

Book review

'THE PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABILITY' BY SIMON DRENSER

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19021214N1BRBS

Article History:

Submitted on 12 Feb 2019

Accepted on 01 Mar 2019

Published online on 04 Mar 2019

Book details:Title The Principles of Sustainability (2nd Edition)

Author Simon Dresner

Publisher Routledge

Year 2012

ISBN 9781136552373

Length 224 pages

The book on 'The Principles of Sustainability' written by Simon Dresner contains valuable information, concepts, and logical interpretation for the students, researchers, academics, working on environmental issues. Basically, the author has represented research works collected during his Ph. D. research. After Industrial Revolution, the world has experienced a drastic change in economic development causing noticeable change in earth's landscape. All these changes have created negative impacts on physical environment at a large scale opening severe environmental issues to be addressed by environment conscious human beings. And researches on environmental issues ultimately lead to the concern for sustainability.

The author has presented his work in his book in three broad chapters. In *chapter 1*, history of economic development especially after Industrial Revolution as well as exploitation of natural resources injudiciously have been dealt. In this context, the author has referred to the concept of Liberalism viewed by Adam Smith and Locke as well as the concept of T.R. Malthus on Population Growth, counter arguments of William Godwin's and Karl Marx. In second & third section of this Chapter, the author has analysed the

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evolution of the environmental consciousness started by John Muir as early as in 1864. In this context, author has referred to the concept of Conservationism of G. Pinchot, Land Ethic of Aldo Leopold which are essentially based on anthropocentrism and unable to address the ecological problems. The incidence of Silent Spring of Rachel Carson, Spaceship Earth of Barbara Ward have been cited to argue the environmental problems arisen out of unchecked population growth referred as Population Bomb by Paul Ehrlich and Costs of Economic Growth, Limits to Growth by MIT team of scientists. Ultimately, the concept of sustainability and sustainable development emerged from the UN Conference on the Human Environment-Stockholm, 1972. The author has differentiated between Sustainability and Sustainable Development with references judiciously. He has rightly dealt the arguments on necessity of paying attention to climate change. In this context, he has analysed the role Kyoto Protocol, IPCC, Business Council of Sustainable Development in terms of GATT, WTO and skeptic acceptance to the environmentalists.

In the second part, the author has dealt the meaning of sustainability in section 5, application of the sustainability concept in to economics in section 6, Pricing System for environmental Services on Earth in section 7, the Ethics of Sustainability in section 8. In defining sustainability, he has referred to very strong sustainability, moderate sustainability and weak sustainability. The author has very successfully justify the concept of sustainability from various angles with references to Environmental Space of Hans Opschoor, Natural Capital of Andrew Steer and John Pezzey's concept in respect to differences between sustainability and survivability. In course of argumentative discussion, the necessity of Ecotaxation, Ecological Tax Reform and Putting it in to practice have cropped up. In justifying relationship between ETR and Environmental Space, the ideology of Western Capitalism, Soviet State Socialism and Greens have been taken in to consideration. For estimation of cost of environmental goods and services, Contingent Valuation method wins over the modified cost-benefit analysis proposed by environmental economists. At the end of all analysis on sustainability, the author has put forward the Ethics of Sustainability. The author has judged the ethics of sustainability in terms of concept of utilitarianism, equity between generation, gene pool for future generation, liberalism and sustainability, and socialism and sustainability.

In the third part, the author has attempted to draw logical conclusion about the future of sustainability with reference to failure of socialism in USSR, the end of progress with Noggard's acceptance of the idea of recognition of sustainability as well as the faulty progress of human society, globalism or localism, sustainability and limits to control, and the road to sustainability. According to author's analysis, the successfulness of sustainability is rooted to putting control on human society for protection of nature.

The author has developed the concept and principles of sustainability scientifically under different economic concept and economic processes as well as different social processes very judiciously. But proper emphasis on human ecology could give the venture a different dimension of completeness.