Full Length Research Paper

Aspect of Inclusion in Sustainable Peace and Development

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to analyze the harmonization of inclusion, development and sustainable peace. Considering the fact that the pursuit of sustainable development is now stated as a principal policy goal of many of the major institutions of the world, including the United Nations, the World Bank and the world trade organization. This is a confirmation of how the understanding of the global challenge of sustainable development has moved to encompass the complex interdependencies of environmental, social, peace and economic development. This paper traces the emerging intersection of peace and sustainable development, and focus on the efforts of international organizations for putting forth a call for education for sustainable peace development that espouses economic growth and development.

Keywords: Inclusive growth, Sustainable peace, Sustainable development, Inclusion.

INTRODUCTION

A simple definition of peace implies a situation where people live in safety without fear or threat of violence, and when no form of violence is tolerated in law or in practice. Peace is simply when people are able to resolve their conflicts without violence and can work together to improve the quality of their lives. Sustainable peace, therefore, is a diverse community striving together to meet the needs of its members. Sustainable peace is built with a critical mass of citizens and leaders who serve the interest of others and not just their own, influence the companies, organizations and most of which they are a part to serve the public well and collaborate to transform the structures and systems of society to make them less violent, more just, more inclusive and more participatory (Abubakar 2014).

The study of peace and conflict transformation is built on the theoretical foundation that social conflicts are inevitable and that peaceful, non-violent approaches to transforming them and to establish lasting, sustainable peace are possible, learnable and practical. In order to employ such approaches, a though rough understanding of conflict and peace dynamics, and the techniques of conflict analysis and mapping are needed. Despite the early focus of peace educators on disarmament and the prevention of war, scholars within the field have also in the past two decades considered as a central goal sustainable development, and economical education toward it. While peace is not always discussed along the same line with economical education, and economic issues are not always included in peace education, there is an increasing awareness of the inclusive relationship between the two approaches and the relevance of education in inculcating values to promote peace and economic sustainability. Peace education refers to learning methods and processes that include inquiry, critical thinking, and dialogue toward greater equity and social justice (Romer 1986).

The uniqueness of this subject is that it is built on two

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disciplinary traditions. Peace research has to do with studying and examining the causes of armed violence and war, processes of conflict, and necessary preconditions for peaceful resolution and peace-building. Developmental research on the other hand is concerned with inequalities in structural layout, poverty reasons for underdevelopment, and necessary preconditions for positive development. Research into the field of peace and development, therefore provides a unique environment for studying the relationship between conflict and poverty plus underdevelopment in terms of scarcity of resources, structural inequalities, as good relationships between peace and development in positive terms.

The research profile of the discipline, therefore, laid emphasis on the connections between peace, development and security. 'Security' is perceived conceptually to a large extent as a link between peace and development, since the clamor for security involves the absence of direct and structural violence as well as possibilities to economic well-being. The traditional research into issues of peace as a research field look into insecurity as a result of violence and conflict, while the problem area of development research is related to insecurity as a result of resource scarcity, inequalities and poverty of fundamental importance is the issue of sustainable development, where sustainability involves examining the relationship between economic, ecological and social factors(Hans & Walter 2003).

Fundamental change processes have indicated and implied that the study of conflict, peace, war and development has also changed. Wars have metamorphosed in new ways in the forms of civil wars in failed states with a multitude of actors involved. Identity politics as well as development issues have become a part of war with a new force. Development has become an issue not only in the developing countries, as poverty, structural inequalities and socioeconomic insecurities are evident in all parts of the world, although in various degrees. Globalization and its impact on states as actors, on political institutions and economic transactions are of overall importance in this regard. Peace and development in a fundamental sense are related to processes of globalization and global social development. How local communities are affected by global change and how local actors navigate in a global system, in relation to peace, conflict, security and development are of particular interest for peace and development research.

Normative and critical approach is applied by the researchers with the intentions to make research results relevant to decision-makers, policy-making bodies, non-governmental organizations, private and public actors. The goal normatively is to contribute to knowledge of how wars and armed conflicts can be prevented and resolved, how long-lasting peace can be achieved, how inequalities and poverty may be reduced and political and economic

development be promoted. Cooperation with the surrounding society, nationally as well as internationally, is an integral part of the activities (Sisay 2005).

Methodologically, the scientific research problem decides the approach, implying also in this sense, that the research is problem-oriented. The methodology is thus multi-dimensional, with a specific focus on field research with expansive and qualitative interviews as one main research method. Field research on conflict and poverty implies carrying out research on marginalized communities and groups and their relationship with systems, structures and institutions. This brings forth ethical issues. At the other end of the procedure, peace and development research is concerned with systemic issues of order and disorder at global level, and the link between macro-processes of change and local communities are under constant scrutiny.

Inclusive Growth

Inclusive growth is a concept that allows for equitable opportunities for economic participants during the economic growth process with benefits accruing to by every section of the society. It is economic growth that creates opportunity for all segments of the population and distributing the dividends of increased prosperity, both in monetary and non-monetary terms fairly across the society.

The definition of inclusive growth implies direct interconnection between the macroeconomic and microeconomic determinants of the economy and economic growth. The microeconomic angle captures the importance of structural transformation of economic diversification and competition, while the macro dimension refers to changes in economic aggregates such as the country's gross domestic product (GDP) or gross National product (GNP), Aggregate factor inputs and total factor productivity (Sharachandra 1991).

As far as diversity is concerned, inclusion is one of the important concepts involved; however, most frequently used word among them could be inclusive growth. Inclusive growth basically implies making sure everyone is included in the growth process, regardless of their economic class, gender, sex, disability and religion. The inclusive growth approach takes on a long term perspective and the attention is on employment that is productive in nature rather than merely direct redistribution of income as a means of increasing income for groups that are excluded.

Therefore, the inclusive growth approach imbibes a long term perspective of development, and according to the World Bank, growth is said to be inclusive when the growth is sustainable in the long run and it is broad based across every sector and include a large part of the country's labor force. Inclusiveness need to be understood in terms of focusing on equality of opportunity

regarding access to markets, resources and unbiased regulatory environment for business and individual to thrive.

For Sustainable economic growth to occur, inclusive growth is required. Maintaining this could sometimes be difficult because of negative externalities which may occur as a result of economic growth, such as an increase in corruption level which is a major problem in developing countries. Nonetheless, an emphasis on inclusiveness is an essential ingredient of success, sustainable growth, especially in respect of equality of opportunity in terms of accessible markets, resources, and an unbiased regulatory environment (Shumpeter 1954).The inclusive growth approach as mentioned earlier is a long term phenomenon, as the focus is on productive employment as a means of increasing the incomes of poor and excluded groups as well as raising their standards of living.

Sustainable Development

In as much as Sustainable development has been defined in many ways, the definition of Brundtland report is the most frequently quoted, it stated thus: "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" This definition contains two key concepts within it, namely:

1). The concept of needs, in specific reference to the essential needs of the world's poor, which require overriding priority, and
2). The idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs.

Every definition of sustainable development requires that we observe the world as a system, a system that interlinks space; and a system that connects time. When we think of the world as a system over space, we will grow to understand that air pollution from South America affects air quality in Africa, and that pesticides sprayed in Argentina could harm fish stocks off the coast of Australia. When you think of the world as a system over time, you begin to realize that the decisions made by our grandparents about how to farm the land continue to affect agricultural practice today; and the economic policies we endorse and employ today will have an impact on urban poverty in the future of our children when they become adults.

We are also able to understand that quality of life is a system too. As good as it is to be physically healthy, it is not desirable to be poor and have no access to education, It is equally good to have a secure income, but breathing in polluted air in your part of the world will make the secure income worthless, and freedom of religious expression is highly desirable, but poverty will make this freedom useless (Solow 1965). The concept of sustainable development therefore is deeply rooted in this sort of systems thinking. As it enables us to understand ourselves and the world we live in. The problems we face as people are complex and serious and these problems cannot be addressed the way they were created, however, we try as much as possible to seek a solution.

From Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable development goals otherwise also referred to as the global goals are created out of the millennium development goals (MDG), eight anti-poverty targets that the world committed to achieving by 2015. The MDGs adopted in 2000 aimed at selected social issues at reducing or eradicating poverty, hunger, disease, gender inequality and access to water and sanitation. A substantial amount of progress has been made on them showing the value of a unifying agenda underpinned by goals and targets. However, despite achieving a reasonable level of success, the indignity of poverty has not been ended for all. The new sustainable development goals with their broader sustainability agenda go much further than the MDGs in addressing the root causes of poverty and the universal quest for development that actually works for all people (Tatyana 2004).

Historically, the sustainable development goals are traceable to 1972 when the United Nations Human and Environment Conference was held with various governments of nations in attendance, to look into the rights of the family to a healthy and productive environment. But it was in 1983 that the United Nations agreed to create the world Commission on Environment and Development as an independent body of the UN. The first UN Conference on Environmental and Development was held in Rio in 1992 where the first agenda otherwise known as Agenda 21 for the Commission was developed and adopted. A resolution referred to as "The Future We Want" was reached by member states twenty years later. Notable among the key themes agreed on were poverty eradication, water and sanitation, energy, health and human settlement (Todaro 2007).

The outcome of the above mentioned Future We Want is a document which forms the link between The Rio +20 agreement and the Millennium Development Goals, it specifies thus: "We recognize that the development of goals could also be useful for pursuing focused and coherent action on sustainable development." The goals were specified to address and incorporate in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development (economics, environment and society) and their interconnectivity. The developments of these goals,
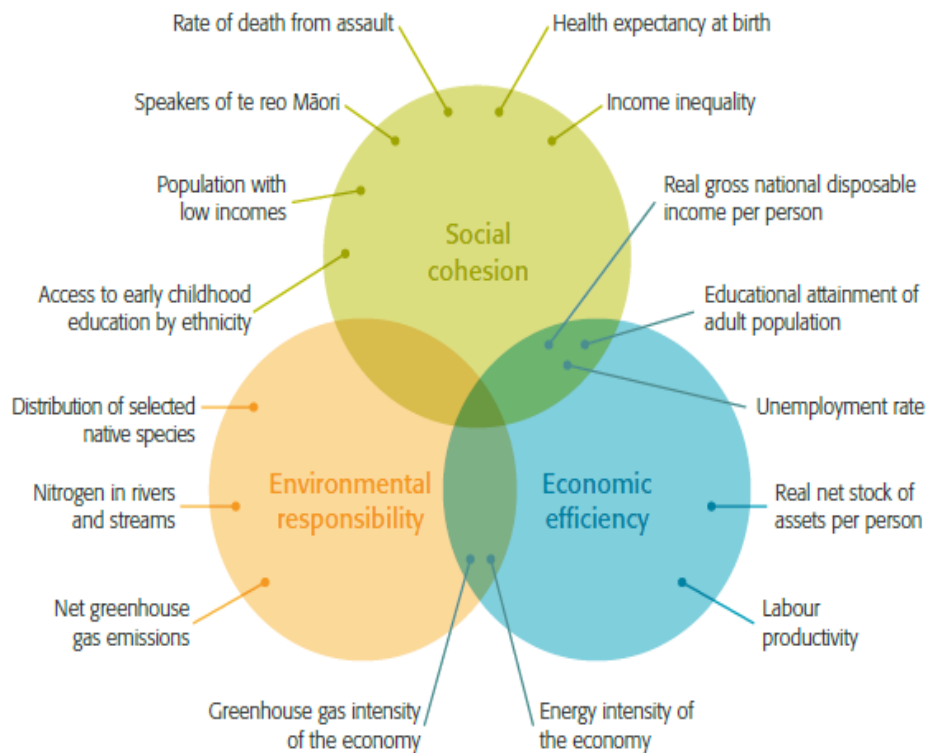
Figure 1. Sustainable Development Goals

however, were specified not to divert focus or effort and attention from the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The agreement states that, "the process needs to be coordinated and coherent with the processes to consider the post-2015 development agenda." Considered together, these two paragraphs led the path to the harmonization of the development agenda centered on the *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs), which were officially established following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000, and the agreement under the Future We Want outcome document.

There was also an agreement at the Rio+20 summit that the process of designing sustainable development goals, should be "action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, inspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities". These goals (MDGs) were supposed to be achieved by 2015. There was the need, however, as a further process to agree, initiate and come up with development goals from 2015-2030, therefore, discussions ensued well in advance on the post-2015 framework for international development with the United Nations System Task Team on Post 2015 Development Agenda releasing the first report known as "Realizing The

Future We Want" This Report was the first attempt to achieve the requirements under the agreement of the Future We Want Outcome Document. Four dimensions were identified as part of a global vision for sustainable development; Inclusive Social Development, Environmental Sustainability, Inclusive Economic Development, and Peace and Security. Other processes included the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on Post 2015 Development Agenda, whose report was submitted to the Secretary General in 2013. "We recognize that people are at the center of sustainable development, and in this regard, we strive for a world which is just, equitable and inclusive and we commit to work together to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and thereby benefit all "Rio+20 Outcome document 'the future we want'' (June 2012; paragraph 6)

Criticism of Sustainable Development

The phrase "sustainable development" has been and is used and interpreted in various manners and ways. For instance, while O' Riordan (1985) called Sustainable Development a "contradiction in terms" Redclift (1997) suggests that it may be just "another development truism". These interpretational problems, though ultimately conceptual, have some semantic roots. Most

Figure 2. Relationship between target dimensions and key indicators

Source. http://www.stats.govt.nz/

people use the phrase "'sustainable development" interchangeably with "ecologically sustainable or environmentally sound development" (Tolba, 1984). This interpretation is characterized by: (a) "sustainability'" being understood as "'ecological sustainability": and (b) a conceptualization of Sustainable Development as a process of change that has (ecological) sustainability added to its list of objectives. In contrast, sustainable development is sometimes interpreted as "'sustained growth," "sustained change," or simply "successful" development. For better understanding, it is imperative that we examine how these latter interpretations originate and why they are less useful than the former ones and try to define the terms for the rest of this discussion. Figure 2 is a "'semantic map" that might help in this exercise.

PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT (CONCLUSION)

A number of ongoing conflict situations have confronted the International community since the end of cold war. These have included: a series of protracted conflicts that pre-date the end of the Cold War international system (Like in Sri Lanka, Kashmir, Northern Ireland, Cyprus, the Middle East); violent conflicts entailing horrendous acts of

ethnic cleansing (i.e. The Balkans) or genocide (i.e. Rwanda); complex emergencies (Like in Sudan and Rwanda); and, finally, situations in which clear political objectives have been supplanted by a political economy of violence (like in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Angola). In addition, there are a number of situations that are characterized as conflict prone or where the potential for violent conflict lies just beneath the surface waiting for the eruption, just for a couple of years like in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Georgia and Ukraine-Crimea conflicts.

Peace is not a passive concept, but rather a call to continue the on-going action. It is not enough to dislike war and to denounce it, but rather make a continuous effort to put in place things and ways of evading, curbing and averting it. Throughout the ages, even though hated and feared, war has been recurrent. One reason is that men have never put into winning the peace efforts comparable to those which they have put into winning a war. Men will never have lasting peace as long as they reserve their full resources for tasks of war(Tomas & James 1995). To preserve peace, and to do so without the sacrifice of essential freedoms, requires constant effort, action and sustained courage. The basic needs and desires of the people as they pursue their lives within their respective countries, must be protected with positive

measures that promote peaceful existence (Jelilov, Gylych; Onder, Evren, a 2016).

People desire simple things, they want the opportunity to worship and serve God in accordance with the dictates of their conscience, they want the opportunity to think in accordance with the dictates of their reason. People want the opportunity to exchange views with others and to persuade or be persuaded by what appeals to their reason and their conscience, they want the right to live in their homes without fear, they want the opportunity to draw together in the intimacy of family, they want to exercise their right to their community life, and to establish worthy and honorable traditions, which they can pass on to their children and their future generation. People want to be able to work productively and creatively in their various chosen vocations, and to enjoy the fruits of their labor. They want a government based on consent. In mutual peaceful relations between the peoples and nations of the world, independence, and not domination are fundamental to lasting peace, freedom is needed and not servitude, diversity is required and not conformity. This would enable the peoples of the world to interrelate and interact as mutual friends and partners to pursue hopefully the destiny which they share in common (Zelenaj 2013).

As easy as the objectives of a dynamic peace are to define, the decisions which have to be made in achieving those objectives are rather complex. The first and second World Wars showed that modern war is becoming "total" war and that it is ordinary people rather than the military, who suffer cruel consequences of war. The new powers at man's disposal have infinitely heightened or increased its destructive potentialities. Furthermore, we know that war more than ever involves compulsory, outrages against the human personality, cruelty, vengefulness, and wanton enmity distortions of the truth. In recent times throughout the world, there is a rising demand for protection against the misery, the agony of body and of spirit, and the massive destruction of life and of property which modern war made upon man. While modern developments have made war more terrible, we should remember that they have also made the consequences of retreat and surrender more terrible (Jelilov, Gylych; Onder, Evren;, b 2016).

Modern war has caused so much destruction of the life on this planet, but it also may be possible that crave for peace at the expense of principle can result in destroying much of the human spirit on this planet. Peace gotten at this price could lead to a degradation of the human race and subjection of human beings to a form of mental decay which pilfers the capacity for moral and intellectual judgment. In many international situations today, there is a threat to fundamental human values and good international relations are in jeopardy. Men thus frequently face a serious dilemma in choosing between action to preserve peace and action to defend values which will make peace worthwhile. Perception and courage in taking calculated risks at the required efforts needed to resolve this dilemma, as there is a risk in attempting to convince a potential aggressor that his contemplated act of aggression will not pay. But the failure to issue such a clear warning, particularly in terms of collective action, may be an inducement to those who are bent upon aggressive actions. There is a risk in extensive economic assistance to countries whose governments are unstable or whose form of society does not conform to our peaceful views. However, it is also a betrayal of responsibility to withhold the help that is needed and merited or to offer it with such conditions that will make it unacceptable or repulsive.

Determining policies in relation to international problems, therefore requires the appraisal of the risks which are inevitably involved, international policies must, on one hand, reflect through responsible consultation a decent respect for the opinions of mankind, and on the other hand, be dependably embraced by the people. It would appear that only principles which conform to moral law meet that specification. So, people's enlightened self-interest plus moral principles serves as a guide to the conduct of nations and not just individuals. In this vein, peace agencies such as Ufuk Dialogue Foundation have a vital role to play not only in organizing dialogue platforms like, conferences and seminars, but also in relation to human rights and refugee problems, in offering economic and technical assistance or support, in encouraging the effort to generally find a sound system of disarmament.

There is a need for peace and dialogue to identify a common foundation of moral principles upon which a genuine world community will be based, and if dialogue apparatus and resources throughout the world are effectively utilized, a dynamic and situation changing action which is a necessary and indispensable prerequisite for a creative peace will be attained.

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