitive workforce that drives economic growth and innovation.

Planet (Environmental):

1. **Environmental protection:** The TBL approach emphasizes the need to protect and conserve Nigeria's natural resources, including forests, water bodies, and wildlife.
2. **Sustainable infrastructure:** The approach promotes the development of sustainable infrastructure, such as renewable energy sources, green buildings, and eco-friendly transportation systems.
3. **Climate change mitigation:** Nigeria can contribute to global efforts to mitigate climate change by adopting climate-resilient practices and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Profit (Economic):

1. **Economic growth:** The TBL approach prioritizes economic growth and development sustainably and equitably.
2. **Innovation:** The approach encourages innovation and entrepreneurship, driving economic growth and job creation.
3. **Responsible business practices:** Nigerian businesses can adopt accountable business practices prioritizing social and environmental sustainability and financial profitability.

The government can use the following strategies to promote sustainable development in Nigeria utilizing the TBL approach:

- Develop a national policy framework integrating the TBL approach into economic planning and development.
- Encourage businesses to adopt TBL principles by providing incentives and support for sustainable practices.
- Invest in education and training programs that promote sustainable development skills.
- Establish institutions and mechanisms to monitor and evaluate progress towards sustainable development goals.
- To drive sustainable development initiatives and foster partnerships between government, civil society, and private sector organizations.

By adopting the TBL approach, Nigeria can achieve sustainable development that balances economic growth with social equity and environmental protection.

The Triple Bottom Line is a valuable framework for measuring sustainability by considering economic, social, and environmental outcomes. By aligning the TBL, measuring progress, reporting results, and addressing challenges, businesses can prioritize sustainability and achieve long-term success.

The Triple Bottom Line (TBL) concept has gained significant attention recently, particularly in sustainable development. The TBL approach suggests that businesses and organizations should measure their success regarding economic profits and social and environmental outcomes (Ikre, 2024). This essay will explore the concept of the TBL and its relevance to Nigeria's sustainable development.

The TBL approach was first introduced by John Elkington in 1994, who proposed that businesses should consider three bottom lines: economic, social, and environmental. The economic bottom line refers to a company's financial performance, such as profits and revenue. The social bottom line refers to the impact of a business on society, including issues such as employee well-being, community engagement, and stakeholder relationships. The environmental bottom line relates to the effects of a company on the natural environment, including issues such as pollution, conservation, and climate change.

In Nigeria, the TBL approach has gained traction recently, particularly among businesses and organizations committed to sustainable development. The Nigerian government has also recognized the importance of the TBL approach in achieving sustainable development and has incorporated it into its national development plans.

One of the key benefits of the TBL approach is that it provides a framework for businesses and organizations to measure their success holistically. Businesses can better understand their impact on society and the environment by considering economic, social, and environmental outcomes. This can help to identify areas where improvements can be made and to prioritize initiatives that are likely to have a positive effect.

In Nigeria, the TBL approach has been applied in several ways. For example, many businesses are now prioritizing sustainable agriculture practices, which can help to reduce deforestation and promote biodiversity. Others are investing in renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, which can help to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and mitigate climate change.

The TBL approach has also been applied in the context of public policy. For example, the Nigerian government has established several initiatives to promote sustainable development, including the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Social Policy Act. These initiatives promote sustainable development by addressing poverty reduction, education, and healthcare.

In conclusion, the TBL approach is valuable for achieving sustainable development in Nigeria. Businesses and organizations can better understand their impact on society and the environment by considering economic, social, and environmental outcomes. The TBL approach has been applied in many ways in Nigeria, including sustainable agriculture practices and renewable energy sources. It is an essential framework for promoting sustainable development and achieving a more sustainable future for Nigeria.

CONCLUSION

Sustainable development is a broad and intricate notion that includes social, economic, environmental, and cultural aspects. The significance of sustainable development in tackling the obstacles presented by the COVID-19 pandemic has been brought to light. To achieve sustainable development in Nigeria, it is imperative that the notion of social solidarity—which emphasizes the value of interpersonal relationships and collaboration—be adopted. The nation has several obstacles in its existing economic and sustainability reality, such as inequality, poverty, and environmental deterioration.

The facets of sustainable development, such as economic efficiency, environmental responsibility, and social solidarity, are interrelated and mutually reliant. A balanced strategy that prioritizes these aspects is necessary to achieve sustainable growth. In Nigeria, social cohesiveness and community bonding are critical to developing a cohesive society, making the idea of social solidarity especially significant there.

RECOMMENDATION

In light of the current economic and sustainable realities in Nigeria, we recommend the following:

1. Prioritize the development of social solidarity through initiatives that promote community bonding, social cohesion, and human connection.
2. Implement policies that promote environmental responsibility and sustainability, such as reducing carbon emissions and conserving natural resources.
3. Foster economic efficiency through initiatives that promote entrepreneurship, innovation, and job creation.
4. Develop a comprehensive national development plan that integrates the three dimensions of sustainable development.

5. Encourage public-private partnerships and international cooperation to leverage resources and expertise in achieving sustainable development.
6. Strengthen institutional frameworks and governance structures to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of sustainable development initiatives.
7. Promote education and awareness-raising campaigns to inform citizens about the importance of sustainable development and their role in achieving it.

By adopting these recommendations, Nigeria can take a significant step towards achieving sustainable development and addressing the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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