

Reading of the Requirement of Sustainable Development: Its Concept and Conditions for Achievement



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Abstract

Discussing sustainable development as a purposeful process requires openness to many spheres of life -economic, social, political, environmental, and intellectual-without overlooking the human and technological factors involved. It is a complex, multidimensional process that affects society in all its components. Even though many scholars differ in defining its concept and the conditions for its realization, it remains one of the fundamental concepts for achieving societal progress and prosperity. Accordingly, this paper seeks to present some readings aimed at understanding and deconstructing the issues associated with sustainable development, by examining the requirements of this process through its indicators, dimensions, and conditions for achievement, considering it a comprehensive process that goes beyond the purely economic framework, relying on a set of interrelated concepts and elements.

Keywords

Human development ;
Economic development;
Sustainable development ;
Citizenship ;
Civil society.

الكلمات المفتاحية

تنمية بشرية؛
تنمية اقتصادية؛
تنمية مستدامة؛
مواطنة؛
مجتمع مدني.

قراءة في متطلبات التنمية المستدامة: مفهومها وشروط تحقيقها

ملخص

إن الحديث عن التنمية المستدامة كعملية هادفة يتطلب التفتح على الكثير من مجالات الحياة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية حتى السياسية، البيئية و الفكرية كذلك دون تخطي أو نسيان العامل البشري و التكنولوجي في ذلك، فهي تعد مسار معقد ومتعدد الأبعاد يؤثر على المجتمع بكافة مقوماته حتى وإن اختلف الكثيرون في تحديد مفهومها وشروط تحقيقها تبقى من المفاهيم الأساسية في تحقيق تقدم المجتمعات وازدهارها. من أجل ذلك سنحاول هنا تقديم بعض القراءات في فهم و تفكيك القضايا المرتبطة بها، من خلال البحث في متطلبات هذه العملية بين مؤشرات وأبعادها وشروط تحقيقها، باعتبار أنها عملية شمولية تخرج عن إطارها الاقتصادي اعتمادا على مجموعة من المفاهيم والعناصر المرتبطة بها.

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I- Introduction :

Research on sustainable development has become increasingly important over time, as examining issues related to it means paying greater attention to society and matters connected to its development and prosperity. Development, in its various dimensions and elements, is interconnected and complementary, with the aim of achieving a better standard of living for individuals without neglecting the environmental aspect -especially in light of the developments and transformations occurring in the technological world, including electronic administration, digitization, and the use of artificial intelligence in the service of humanity, and their impact on social, economic, cultural, and even political life.

Research on development in general is no longer confined to the issue of employing industrial or administrative labor or public policy planners; rather, it requires much more and across multiple and diverse fields, given that it is a complex, composite, and comprehensive process encompassing economic, political, social, cultural, and even legal aspects, without neglecting psychological and ecological dimensions. This enables a proper understanding of human behavior and its guidance toward achieving awareness and growth, primarily through understanding the motives that drive individuals, the relationships among them, and the resulting interactions and impacts on the various aspects of society.

It can thus be stated that one of the fundamental conditions for development to be successful is that it should not be limited to the economic aspect alone; otherwise, it would be ineffective, if not obstructive to the natural process of society. Awareness and understanding among governments and international institutions have increased regarding the impossibility of separating sustainable development issues from environmental and technological issues as well.

Many forms of development rely heavily on technology in depleting environmental resources upon which such development should be based. Environmental degradation therefore means hindering development, which necessitates adopting preventive policies and measures, especially during the planning and formulation of employment and labor policies for official state bodies. This is in addition to strengthening and spreading awareness among members of society regarding environmental protection and its contribution to achieving development goals. The central issue on which thinkers and specialists in this field agree is that the human being is both the means and the goal of development, through the contribution of civil society and the realization of citizenship. All of this is achieved through human development and the effective contribution of human capital, which represents the core of the entire process.

Accordingly, through the presentation of this scientific paper, we attempt to address and explore the dimensions and indicators of sustainable development, while clarifying some of the basic concepts related to it, in order to provide a general picture of the requirements and conditions for achieving this type of development.

II. Human and Economic Development as a Condition and Fundamental Factor for Achieving Sustainable Development

II.1. Concept of Development:

The use of this concept has become increasingly widespread within the framework of the new global system, especially in underdeveloped countries. It is a complex and multidimensional concept, due to its inclusion within the scope of various disciplines -political, economic, sociological, geographical, and environmental sciences - as well as differences in ideological orientations and starting points among thinkers and specialists in this field, in addition to the factors of time and place. However, this does not mean that it is impossible to present and identify some definitions in this regard, which can be outlined as follows:

- Development refers to those processes undertaken deliberately and in accordance with a public policy to bring about social, economic, and political advancement for people within their environment, relying primarily on coordinated and integrated popular and governmental efforts¹.

- Development is not a purely economic phenomenon; rather, it is a set of diverse phenomena of a sociological and psychological nature².

- According to the United Nations definition of 1955, development represents the planned process for the advancement of society as a whole, economically and socially. It consists of processes through which the efforts of citizens and government can be unified to improve the economic, social, and cultural conditions of local communities and help them integrate and progress. The foundation here is coordination and integration, which is what underdeveloped countries lack¹.

- Boumakhlouf defines it as the advancement of all aspects of society -economic, social, and cultural- through methods consistent with the socio-cultural framework of that society³.

From what has been presented, the attentive reader can observe that most definitions revolve around the axis of changes and transformations that may occur in the economic, social, and even cultural aspects of societies, which means that development represents the process of social change in general. It is a phenomenon experienced by all societies, but it differs relatively according to the conditions and specificities of each society.

II.2. Human Development as a Condition for Achieving Sustainable Development:

Human development, as an integrated and comprehensive concept, places the human being at its core. It means expanding the choices available to people, foremost among them a long and healthy life free from disease, richness in acquiring knowledge, and access to resources that ensure a decent standard of living. In this sense, a distinction can be made between two aspects of human development: one related to building new human and intellectual capacities and improving levels of nutrition, health, education, and the acquisition of various skills; and another related to people's use of their capacities and benefiting from them in the fields of work and creativity, as well as contributing to social, cultural, and political activities. Thus, development becomes human development for humans and development made by humans⁴.

In other words, it means providing opportunities for everyone to participate freely and contribute to decision-making at all economic, political, social, and cultural levels. In another definition, human development is a developmental orientation aimed at providing better life opportunities for the masses, and it seeks to achieve three fundamental objectives: a longer and healthier life, enjoyment by the individual and society of renewed knowledge, and access to higher living standards. None of this can be achieved except within the framework of economic, social, and political freedom, and directing them so that the human being becomes responsible for his or her capacities and affairs, as the goal and means of development⁵.

It should be noted here that there is a difference between human development and human resource development. The term human development focuses primarily on human rights and awareness of the required fulfillment of human needs that ensure a dignified life, whereas the term development of the human being as a human resource can be defined in terms of the responsibilities and duties that are expected to be performed as a result of specific preparation⁵, that is, within the framework of a particular organization or institution for the purpose of training or qualification.

II.3. Economic Development as a Fundamental Factor for Sustainable Development:

Economic development is considered a complex process involving comprehensive advancement of all parts of the economic system. It leads to the modification of the various relationships linking the elements of this system to one another, especially as it is associated with population growth, capital accumulation, the application of new innovations in production methods, changes in population structure, and the distribution of national expenditure between consumption and saving, and among social strata. It represents a point of convergence for many sciences, which has made its definition broad and varied. This variation is due to the multiplicity of intellectual schools and ideological starting points of each thinker or specialist. Accordingly, a set of definitions can be identified as follows:

- A process through which the real national income of a country's economic system increases, with the details of this process differing under varying circumstances of time and place. The general outcome of this process is an increase in national production of the economic system⁶.

- It also refers to increases over time in the production of material goods per capita, and represents upward movements of the social system as a whole⁷. This means that it is associated with the increase and growth of the material aspect of individuals and the accompanying development and change at the level of the social system. Although it appears more clearly in its association with the economic aspect, this does not imply growth and development in only one dimension. Human beings are social by nature, engaging in continuous relationships and interactions through which they influence and are influenced within the system in which they operate and interact with others. This implies the occurrence of changes and transformations at the level of the social system and its constituent groups and institutions. Hence, it can be said that it is a process that encompasses material and intellectual dimensions, and its success requires studying social reality in all its elements and different social strata, as well as requiring collective mobilization in general.

III. Indicators and Dimensions of Sustainable Development

III.1. Concept of Sustainable Development:

Development, in its narrow sense, was almost synonymous with economic growth, but it later evolved into what came to be called sustainable development, which gives equal attention to all aspects of economic, social, and environmental life⁸. This means meeting the needs of the current generation while preserving the right of future generations to available resources. It is worth noting that sustainable development was put into practice at the "Rio de Janeiro" Conference in July 1992⁹.

In the early 1970s, there was extensive debate around the concept of sustainable development, which was formulated for the first time through the report "Our Common Future," issued in 1987 by the World Commission on Environment and Development, chaired by the former Prime Minister of Norway, Gro Harlem Brundtland. According to the Brundtland Commission's definition, sustainable development is "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"¹⁰. It is also defined as "the result of the interaction of a set of actions by public and private authorities within society in order to meet the basic and health needs of human beings, organize economic development for their benefit, and strive to achieve social harmony

within society regardless of cultural, linguistic, and religious differences, without mortgaging the future of coming generations in meeting their needs”¹¹.

Thus, sustainable development became the central concept of the Earth Summit held in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, from which Agenda 21 was issued. This document defined the economic, social, and environmental criteria for achieving sustainable development as a developmental alternative for humanity to confront the needs and challenges of the twenty-first century, through the ratification of a set of agreements emanating from this summit, primarily related to climate change and biodiversity, to confront the effects of pollution, as well as providing guidance for the sustainable management of forests worldwide due to their essential role in environmental balance. It also included agreement on a set of principles defining the rights and duties of states in this field concerning environmental protection and the proper use of resources in a manner that ensures the preservation of the future of generations in the present and the future¹². The second Earth Summit, held in July 2002 in Johannesburg, was convened under the slogan of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

III.2. Dimensions of Sustainable Development:

It was widely believed that attention to growth inevitably leads to environmental damage, and conversely, that applying environmental policies reduces levels of economic growth. However, the emergence of the concept of sustainable development led to reconciliation between the two concepts, by applying views and ideas that take both into account simultaneously without sacrificing either. Thus emerged the principle of sustainability and, with it, the concept of sustainability itself, which came to have indicators and dimensions that take into account the environmental dimension and the role and importance of civil society and citizenship in this regard. Economic development in general is development with four interrelated and integrated dimensions within a continuous interactive framework characterized by regulation, organization, and rationalization of resources: the economic, human, environmental, and technological dimensions⁸.

From an economic perspective, sustainability means maximizing economic welfare for the longest possible period, taking into account individual consumption shares of natural resources, reducing income disparities, ensuring equity in income distribution, halting the waste of natural resources, and considering the responsibility of developed countries for pollution and its treatment in order to achieve this development.

From the human dimension, the focus is on the importance of population distribution and the full utilization of human resources, particularly through improving education and health services. The environmental dimension centers on the necessity of protecting the climate from global warming and reducing human activities that may threaten environmental and natural safety, including resources that serve human life, especially water, and preserving biodiversity. Finally, the technological dimension primarily aims at the widespread use of improved, clean, and environmentally friendly technology—meaning technologies that do not cause significant harm affecting other dimensions, particularly the environmental one—and reducing gas emissions and preserving the ozone layer, which acts as an immune system for the Earth by filtering ultraviolet solar radiation that causes serious diseases, foremost among them skin cancer and visual impairment¹³.

Thus, these dimensions appear to be interrelated and to express more clearly the nature of the concept of sustainable development. Accordingly, in the following section we will attempt to clarify how they can be measured by presenting some of the basic indicators in this regard, despite the fact that they may differ from one country to another and from one period to another.

III.3. Indicators of Sustainable Development:

Indicators, coefficients, or indices are usually used to measure the extent of progress and achievement attained in the field of sustainable development. An indicator is defined as a tool that describes, in a quantitative and concise manner, a specific situation or condition. As for coefficients (singular: coefficient), they represent a composite or aggregated measure of a number of selected indicators that are statistically adapted in a specific way to describe an existing situation or condition and are used for the same purposes as indicators, but in a more comprehensive and realistic manner⁸. All these processes aim to achieve a set of objectives, foremost among them evaluating the efforts exerted in achieving development goals, in addition to seeking to identify the obstacles and constraints that hinder this achievement. They also aim to determine the pace of transition toward this purposeful process in order to reach sustainable development, in comparison with the time factor set for it. Accordingly, establishing these indicators has become a necessity in order to form a database for managing all aspects of sustainable development, as they also constitute a diagnosis of the interaction taking place among economic, social, and environmental variables.

These indicators mainly focus on per capita gross domestic product, the unemployment rate, and population growth rate, along with attempts to assess the reality of health and education, evaluate the phenomenon of desertification, and measure the extent of the use of environmentally friendly technology or the opposite. In other words, they generally represent a comprehensive assessment of the extent to which sustainable development goals are being achieved. They reflect a genuine, continuous, and ongoing development over time and across generations, especially with regard to the use of natural resources through political, economic, and cultural systems whose primary objective is, in general, to serve economic and social aspects of life without neglecting the environmental dimension,

due to its great importance in influencing the future of humanity and improving individuals' living standards. However, these indicators are neither fixed nor identical across most countries of the world; rather, they vary according to place and time, as well as the supervising bodies and the variables adopted, especially since they are based on pre-established objectives. Nevertheless, reliance on them remains necessary and represents a positive factor in ensuring that decisions related to sustainable development are based on accurate, effective, and appropriate information.

IV. Work and Employment Policies as a Tool for Achieving Sustainable Development

IV.1. Work:

The starting points for defining the phenomenon of work may be multiple and varied. Work can be considered as a profession, craft, or job. If work means a set of activities practiced by individuals within the social structure in order to build society and ensure its continuity, then the common meaning of profession refers to a set of qualitative activities that determine the social status of the individual in the local community¹⁴. It is a qualitative activity that prevails in society and is a social phenomenon that spreads across all economic, social, and political fields, becoming a tremendous force in society known as the labor force. It is a fundamental factor in the labor market, in calculating the unemployment rate, and in measuring national income.

As for the overlap between the concepts of job and work, a number of researchers interested in this issue sometimes speak of a job and at other times of work. The term job is widely used when referring to the activity performed by a person in contemporary societies in exchange for a wage. Others justify that the term work, in addition to the previous meaning, refers to every human activity, whether manual or intellectual, paid or unpaid. However, another group of researchers uses the two concepts synonymously. On the other hand, a distinction can be made between work and non-work. The latter refers to the time that an individual devotes to himself or to his family, which is known as the third time or free time. Usually, an individual obtains this time only after fulfilling his work obligations and obtaining the resources that enable him to live¹⁵. Thus, work constitutes one of the fundamental factors that enable the individual to achieve independence, while its patterns and nature remain decisive in shaping our living paths and psychological conditions. In this context, a number of characteristics associated with work emerge, such as national income, level of economic activity, time structure, social communication, diversity, and identity or personality¹⁶.

IV.2. Employment Policies:

Interest in the issue of employing the labor force stems from the value and importance of work in the lives of individuals and societies, as well as from the fact that the right to work constitutes a fundamental demand for all members of society. It is therefore considered one of the most important basic rights affirmed by international conventions and declarations related to human rights, as well as agreements issued by the International Labour Organization, the Arab Labour Organization, and even national frameworks, regardless of the nature of the political, economic, and social system. This has led each state to attach great importance to monitoring the employment indicator. If the latter represents the organization of full employment and the optimal use of human and material resources, based on the concept of economic development and the optimal exploitation of the human element in economic activity, while guaranteeing work for every person willing to work¹⁷, then employment policies can be viewed as the totality of legislation, government decisions, and tripartite agreements (government, employers, workers) aimed at regulating and setting controls and standards for the performance of the labor market, which refers to the set of positions for which individuals' competencies are of interest to institutions¹⁸.

Employment policies also consist of a set of programs determined by the competent authority in the field of maximizing the use of human energy, employing job seekers in a manner that contributes to reducing unemployment levels and achieving optimal employment, in line with general economic policies and their declared strategies, as well as addressing poverty levels and reducing them in order to achieve integration between economic development and employment objectives¹⁹. In general, they represent the totality of policies and interventions through which the state and government aim to create job opportunities for youth, relying on various methods and mechanisms.

IV.3. Human Capital:

It is well established that development in all countries of the world primarily requires attention to the human element and the mobilization of human resources. Thus emerged the process of manpower planning in business organizations for the purpose of properly selecting individuals working within them, estimating the workforce, identifying urgent and future needs, and drawing up policies for their development in line with the objectives to be achieved within a specified time frame²⁰. Despite differences in thought regarding the definition of human resource development - where some consider development synonymous with training, and both as aspects of the learning process for the individual- contemporary management tends to pay greater attention to the affairs of individuals working in organizations, based on the belief that human resources represent a source of excellence and success. The strength of human resources and the effectiveness of their performance mean the strength of the organization and its ability to compete in the market and ensure survival and continuity. Modern and advanced organizations also allocate an entire

department to attend to personnel affairs, whose role lies in creating a suitable work environment, caring for workers, and motivating them to work more, in order to contribute effectively to raising the organization's performance level. Human resources have thus come to represent the organization's human capital, which refers to the knowledge and skills possessed by human beings, and is also viewed as the total number of workers in the organization and the knowledge and skills they possess²¹.

It should be noted that there are several types and forms of capital, including human, intellectual, physical, structural, organizational, financial, and social capital. However, human capital remains the foundation and distinctive advantage of every organization, and an indispensable element in the development process. More than that, it represents the fundamental and effective difference in the success of any development process, especially in light of digital transformation and the developments in artificial intelligence characterizing today's contemporary world.

V. Civil Society, Citizenship, and the Environment as Pillars of This Development

V.1. Civil Society:

The complex nature of human society has made defining it a difficult task, such that it is not possible to provide a single comprehensive and exclusive definition. However, in the sociological sense, it refers to a network of social interactions and relationships that bind a human group and result in values, norms, systems, customs, and laws that regulate the life of this group during a specific historical period and within a particular geographical environment²². Accordingly, it can generally be said to consist of a set of institutions or organizations, both formal and informal, within which interaction takes place according to standards and laws specific to these institutions, given that a person's entire life unfolds within an organization, starting from the family to educational institutions and organizations, then to work institutions or organizations, in order to enter a new family or social organization.

Civil society, however, is a broad term that usually refers to associations and organizations established voluntarily by groups of people, without interference from official institutions such as the state and its bodies. It includes non-governmental organizations such as charitable organizations that defend certain issues or social groups, such as some trade unions and human rights organizations. Its domain is the public sphere, not the private sphere, nor the sphere of the family or the state²³. This contrasts with the local community, which consists of a group of people residing in a specific geographical area and sharing the same political and economic activities, forming a self-governing social unit characterized by common values and a sense of belonging, such as a small city or village²⁴.

The term civil society is more commonly used in political and sociological literature with multiple meanings. It has been used to mean the society that resulted from urbanization and civilization, and also in a civilizational sense. For the German philosopher Hegel, it referred to a body or institution existing in a space between the family and the state, belonging to neither. In Marx's works, it is associated with the base and superstructure and is a source for explaining legal events and changes throughout history²⁰. In other words, it is a society that does not primarily submit to the state or one of its institutions, and it contributes to political and social phenomena.

V.2. Citizenship:

Citizenship is historically associated with the emergence of the European city, the virtues of urban civilization, and the institutions of civil society, along with the spread of urban civilization. Citizens, as civilized members of an urban society, stood in contrast to rural populations. Thus, citizenship became more closely associated with urbanization and civilization. In many European societies, citizenship came to be linked to a specific class position, whereby the citizen was the bourgeois noble or the free person, and thus associated with the bourgeoisie rather than aristocratic culture. In political and economic theory, citizenship became increasingly linked to the emergence of civil society²³. Modern citizenship is the product of political revolutions, particularly the French Revolution and the American War of Independence, in addition to the First and Second World Wars and the strong legislative ideologies that resulted from them, based on educational welfare and guaranteed healthcare, according to the modern liberal perspective.

Citizenship thus remains a contentious concept in cultural conflicts over identity. In many legal and political manifestations, there is growing tension between universal human rights and social rights within national citizenship. Accordingly, it can be said that it is a political concept that emerged in the literature of modern Western political culture, whereby the term citizen refers to an individual who is a member of a political homeland and who enjoys the same rights and bears the same duties as other citizens²³. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, it is a relationship between an individual and a state as defined by the law of that state, including the rights and duties entailed by that relationship²⁵. Thus, based on the above, it can also be said that citizenship is a practice conducted within a set of principles and rules and within institutional frameworks and mechanisms that ensure the translation of its dimensions and components on the ground. Even though it differs from one state to another according to cultures, civilizations, and time, there remains a set of basic shared components, primarily equality, equal opportunities, and the guarantee of the right to participate in public life for all members of society without restriction, in addition to the emergence of loyalty to the homeland in which they live.

V.3. The Environment and the Threats Facing It:

The concept of the environment emerged in association with nature, referring to the natural, non-human, and non-cultural surroundings. Ecology developed as a scientific effort to link living organisms -foremost among them humans -with their environment. The first known use of the term environment dates back to 1603, while the emergence of ecology as a science occurred in the late nineteenth century to study interactions between non-living and living components. The German biologist Haeckel, whom some consider the founder of ecology in 1866, referred to all the diverse relationships between animals and plants and the external world connected to the ecology of organisms. The term ecosystem later developed in the 1960s to refer to specific systems of relationships among basic components, and the idea that relationships between people and their environment are reciprocal gained intermittent prominence²³.

Thus, human interest in the environment has a long history, given the relationship between nature and individuals' living standards. Nature has been, and remains to this day, a source of wealth, despite the developments and transformations occurring in all aspects of life, especially economic, social, and technological ones, and their impacts on the environment. Consequently, calls by specialists and those concerned with nature and the environment have increased for intensifying efforts to confront the various challenges facing the environment. Environmental policy interventions should also take into account the impact of economic activities on environmental assets, making environmental sustainability part of all sectorial policies and integrating it to achieve sustainable development¹⁶.

This is in addition to the importance of consolidating an environmental culture and environmental education among members of society within educational and pedagogical institutions, with the aim of instilling principles of preserving the environment and protecting it from the risks that threaten it. Trends of growth and their conditions tied to technological progress, in order to preserve profit and employment rates, have plunged our world today into a new form of servitude created by the nature of the capitalist use of science and knowledge. Thus, growth and development have come to be synonymous not only with killing but also with the destruction inflicted upon nature and the environment, taking the form of threats in several ways²⁶, such as the risks of nuclear conflict and environmental threats, in addition to genetic threats and the increasing risks of epidemics, and the impact of all this on threatening human existence as a result of the growth of viruses and the spread of the phenomenon of pollution everywhere and in all societies. Consequently, there is a necessity to achieve balance in the use of available capacities while attempting to preserve and protect the environment, in order to establish a new world with new cognitive and developmental conditions to overcome environmental problems and meet human needs for sustainable development without causing harm to the environment, and to preserve it in the present and the future.

VI. Sociology and Development

The relationship between sociology and the social environment is in continuous interaction. Therefore, society today, more than ever before, has come to expect much from sociology, which is concerned with studying social reality in general and everything it includes of institutions, processes, and social, economic, and even political, cultural, and technological phenomena, in addition to environmental phenomena and the changes they may bring about in society, with the aim of objectively understanding itself and contributing to the development process. The social is always present as part of reality as well²⁷.

Since society is in continuous change, and since these changes and transformations constitute the field of research for the social scientist, the various natural sciences and some social sciences, such as economics, have provided effective contributions to the process of transformation from underdevelopment to progress, meaning that they have contributed greatly to clarifying the features and methods of this transformation. However, the contribution of sociology to all this remained unclear in its early stages, despite the fact that aspects of underdevelopment are nothing but integrated elements within the general sociological situation. This made historical and sociological understanding a necessary starting point for any effective planning or development project²⁸. Sociology is thus strongly linked to the social system and lived reality, and the unity between knowledge and reality is essential within it, as it is in the service of development²⁹. Perhaps the best evidence of this is the existence of a specialization and an entire branch known as the sociology of development.

It is concerned with approaches to social development, as well as with the question of how social change occurs and how it affects individuals and societies. The sociology of development is considered a modern branch of general sociology, targeting the issue of underdevelopment and development in developing countries and clarifying what sociology can offer in interpreting and analyzing such issues related to development, revealing their dimensions and the reciprocal effects between development and all components of the social structure. In this regard, David Harrison يرى that the sociology of development is a branch of sociology that studies processes of modernization and development in the Third World in particular, though not exclusively, where these processes are more evident. As part of this project, it is necessary to study local social, political, and economic structures and their continuous links with external institutions, whether systems or societies, with an emphasis on social processes and relations and their economic, political, and cultural significance³⁰.

Meanwhile, the French sociologist Roger Bastide attempted to show that the sociology of development focuses more on economic changes, which in turn lead to changes in the social structure. The former are qualitative in essence, while the latter are quantitative, a view linked to the qualitative conception of development. This scholar also proposed

a set of tasks that fall within the scope of the sociology of development, beginning primarily with defining a criterion for the society that is in a state of underdevelopment, which may be economic, human, or social, along with the necessity of identifying the internal obstacles to economic development. This is in addition to defining a criterion for social development, or more clearly determining the extent to which economic changes affect social structures and studying the problems involved in development planning. Among its tasks is also coordinated communication about social bodies to motivate them to work within the framework of society as a whole, and its fundamental role in the applied field as a purposeful process for studying development and its dimensions³¹. It should be noted here that the theories of Durkheim and Max Weber have had a significant impact on the sociology of development. Until the mid-1960s, most sociologists and applied anthropologists who thought about development questioned and thought in similar ways.

As for the Third World, the sociology of development cannot address its current problems apart from the global-historical context. Modern theoretical trends have emerged to understand the phenomenon of underdevelopment in developing countries³². Some sociologists believe that development in its general concept is closely linked to social change, as it is a method and a process for achieving and directing it. Others view it as representing modernization, whose concept is still new, and which is essentially embodied in the dominance of modern life in educated society and the application of reason and science in dealing with the problems of contemporary life²⁸.

From here, we refer to the theory of modernization established by Parsons in the aftermath of the Cold War, through which he sought to identify the decisive factors in economic development. These are represented in a set of implications that help in a sound understanding of development. In his view, the absence of development involves errors in the economic and social systems of Third World countries, which create obstacles to modernization and do not encourage individual ambition to engage in work as long as there is a need to satisfy urgent needs. In the sociology of development, the axis of the development process remains bringing about behavioral changes that increase society's capacity to benefit from its human energies in achieving the highest levels of well-being. Accordingly, development must address changing obstructive and undesirable values, customs, and traditions³³. These orientations toward development thus remain part of various modern trends in its study and in searching for the reasons for achieving it and the obstacles that may limit it, such as the evolutionary, psychological, modern Marxist trends, and other theories and approaches that can be monitored in the service of development.

VII. Conclusion:

After presenting the aspects of this paper, it becomes clear that research on such topics requires great openness to many scientific disciplines, such as economics, sociology, management, politics, and even environmental science. Development in this sense is a meeting point for many sciences and scientific disciplines, to the extent that there is overlap and integration among these concepts themselves. The concept of development has today become so multifaceted that it is difficult to reach a general consensus about it among specialists and those interested in it, especially with the differing orientations and personal starting points of each researcher in this field. Perhaps what further complicates the matter is the ideological starting points of the growth and development of developmental thought itself, which has made development policies across different countries highly divergent.

For the process of development and the history of its emergence, it is necessary to delve deeply into the study of developmental thought by researching various concepts and disciplines in order to form a social awareness shared and understood by members of society. The human environment, in reality, is the result of a set of natural systems, which were and still are made by humans. If we wish to shape our future consciously, it is necessary to learn how to do so collectively, meaning involving the various segments of the society in which we live. This is embodied in the concept of citizenship, away from policies of exclusion and marginalization of others, by virtue of belonging to the same geographical environment. Most problems of human societies around the world arise essentially from the use of natural resources and how they are exploited in light of the increasing growth of technological uses in our daily lives. Therefore, improving individuals' living standards requires understanding the nature of the relationship between growth and development on the one hand, and the preservation of natural resources on the other.

These issues and others will inevitably remain continuously connected to serving the individual and society in general. Accordingly, as a general conclusion to what has been presented in this paper regarding the requirements for achieving sustainable development, we say that the latter has comprehensive and holistic dimensions that go beyond the economic framework to include other important aspects of human life, such as the social and ecological dimensions, especially planning and implementation efforts. This requires drawing up its policies properly, and ensuring that employment and labor policies prepared for this purpose take into account the various dimensions of this developmental process. Its study must be conducted within the framework of the historical and even political process to understand its various elements and basic requirements. Developmental thought must be collective and participatory, through enhancing a culture of collective awareness and developing human workforce skills more than ever before, to better adapt to the developments and requirements of lived reality, especially with regard to the path of digitization to overcome the phenomenon of bureaucracy in management and functional obstacles therein, in addition to the necessity of exploiting the advances achieved by artificial intelligence in the service of development and societal well-being. All this also requires the development and improvement of education and training programs to keep pace with the various developments and changes witnessed by science in this field. Thus, we have arrived at a set of answers regarding the

concept of sustainable development and the conditions for its achievement, after addressing human and economic development as a condition and a fundamental factor for achieving this development, work and employment policies as a tool for achieving sustainable development, civil society, citizenship, and the environment as its pillars, and the position of sociology and its relationship to it.

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