TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT
MED-002: Sustainable Development: Issues and Challenges

Course Code: MED-002
Assignment Code: MED-002/TMA/2026
Maximum Marks: 100

Note: * This assignment is based on the entire course.
*** All questions are compulsory. Marks for the questions are shown within brackets on the right-hand side.**
*** Please answer in your own words; do not copy from the course material.**

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1. Explain major issues and challenges which confront sustainable development? Elucidate your answer with suitable examples. (10)
2. Discuss the disadvantages of unsustainable development in industrialization? Describe methods to overcome them. (10)
3. Differentiate between inter-generational and intra-generational equity and justice with suitable examples. Discuss by giving examples how gender disparity can hamper environment protection and sustainable development. (10)
4. How can sustainable use of natural resources help achieve sustainable development? (10)
5. Discuss various regional issues related to environment. Assess the initiatives taken towards environmental protection to achieve sustainable development. (10)
6. Describe various state and local development initiatives to address the inequality. Substantiate your answer with suitable examples. (10)
7. Explain the following in about 250 words each: (5x4=20)
   a) Community-based Civil Society Initiatives on Sustainable Development.
   b) Integration of Scientific and Traditional Knowledge for Sustainable Development.
   c) Sustainable Agriculture Practices.
   d) Innovative Practices in Sustainable Development of Water and Energy Resources.
8. Explain the following in about 250 words each: (5x4=20)
   a) Cooperatives and Sustainable Development
   b) Sustained Livelihood
   c) Initiatives of the South Asian Countries towards the betterment of the environment.
   d) Sustainable and non-sustainable activities

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Answer

Sustainable development means improving human well-being in a way that meets present needs without reducing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The main difficulty is that economic growth, social justice and ecological protection have to move together. In practice, many development decisions still give priority to short-term production and consumption while the environmental and social costs appear later.

Major issues and challenges

- **Poverty and inequality.** A large section of people still lacks secure access to food, housing, health care, clean energy and safe water. Poor households often depend directly on forests, common lands and local water bodies, so environmental degradation affects them first. At the same time, highly unequal consumption means that the ecological burden is not shared equally.
- **Population pressure and changing consumption.** Population growth in some regions increases pressure on land, water and public services, while rising incomes can increase demand for energy, vehicles, meat, minerals and disposable products. The challenge is therefore not population alone but also resource-intensive patterns of consumption.
- **Depletion of natural resources.** Groundwater extraction, soil erosion, deforestation, overfishing and unplanned mining can exceed the regenerative capacity of nature. For example, falling groundwater levels in intensively irrigated parts of India show how production gains can become difficult to sustain when extraction remains higher than recharge.
- **Pollution and waste.** Industrial effluents, untreated sewage, air pollution, plastics and hazardous wastes damage health and ecosystems. Urban centres often face the combined problem of traffic emissions, construction dust and inadequate solid-waste management. Pollution control is difficult because its costs are spread across many sectors and jurisdictions.
- **Climate change and disaster risk.** Global warming increases the risk of heat waves, irregular rainfall, floods, droughts and sea-level rise. These effects can reverse development gains, especially for farmers, coastal communities and the