

Effective Management of Reconciliation and Sustainable Development Targeting National Security

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The country engages in various development work such as various road and constructions. They are important for sustainable development but I think the strategic aspect, an inclusive strategy that brings various stakeholders together and stakeholder participation and these two concepts are very important in determining whether we can really reach sustainable development and as a management person, I would consider both efficient and effective management of resources as a precondition without which we will not be able to sustain whatever the development we have achieved. So in this model I have introduced three key variables as determinants of the sustainable development. If you look at the outcomes of the sustainable development, you see if you really review outcome of the sustainable development, SAARC region and also South Asian region have adopted different models and our model has promoted the social aspects of development, especially Sri Lanka in fact is quoted as an example of a country which maintained social development. Social development is also part of the sustainable development concept. We have been able to bring very favourable rates of population growth, infant mortality, maternal mortality and then education participation. If you look at the millennium development goals I think we are somewhere there in achieving millennium development mainly eradicating poverty, achieving education to 90-95%. Sustainable development brings results of all the above aspects.

Where Mr. Weerathunga referred to equity, that I think something concerns civil society and the policy makers and all of us. Green development always should sustain the environment. There is interdependence between sustainable development and environment. In fact the environment is considered one corner stone of triple bottom line that I have been speaking about. In the sense when the material development takes place the environment should not harm. The environment is something nonnegotiable, subject to degradation.

Then I have cited food security. Some of the countries in our region if you look at their development effort, they have taken lot of effort to ensure food security. If we take our closest neighbor, India in terms of nutrition milk food production, they have achieved self-sufficiency. We seem to be having problems in this area but we should have been able to be self-sufficient in the our staple food: paddy production. It is necessary to investigate whether the available food is accessible for people. There can be situations where the food is available but not accessible for some people when we talk about food, and gainful employment is another key aspect. We participated in some exercises of formulating human resource policy.

Whether we really produce people who can be gainfully employed, there is some debate about this and my other argument is productivity. I'm trying to promote productivity as part of community life. There is a lot of aspects which Sri Lanka lagging behind when we talk about sustainable development has to ensure. Certain policy intervention is necessary even though it is out of scope of this presentation. Finally I would like to talk about reconciliation as a social process, reconciliation I would like to present in a triangle; one is our thinking pattern, unity and diversity. Diversity should accept and promote to achieve such reconciliation, so sharing some values is important as such harmony,

interdependence, tolerance, right to development in promoting reconciliation.

Present-day another important concept is social entrepreneurship, this is where the civil society comes in to play, basically trying to transform group of villages through such participatory activity where peoples effort is harness and contribute to achieve. So there is coexistence and participation in decision making, when it is too much centralized people feel that the policy is not inclusive, the policy would favour few people not everyone. So we have to ensure equity in terms of value created in our society.

Reconciliation cannot be conceived in isolation, reconciliation is a social process you have all these different aspects come in to question, It is a question of how far do we manage. For example how far we manage diversity? How far do we manage the concept of right to development? Sometimes national level policy needs to be clearly articulated.

Finally I will bring the conclusion as reconciliation and sustainable development for national security. National security becomes a means to end and at the same time it also an end. What my suggestion here is if you do not well in these two conditions (reconciliation and sustainable development) you will not be able to fulfill the expectations of different stakeholders. Everyone has a dream, you will not be able to fulfill. These are the things people like to one day accomplish, they may conflict at a time but that is a normal form. National security while we should do things at the same time through participatory process, community involvement. We need to do more work in terms of getting the civil society involves. With those few points I would like to end up my presentation. Thank you very much, wish you all the best.