

To begin, the essay will explore a quote as follows; *it is impossible to effectively balance the needs of Economy, Society and the Environment in the contemporary world*' (Dicks, 2020). The text will define key terms and study the three pillars of society which refer to economy, society and the environment. Then, it will aim to assess the needs of each component, in relation to the contemporary world. Additionally, it will aim to form a comparative analysis of sustainability theories Eco-centrism and Technocentrism. Lastly, it will explore a sustainability model, and the Well-being of Future Generation Act.

Brundtland Commission Report (1987) outlined the principles of sustainability, it was defined as the growth that meets the requirements of contemporary society without damaging the needs of the impending generation (United Nations, 1989. P15). The concept of sustainable development underpins equality, it believes that individuals basic needs should be met (United Nations, 1989. P15). Societal requirements are directly connected to an individual's basic needs for instance, Maslow (1943) discusses human necessities in his life work, he refers to basic needs as Physiological needs they include; having fresh food, clean water, appropriate shelter and access to warmth (Johnson, J. 2008. P207).

O'Riordan (1981) is an environmental academic, who is currently employed at East Anglia University: his life work has a theme revolved around ecological sustainability (University of East Anglia, no date). In his research it underpins concepts of sustainability for instance, Eco-centric and Techno-centric principles, the terms have been described to be in conflict with one another (Science Direct, 2013).

Firstly, the eco-centric ideology is centred around the earth's ecosystem, individuals and groups benefit from the natural resources that stem from the environment (Salman, D.M. 2019. P15). Furthermore, natural resources are materials that aid an individual's existence; they include, soil, air, land, water and nature (Natural Resources Wales, 2020). Furthermore, they state that individuals benefit from the environment by using the properties to ensure their physiological needs are met. Gladwin et al (1995) offers a statement linking the two; 'humans are seen as one strand of an interlocking web with natural systems' (Gladwin et al, 1995. Cited in Allen et al, 2016. P10-11).

However, Salman (2019) express that the ecosystems are more important than societal needs. To magnify, deep ecologists believe that humankind need to re-adjust their thoughts in regard to the importance of nature as it holds a great amount of value (Salman, 2019. P15-16).

Furthermore, Jensen (2010) had previously discussed poverty, in many societies there is high unemployment rate, lack of necessities and inequalities, which causes a direct conflict to a sustainable world. (Emetumah, 2017 *Cited in* Mood and Jonsson, 2015. P645).

In contrast to Eco-centrism, is Techno-centrism; sometimes referred to as anthropocentrism which can be described as individuals viewing the environment purely as a resource instead of a source of significance (Harvard University, 2017). Moreover, they suggest that individuals have power, and control over nature (Harvard University, 2017). Additionally, supporters suggest that political and economic adaptations strengthen the technocentric mechanisms holistically (Salman, 2019. P15-17). In the contemporary world, technology is something that is intertwined into our lives whether it is a conscious or unconscious choice for instance, individuals that use a social networking sites or institutions that incorporate technological equipment like banks (Aging in Place, 2020). The concept concentrates on the advances of society for instance, the development of science and technology. They believe that technology holds the most value in comparison to Eco-centric theory. Furthermore, they believe that environmental problems can be resolved by technical advancements (Sustainable Developments, 2019). In modern society, issues concerning the ecosystem are global warming, air pollution and the exhaustion of natural resources (Edinburgh Sensors, 2019). Furthermore, in the twenty-first century technical advancements are progressing, an example of this electric vehicles; the role of carbon dioxide in the relation weakening of the environment is growing every day (Edinburgh Sensors, 2019). The RAC foundation (2020) reveal that a governing body found 182,062 job adverts that actively sought individuals to obtain a driver's licence (RAC Foundation, 2020). In turn, technical advancements would be ideal in the modern world as it will ease the environmental impact (RAC Foundation, 2020).

Since the publication of the Brundtland Commission Report (1987) there has been individuals and groups exploring the topic in-depth as society grows with environmental, economical and societal developments (Jeanrenaud and Adams. 2008. P11). Jeanrenaud and Adams (2008) have investigated the reasons for the additional interest and research they follow as; intra-generational equity and intergenerational equity (Jeanrenaud and Adams, 2008. P11-12).

Alike the Brundtland Commission Report (1987), The Millennium Assessment is a newer publication that outlines the needs of society, economy and the environment. In 2001, the United Nations Secretary at that time initially formed the programme (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005). Additionally, it refers to the relationship between individuals and groups and impacted the ecologies, it explores the perspective of how state of ecosystem has altered the lives of individuals and groups (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005). The report states that the ultimate goal for the assessment is to; ‘...establish the scientific basis for actions needed to enhance the contributions of ecosystems to human well-being without undermining their long-term productivity’ (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005) which is a direct link to Technocentrism.

The Three Pillars of Sustainability is aimed at achieving genuine sustainability, the three pillars comprise of the following concepts; Societal, Environmental, and Economical components (OECD, 2008. P. 27). Each mechanism has its own purpose within the system and each one benefits each other (Circular Ecology, 2020) for example, individuals and groups may have access to natural resources which will ensure their survival. Additionally, when individuals and groups have their essential needs met, they will be able to be productive and contribute to the economy effectively (OECD, 2008. P. 27).

To expand on each pillar; Social Sustainability revolves around identical rights within the world, it has been viewed to be in conflict with environmental sustainability. (University of Maine, no date) According to the University of Maine (no date) they state that:

A society is unsustainable if it consumes resources faster than they can be renewed naturally, discharges more waste than natural systems can assimilate without degrading, or depends upon distant sources for its most basic requirements (University of Maine, no date).

Furthermore, Environmental Sustainability often refers to an individual’s most fundamental needs for example, water, food, uncontaminated air (Environmental Science, 2020). The University of Maine (no date) linked environmental sustainability to the worlds ecosystems which follow as; the atmosphere, land and oceans (The University of Maine, no date).

Moreover, Economic Sustainability concentrates on the development of resources and how much revenue it generates, it can include Businesses, jobs, and employment

(University of Maine, no date) and (Environmental Science, 2020). Additionally, the life cycle of resources has been highlighted. The standard procedure of goods follows as; manufacture, distribution, maintenance and disposal. Likewise, the nature of the disposal of goods can relate to ethical consumerism (The University of Maine, no date).

The Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act (2015) is a new law that was designed to better society as a whole. It aims to address the following features; Economic, Cultural and environment security (Welsh Government, 2015. P3). Additionally, the act acknowledges contemporary issues for instance, poverty, climate change and inequality (Welsh Government, 2015. P4). Furthermore, the legislation has published certain goals that the act wants to combat in modern day society, they follow as; A globally responsible Wales, A resilient Wales, A prosperous Wales, A healthier Wales, A more equal Wales, A Wales of cohesive communities, and A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. (Welsh Government, 2015. P3). It enforces that the main agents of socialisation within society to implement this piece of legalisation such as, local authorities, health boards, and welsh ministers (Welsh Government, 2015. P4). The agents must fulfil the requests of the act the best they can, the Welsh Government (2015) state that in order to do this, the public bodies must create objectives that aim to meet the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015). Equally important, within the structure of the law, it states that under part 2 of the act entitled 'Improving Well-being' that sustainable development and the sustainable development principle is essential (Legislation.gov.uk. 2015). Likewise, this places emphasis on the environmental impact, for example, under part 2, they refer to the promotion of sustainable growth (Legislation.gov.uk. 2015).

The act has highlighted the importance of sustainable development when in the quest of better society holistically, the act states that the public bodies;

...must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without comprising the ability of future generation to meet their to meet their own needs (Welsh Government, 2015. P7).

The sustainable development principle follows the same theme as the Brundtland Report (1987) they both believe the current members of society should be concerned about the deterioration of the world (Welsh Government, 2015. P7).

The Twenty-First century has seen many changes and development millstones within the Micro, and Macro levels. As the world is growing, so is the number of individuals for example, in 2020, the United Kingdom reported that their population currently stands at 66,796, 800 (Office for National Statistics, 2020). In contemporary society, a continual issue is Poverty, the word can be represented in many forms. Jensen (2010) suggested there are six types of poverty that occur in different situations they follow as; situational, generational, absolute, relative, urban and rural poverty (Jensen, E. 2010. P42). Moreover, Society is currently facing a housing emergency, there is a shortage of housing in over-all however, unlike past generations the opportunity to purchase a house is almost non-existent to many individuals (Planning House, 2019). Moreover, it has been underlined that contemporary society has been referred to as '*Generation Rent*' for example, Buy Association (2019) have stated that approximately Fifty percent of the population aged 40 and above are living in rental accommodation (Buy Association, 2019). In 2020, research undertaken by the Office for National Statistics (2020) discovered that privately rented accommodation saw an increase of 1.7 million (Office for National Statistics, 2020). Another factor that concerns housing is affordability; according to Zoopla (2020) they state that the price of renting is at its highest it has ever been (Zoopla, 2020. P2). Research has shown that the average cost of renting in 2019 within the United Kingdom is currently at £886 per month (Zoopla, 2020. P1). Furthermore, the cost of private renting in 2020 has seen a rise from the previous year by 1.5% (Office for National Statistics, 2020). The UK government has formed an existing government programme that has been in place from 2016 to 2022 to tackle the lack of housing available (BBC News, 2020). Additionally, a new programme entitled '*Affordable Homes Programme 2021 to 2026*' The programme delivers funds that will cover the development costs of building affordable houses for rent and sale (GOV.UK, 2020). Furthermore, the scheme will aim to build 180,000 new affordable homes in the UK (BBC News, 2020).

Although, the current arrangements have been put in place to tackle the important societal issue, there are consequences that can affect the harmony of the Three Pillars of Sustainability. To expand, constructing a housing development consisting of 180,000 houses will trigger environmental concerns for instance, when building any property, the environmental impact can include; the disruption of soil and natural land, diminish natural resources, animal habitats and air pollution (Worldwide Life, 2020). Additionally, biodiversity can be affected when obtaining essential building materials for example, timber (Environmental Protection Agency, 2014). However, the environment can benefit from the new housing developments as modern

buildings are often energy efficient for instance, the design incorporates natural lighting. (EcoMENA, 2019).

Nevertheless, the economy will benefit from building housing developments for instance, it creates employment in society; firstly, the developer will need to get approval from local communities, and government. Additionally, the sectors that will gain employed follow as; construction, on site teams, land surveyors, planning permissions, technical teams, management, health and safety squads, sales and marketing, customer care, finance, legal and human resources (Careers in House Building, no date). Moreover, being a part of a housing development can create many roles which offer long term employments and job security for the individual. The Home Builders Federation (2015) state that the industry creates 600,000 jobs and gives society a massive £19.2 billion economic output (Home Builders Federation, 2015. P7).

To conclude, the quote centred around this piece of text follows as; it is impossible to effectively balance the needs of Economy, Society and the Environment in the contemporary world' (Dicks, 2020). The essay has discussed many aspects relating to the development sustainability, the three pillars expressed how important society, environment and the economy are to each other in order to function successfully. However, by doing this the counterparts affect each other in a negative, and a positive way; in order for society to thrive for example, combatting unemployment, the economy would be successful as more of the population would be able to fund the economy in a flow cycle and give relief to unemployment welfares which aids positive social attitudes. To expand, by having increased employment rates one of the three pillars are impacted negatively; the environmental concerns involve air pollution, and the decrease of natural land and resources. Some influences may have short, or long-term effects on these systems in place. Although, academics have studied the components and formed theories; Eco-centrism and Techno-centrism. Additionally, in the contemporary world the population has been referred to as the generation that can not wait for instance, the chain of fast food restaurants, this is also known as instant gratification. The Eco-centrism concept would not link to contemporary society as our behaviour patterns are not centred around the environment but to societal standards instead. Going in the other direction, is Tech-centricism which is more fitting to present day society as, the technological and scientific development are advanced and continually ever growing like society and the environment.

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