

Advancing Lifelong Learning for Workforce Development in Nigeria: Addressing Skills Gaps and Technological Disruptions in the Digital Era

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Abstract: *It is a still relevant open question if and how sustainability fits into the sociological understanding. This paper aims to make a contribution to the understanding how sustainable development can be maintain through the lens of sociological understanding. As we further move towards development, we see economic, political and cultural disparities creating wide gap in cooperation among social institution. The first part of the paper delves into understanding sociological theories in context of sustainable development. Second part deals with how community collective efforts can maintain sustainable development. This paper discusses how sociological theories and social institution determine sustainable development. Further, argues that through community engagement disparities can be reduces taking sociological lens into consideration.*

Keywords: *Social Institution, sustainable development, unsustainability, societal paradigm, equilibrium shift and stifles democracy undermine democracy*

Introduction

The concept of sustainability is rooted in the fundamental principle of ensuring that present actions do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development means that present needs should be fulfilled without reducing the resources and opportunities that subsequent generations will have as stipulated in the Brundtland Report. Such a spirit indicates a radical change of values and priorities in society, and it is a paradigmatic change that can be compared in the scale to the industrial revolution. In fact, sustainable development

is not only a practical requirement but a conceptual development that also speaks with the sociological approach to society and its contact with the environment.

The growing discussion and practice of sustainable development is an indicator of the new paradigm in the society, a paradigm that can transform the social, economic and cultural conditions at the global level. Sociologically, a look at the way in which the social structures, interactions, and dynamics are influenced in creating a sustainable development is a subject that

needs an analysis of how sustainability goals are pursued and achieved. The relationship between society and environment is intricate and could be interpreted through the prism of social structures which are defined by the sociological theory. The importance of economic, political and cultural systems in defining sustainability practices and outcomes can be highlighted with the concepts of social institutions. In conclusion, the sociological approaches can offer invaluable input into the social aspects of sustainability which are difficult to understand. These views can provide an understanding of the complexities surrounding sustainability in an increasingly globalized world by clarifying how societal structures, forces and relationships can be used to understand and solve the challenges of sustainability.

Objectives

1. To examine how sociological theories influence sustainable development practices.
2. To comprehend how sustainable development initiatives affect communities.

Research Question

1. How does sustainable development intersect with sociological theories and frameworks?
2. What are the social dynamics and implications of sustainable development initiatives within communities?

Literature Review

1. Christian Fuchs (2017)- “Critical Social Theory and Sustainable Development: The Role of class, Capitalism and Domination in a Dialectical Analysis of Un/Sustainability”

This paper delves into how critical theory of society is still relevant from sustainable development perspective. Here, linkages between capitalism, class and sustainability have been established. Further elaborating he mentions that inequality in terms of resources is itself a type of unsustainable growth whether it is in terms of wealth, income or power and this unsustainability is class structured and affects those with least power in society most drastically. He also insists on the fact that the income of parents is directly proportional to the education of children.

The source used in this paper is the ND-GAIN Vulnerability Index that measures the vulnerability of a particular country to climate change and the resultant effects on livelihoods, food security, health and fresh water. The meeting point between wage and profit difference, education level and climate change highlights the importance of considering class as the key factor in determining unsustainable growth. The Gross Domestic Product, which incorporates labor and capital into one composite factor, does not necessarily guarantee that the economy is socioeconomically equal, since over the years, there has been a rising trend where the growth of profits exceeds the growth of labor income, a feature of neoliberal capitalism ever since the 1970s. The famous personalities of the critical theory are Theodor W. Adorno, Max Horkheimer, Herbert Marcuse, Juergen Habermas, and Axel Honneth.

This paper explores the relevance of critical theory in sustainable development, highlighting the link between capitalism, social class, and sustainability. It claims that unsustainable growth depends on the inequalities of the resources provoked by the dynamics of classes. As the paper has indicated, there is a need to deal with socio-

economic disparities, which is demonstrated by climate vulnerability indices and income-education relationships. In its criticism of the failure of GDP as a marker of progress, it highlights the long-term consequences of neoliberal capitalism regarding inequality in society. An approach to understanding and addressing these systemic problems, which includes Adorno, Horkheimer, Marcuse, Habermas and Honneth among the representatives of critical theory, suggests the idea of the necessity of socio-economic equity in order to achieve sustainable development.

2. Tom R Burns (2012). “Sustainable Development: Sociological Perspective”

The paper will be segmented into three sections. The first section presents the summary of the previous sociological studies done before the introduction of modern concept of sustainable development. Part two is an explanation of the contextual frame and the processes which have led to the emergence of sustainable development. In this part, the paper shows that environmental studies can be viewed as the analysis of interaction between the community and the physical world. It also contends that modernization, in all its contemporary forms and regardless of the mechanisms through which it has

been achieved, is more likely to make human life on this planet more unsustainable. One of the major issues discussed is the discovery of potential modernization forms that can be sustainable and how they can be achieved.

Part three assesses how various sociological theories have reacted to issues of sustainable development with attention to four key systemic frameworks; World System Theory, the Neo Marxist treadmill of production theory, and the modern system theory, which have addressed the issue of development and, finally, the issue of sustainability. This speculative discussion demonstrates how these theoretical views can trigger the change in the social paradigm, which might be the reflection of the alterative impact of industrial revolution on the economic, social, and cultural statuses.

The World System Theory argues that large scale ecological developments that take place in the context of core nations is done at the cost of semi-periphery and periphery nations, thus continuing to contribute to unequal development. This imbalance is preserved until the end of the world capitalism. The political system which supports and maintains this order is mighty. However, as WST cites, globally, the

system is unsustainable in long-term ecologically.

3. James Bushell, Carla Peterman and Catherine Wolfram. 2008. “Local Solutions to Global Problems: Climate Change Policies and Regulatory Jurisdiction”

The authors in the current article explore the argument that local projects are mostly nominal unless they produce changes outside their own jurisdictions. To that effect, it will be helpful to review those policies, which are most likely to generate more far-reaching effects either by inspiring the proliferation of effective greenhouse-gas (GHG) regulations to other jurisdictions or by directly influencing the range of technologies that may be used in mitigating emissions. The authors state that the overall relevance of the regulatory and technology lessons that are produced is urgently required to be evaluated. Considering everything mentioned in this paper, the experience in local laws does not seem to have a significant impact on this effectiveness on a bigger level.

The article gives an example of the case of cap-and-trade of the electricity industry in California that was easily sabotaged by regulatory reshuffling and leakage, the

authors suggest that the complications do not become much of an issue at the nation level, as electricity is not a globally traded commodity. Nevertheless, given the current political trends, a weak California policy can lower the chances of a federal cap-and-trade system adoption, even though the hurdles faced in California have minimal chances to be replicated in policies of a larger scale. However, in the event that local policies will serve as de facto pilot projects in various technologies, their results, whether successful or otherwise, might form vital preliminary solutions to the global implementation of effective low-carbon technologies.

Methodology This paper is based on desktop research. Online databases, academic journals, books, reports, and

reputable websites are utilized to gather relevant literature on sustainable development and sociological theories. Theoretical analyses related to are used for searches using, followed by critical review and analysis of collected literature is used identify key theoretical frameworks, concepts, debates, and empirical studies pertinent to the research questions and objectives.

Sampling Technique:

Purposeful sampling is used, selecting literature offering diverse perspectives on the intersection of sustainable development with sociological theories. This includes seminal works and recent contributions that provide in-depth insights into theoretical perspectives and empirical studies.

Understanding Sociological Theories in the context of Sustainable development

Sociological Theory	Connection with Sustainable Development	Examples	Key thinkers
Functionalist	Emphasizes the importance of social institutions in maintaining societal stability and equilibrium. Sustainable development aligns with the function of institutions to ensure long-term societal wellbeing.	Example: Sustainable development policies that promote economic growth and stability to maintain social order.	Emile Durkheim, Talcott Parson

Conflict	Highlights power struggles and inequalities within society. Sustainable development initiatives promoting power imbalances and social injustice and inequity.	Example: Change in climate leading to migration of people and making them marginalized section of society. Developed country can pool their funds in sustainability projects unlikely poor/developing countries.	Karl Marx, Max Weber
Symbolic Interactionist	Focuses on how individuals construct meanings through social interactions. Sustainable development involves interpreting and negotiating meanings related to environmental issues and societal well-being.	Example: Public engagement campaigns that aim to change attitudes and behaviours towards sustainable practices.	George Herbert Mead, Herbert Blumer
Dependency theory	Views development as a process that perpetuates global inequality, with core nations exploiting peripheral nations for resources and labour. Sustainable development efforts may be hindered by unequal power dynamics and dependency relationships. Focuses on addressing structural inequalities and promoting economic self-sufficiency in peripheral nations.	Example: Sustainable development projects in developing countries that prioritize local resource ownership and community empowerment, aiming to reduce dependency on external aid and investment.	Andre Gunder Frank, Fernando Henrique Cardoso

Table 1: Showing sociological theory connecting with sustainable practices.

1. Functionalist Perspective

Functionalist theory emphasizes the role of social institutions in maintaining societal stability and equilibrium. In fact, it is realized that institutions restrict as well as facilitate the behaviour of individuals by establishing a constellation of rules, norms,

practices and incentive. In this regard, the institutions have a conservatively essential nature. In line with this, the institutional theory has been inclined to stress continuity and not rupture, and agency to structural determinants. In the context of sustainable development, societal institutions such as the economy, government, and education system play crucial roles in promoting sustainability. In order to bring sustainability, they need prior change in

theory of functioning and implementation of certain norms and values. For example, economic institutions in order to facilitate the transition to a green economy require to change to mode of producing energy to more carbon free emission, for this they need to adapt new technology, hire specified manpower with skills to implement, while government policies regulate environmental practices to ensure sustainability through various measures like introduction of new taxable commodities. Jeffrey Alexander argued that change is inevitable, but change disrupts the society for the time being, equilibrium shifts but it does maintain social order and cohesion after a time normalising the change¹.

2. Conflict perspective

The conflict theory focuses on power and the inequalities within the system. In the context of sustainable development, it has been argued by scholars holding this view that the power relations dominate the process of environmental policymaking, determine the distribution of resources, and the chances of accessing opportunities.

They argue that sustainable development initiatives must address underlying power imbalances to achieve meaningful progress. For example, conflict theorists' critique environmental policies that disproportionately harm marginalized communities or perpetuate environmental injustices. Environmental justice scholars believe that the weaker groups of people in the society bear a large proportion of the environmental costs regularly but lack resources or power to make any significant changes in the environment in which they live². Marx himself has an idea about sustainability which has been mentioned famously in Brundtland report "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"³

"From the standpoint of a higher economic form of society, private ownership of the globe by single individuals will appear quite as absurd as private ownership of one man by another. Even a whole society, a nation, or even all simultaneously existing societies taken together, are not the owners of the

1 (Jude C. Okafor; BL Ernest Tooichi Aniche, 2017)

2 (Paul Mohai, David Pellow, and J. Timmons Roberts, 2009) ⁶

(Jarvie, 1987)

3 (Fuchs, 2017)

globe. They are only its possessors, its usufructuaries, and, like boni patres familias, they must hand it down to succeeding generations in an improved condition” (Marx 1894, 784)

The idea of a better state of society in the Marxist theory is closely connected with the idea of participatory democracy and socialism. Considering that Marx together with other great critical theorists is known as a pioneer of sustainability, development of a sound critical theory of sustainability is therefore not only conceivable, but a logical execution of his thought. Critical theory perspective delves into major question about different dimensions in maintaining sustainability⁶

Economic institution involves organizing economic relations to facilitate wealth production for all and ensure fair wealth distribution. This entails equitable access to resources and opportunities. Economic unsustainability is evidenced by poverty, inequality, and economic crises, such as recessions and financial collapses. Addressing these issues requires policies that promote inclusive growth, reduce poverty, and address systemic inequalities through measures like social safety nets and investment in education and healthcare.

1. Political institution ensures meaningful participation in decision-making, peaceful coexistence, and protection of basic rights. Unsustainability, exemplified by dictatorship and war, stifles democracy and breeds’ conflict.

2. Cultural institution supports human development, identity recognition, and societal cohesion. Cultural unsustainability, marked by disrespect and misrecognition, fuels social divisions and undermines well-being.

The conflict theorists give analytical constructs on understanding the social aspects of sustainability. Indicatively, the social institutions can be used as an example to highlight how economic, political, and cultural systems contribute to the development of unsustainable practices, which can be solved by collective consciousness supporting environmental sustainability and principled management of natural resources. This management is to save resources to the future generation, and to balance the ecological environment, avoid pollution, preserve the biodiversity and control the climate change through

collective efforts. There is a need to divide environmental benefits and harms fairly because in most instances, the marginalized communities suffer higher proportions of pollution and degradation. Unsustainability on the environment occurs when people exceed the productive power of the ecological system, and the consequence of such activities is the loss in biodiversity, destruction of habitats, and accelerated global warming. To handle such challenges, pollution reduction, conservation of resources, and sustainable practices would be required.

3. Symbolic Interactionism

Symbolic interactionist theory examines how individuals construct meanings through social interactions. In the context of sustainable development, symbolic interactionists study how people perceive and interpret environmental issues, sustainability practices, and their roles as stewards of the environment. They explore how social norms, values, and symbols shape attitudes and behaviours related to sustainability. For example, the role of environmental education programs in shaping individuals' environmental

consciousness and actions, while individual beliefs and practices, their habits maintain sustainability, for instance- in religion like Jainism and Buddhism puts their prime focus on preservation of environment and nature, which can be seen through their practices in food habits and lifestyle⁴.

Talks about the significance of communication, education and social influence in advancing sustainable behaviours. The everyday life activities are also central in the new forms of sustainability movements that are about the changes of interactions and group living as a way to disrupt unsustainable norms and habits in everyday living. Most of the issues of sustainability are relevant to social relationships (and therefore networks) that demand, in such situations, transfers of knowledge, collaboration in the management of common resources, and policy formulation is intended to have an effect on behaviour⁵.

4. Dependency theory

Dependency theory posits that global inequality is perpetuated by unequal power dynamics between core and peripheral

4 (Mebratu, 1998)

5 (Adam Douglass Henry and Bjorn Volla, 2014)

nations. In sustainable development, it raises concerns about dependency relationships hindering efforts in peripheral nations. Strategies advocated include promoting economic self-sufficiency and local empowerment to reduce reliance on external aid and investment. Moreover, dependency relationships can exacerbate environmental degradation and social inequalities in peripheral nations. Core nations exploiting natural resources in peripheral regions, encourage towards environmental and social degradation through loss of biodiversity and social dislocation. For example- Shoe industry hire or employ workers from south Asia and Latin America and provide commodities (human labour) to the globe to promote luxury by exploiting environment. Dependency of Bangladesh for growth and employment, finding means of employment make the periphery country dependent on core country to fulfil their needs. As we read in 'Theory of Needs' the first instinct for survival is food, shelter and clothes (basic needs), second comes security and safety, third esteem needs, and fourth self-actualization needs. Due to underdevelopment periphery countries, first require to fulfil their physiological needs. This undermines efforts towards

sustainability by perpetuating patterns of environmental exploitation and social injustice.

To address these challenges, dependency theory advocates for strategies that promote economic self-sufficiency, autonomy, and equitable development in peripheral nations. Sustainable development prioritizing efforts towards empowering local communities, promoting sustainable resource management, and challenging the unequal distribution of resources and wealth within the global economy. By reducing dependency on external actors and promoting self-determination, peripheral nations can pursue development trajectories that are more sustainable, equitable, and resilient in the long term.

Dependency theory highlights the structural inequalities and power dynamics that shape sustainable development efforts, emphasizing the importance of addressing dependency relationships and promoting self-sufficiency and empowerment in peripheral nations to achieve truly sustainable outcomes.

5. World system theory

Immanuel Wallerstein developed what are now known as world-systems theory, a

theory that in turn attempts to conceptualize the global economy as a stratified hierarchy of core, semi-peripheral and peripheral regions, with specific economic roles to fulfil. Core countries are usually the industrialized states in the west, and they have a dominant control on the means of production and thus they control the world economic activities. In contrast, peripheral countries, which are mostly located in the Global South, are mostly as a source of raw materials and labour, usually at low wages, with little technological capacity. The semi-peripheral states take an intermediate status, as they are also transitional areas between the dominance of the core and the peripheral exploitation. The Wallerstein theory highlights the enduring inequality in the distribution of resources and wealth by establishing the origin of the imbalance in the historical experience of colonial exploitation and the imperialist growth, which have solidified and maintained the unequal world-system. It also examines the role of capitalism, globalization, and geopolitical dynamics in perpetuating and transforming the world-system over time.

World-systems theory relates to sustainable development by providing a framework for understanding the global economic and political dynamics that influence

sustainability outcomes. According to world-systems theory, the world is divided into core, semi-peripheral, and peripheral regions, each playing distinct roles in the global economy.

In the context of sustainable development, world-systems theory highlights the unequal distribution of resources and wealth within the global economy as a fundamental barrier to achieving sustainability. Core nations often extract resources from peripheral regions to fuel their own economic growth, leading to environmental degradation, social exploitation, and economic disparities. Moreover, global economic structures and policies shaped by core nations may prioritize short-term profits over long-term environmental sustainability and social well-being.

To address these challenges, consider the structural inequalities inherent in the world-system and challenge the dominance of core nations. This involves promotion of fair-trade practices that empower producers in peripheral nations, supporting local industries and economies, and advocating for policies that prioritize environmental conservation and social equity. By promoting more equitable and sustainable development trajectories, world-systems

theory informs strategies that address the root causes of global inequalities and environmental degradation.

Sustainable development initiatives affecting communities

As Joseph Stiglitz, Amartya Sen and Jean-Paul Fitoussi (2010) argue that the GDP is of limited use for measuring social progress and that it is an inadequate metric to gauge well-being over time. In order to maintain sustainability, cooperation is the key within communities for the usage of natural resources and implementing efforts in order to further sustainable development.

Functionalist theorize that society works upon cooperation and dependency it maintains its functioning through social control and socialization and these measures can be undertaken by communities to promote actions towards sustainable development. Through teaching practices and promoting knowledge about sustainability and undertaking measures of social control if one did not adhere to the practices.

Conflict theorist argue that how in order to provide better standards of living to the mankind costs the proletariat class affecting their lives and alienating them from the

production of resources, thus to generate profits environmental injustice is perpetuated.

Interactionism theorizes that people habits, behaviour can influence the action of other individuals which can shape their habits and behaviour through community engagement and interaction.

Dependency theorist argue that dependency of core nations to periphery for labour and raw material and in turn dependency of periphery nation upon core nations for investment and technology transfer has made them dependent to maintain sustainability too. Here, if communities engage themselves to find means and way to maintain sustainability with development through traditional knowledge and finding new ways to share the resources between themselves so that everybody needs must be fulfilled then this trap of dependency can be somehow monitor and nature vulnerability can be kept in check with development.

World system theorist argue that unequal distribution of resources and wealth within the global economy making them undermine the measure to take step towards sustainable development as core nation have the resources to spend funds and make investment to achieve long term goals for

sustainable development but periphery countries require immediate access to resources in order to fulfil their basic needs whereas semi peripheral countries serve as an intermediate between both the nations and simultaneously stepping towards finding means of development and sustainable development. Here communities working towards common goal. Social structures, inequality and disparities defined by Sociological theories provide valuable insights into the complex interplay between society and the

environment, offering frameworks for understanding the social dimensions of sustainability. For instance, concepts like social institutions highlight the role of economic, political, and cultural systems which are part of society as their subsystem⁶. Importance of social institutions running through collective effort i.e. community enhancing development through sustainable methods.

Social Institution	Influence on Sustainable Practices	Example
Economic system	Resource Allocation and Investment	Transitioning from fossil fuel-based economy to a renewable energy economy, driven by investments in solar and wind power.
	Consumption Patterns and Production	Shifting towards circular economy models that prioritize waste reduction,
		recycling, and reuse, thereby reducing environmental impact.

6 (Fuchs, 2017)

Political system	Policy development and Regulation	Implementing carbon pricing mechanisms or emissions trading schemes to incentivize businesses to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
	Funding and subsidies	Providing government subsidies or tax incentives for renewable energy projects, encouraging investment in sustainable infrastructure.
Cultural system	Values and Behavioural norms	Promoting cultural values of environmental stewardship and sustainable living, encouraging individuals to adopt practices such as composting, gardening, and conservation.
	Education and awareness	Integrating sustainability education into school curricula and public awareness campaigns to inform and engage citizens in sustainable practices.

Table 2: Showing social institution influence sustainable practices

Discussion

Structural theories of society such as functionalism and conflict, emphasis upon the importance of society in shaping human behaviour. On the other hand, interactionism emphasises the importance of human behaviour in shaping society.

Whereas Dependency and WST theory emphasis upon structural inequality, shaping the social structure and human behaviour in the global analysis. The measures undertaken for furthering sustainable development is undermine through growing inequality and by not paying sufficient attention towards social institution and human behaviour as with technology and scientific advancement, role

of social institution is equally essential which needs to be taken into consideration. Further, this paper points out the importance of communities' engagement and collective consciousness. With these efforts, resources can be utilized in such manner where it can be utilized by the upcoming generations.

This paper delves into that how various sociological perspective look into practices of sustainable development where human behaviour and social institution play a major role for its effectiveness. Here questions arise how sociological theories and social institutions can determine and sustain sustainable development.

Functionalist theory emphasizes the role of social institutions in maintaining societal stability and equilibrium. Social Institution such as Economic system (Capital, wealth, labour force, savings and infrastructure) Political system (regulatory agencies, green subsidies, environmental laws) and Cultural system (cultural identity, social norms, language, rituals) working together maintain social cohesion and social order which is ensured when resources are distributed in a manner where everyone gets fair share from a whole pie. With functionalist perspective, social institutions contributing to the maintenance of social

order and stability, which are essential for sustainable development. Social Institution by fulfilling their respective functions, such as resource allocation, governance, and socialization, social institutions help in creating the conditions necessary for sustainable practices to thrive. For example, economic institutions can promote sustainable investment and innovation, political institutions can enact and enforce environmental policies, and cultural institutions can foster a sense of environmental responsibility and community engagement.

Conflict theorist highlighting conflict of interest between dominant groups seeking to maintain control over resources and marginalized communities striving for environmental justice and equity. Conflict theorist suggest that when there is unequal access to resources and growth, despite increase in GDP, socialism model should follow which concerns with conditions at the bottom. Theorist argue that social institution perpetuating inequality among members of society through alienation. These social institutions collectively work together for depleting resources and generating gains from the masses. This exploitative system can be dethroned through collective consciousness and

making the communities aware about their deprivation and importance of the nature for existence of their future generations.

Symbolic interactionist theory examines how individuals construct meanings through social interactions whether linguistic or non-linguistic. It emphasizes the importance of shared symbols, meanings, and interpretations in shaping behaviours and attitudes towards sustainability. Through dialogue interaction- economic institutions determine resource allocation and investment priorities, political institutions establish regulations and policies, and

cultural institutions promote environmental awareness and participation in sustainable practices. Through meaningful interaction which can be enhanced by social institution (you meet people and interact with them, share your ideas and views) and construct meanings which can aim for the common goal of sustainable development. For example, individuals may develop environmental attitudes and behaviours through social interactions, learning from peers, family members, and cultural influences.

Dependency theorist posits that global inequality is perpetuated by unequal power

dynamics between core and peripheral nations. Social institution through dialogue, creation of funds, ideology for 'leaving no one behind' can create cooperation promoting welfare for all through sustainable practices. Periphery countries and core countries have unequal access to resources and unequal access to rate of development perpetuating inequality. By addressing unequal power dynamics and advocating for fair trade, resource management, and technology transfer, dependency theorists aim to create conditions conducive to sustainable development. World system theorist argue global economy is organized into a hierarchy of core, semi peripheral, and peripheral regions, each playing distinct roles in the global 'division of labour'. Economic institutions can incentivize sustainable investment and innovation, political institutions can enact and enforce environmental regulations, and cultural institutions can foster a sense of environmental responsibility and community collective effort. WST helps identify barriers in furthering sustainable development, such as exploitation of resources in peripheral countries by core nations. WST advocating for fair economic relations and cooperation among nations to

foster global stability and reduce disparities, thus supporting long-term sustainability.

CONCLUSION

Within interdisciplinary approach, it is becoming clear that local, community-based solutions are promising avenues to dealing with global problems in the system like climate change, unfair economic and social development. We can successfully address the issues of a complex nature at the grassroots level by enabling communities to design and execute specific measures within their own towns or villages. This focus on locally based solutions and collaboration is the primary basis of developing sustainable growth and resiliency in response to the urgent global challenges. Through the various sociological approaches we can have invaluable information on the determinants and sustainability of such initiatives by the community. The functionalist theory highlights the importance of social institutions as far as ensuring social order and stability, which is vital to sustainable development, is concerned. The economic, political and cultural establishments are crucial in the distribution of resources, leadership as well as promoting environmental accountability. Conflict theory puts forward power

struggles and power inequalities in society that are an impediment to the efforts of sustainable development, and there is a need to correct the power imbalance in order to achieve environmental justice and equity. Symbolic interactionism emphasizes the social interactions and common meanings towards the formation of behaviours and attitudes towards sustainability whereas dependency theory is aimed at dealing with global inequality in a cooperative way. The world-systems theory sheds light on the role of the world economic hegemony in sustainable development and promotes equal economic relations and collaboration between countries.

Combining the lessons of these sociological viewpoints with focusing on equity, justice, and collaboration, the societies could pursue more resilient and sustainable futures and ensure the successful future of every member of them. Social institutions are relevant and impact the idea of sustainable practices because collective action and the societal norms are important factors in determining the outcomes of sustainable development. Finally, sustainable development presupposes mutual cooperation and joint efforts of individuals, communities, and social institutions with the help of

interdisciplinary approaches that acknowledge the prospects of local solutions to global issues.

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