Buddhist Sustainable Development: Inner Happiness and World Peace

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Why research?

• To elaborate the concept and the linkage of Buddhist happiness to sustainable development (S.D.)
• To rethink existing SD. Approach, what is missing?
• To recommend a new concept/ framework for development
What is sustainable Development?

• "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."


• Key: meet needs of present and future generations
Current global initiatives attached to old paradigm of sustainable development

• The Future We Want: “need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects”; “Institutional framework for sustainable development”; etc.

• Sustainable HDI (S-HDI): to extend the current HDI with CO$_2$ emissions, Water consumption, Land area / crop area, Ecological Footprint – EF, Biodiversity (Red List), Adjusted Net Savings – ANS, Inequality (expressed by income distribution), Employment
SD. Movement so far

• Advocate to use less resources, produce less pollution, environmental conservation, compensation principles, green growth, sustainable consumption and production, etc.

• But not yet have sustainable consumption and production pattern

• Still over consumption and production, esp. in luxury and unnecessary goods, beyond capacity of the planet

• Not effective SD. implementation, why not focus on root cause?
  .....human greed, unlimited wants.....
Why link to Buddhist happiness?

• Happiness in Buddhism can be developed to higher levels beyond material dependent to mind & wisdom levels, free from any attachment=> direction for sustainable happiness.

• Happiness independent of materials & less accumulation result in sustainable development

• The implementation of mainstream sustainable development so far has not been effective because not focus on human internal factor, lack of spiritual element.
# The different between MSD and BSD

### Mainstream sustainable development
- Linkage of socio-economic and environment factors
- Consider human’s external factors, i.e., pollution, CO2, measures, standard of living
- Expected development by setting targets and goals, i.e., environment conservation
- SD with no human development focus

### Buddhist Sustainable Development
- Linkage of sustainable happiness of human to environment and SD
- Consider human spiritual development
- Consequence or outcome of development driven by human’s inner happiness, and supporting systems.
- SD with human development focus, move forward for inner development – a further step
Concept of Research Framework

Governance, policies, regulations

Inner Happiness

Buddhist Economics & related

Buddhist Sustainable Development (BSD)
1. Happiness in Buddhism:

- The dynamic of happiness and ladders of human development.
- Importance of inner (higher level) happiness => individual and societal peace
- Higher level and sustainable happiness => sustainable development
- Focus on the internal human development for inner or higher level of happiness.
- Contribution => elaborate concept, new presentation, explain in economics, academic
Figure 1. The relationship between materials and happiness at different levels
Figure 2. The relationship between happiness and materials (in case of excessive materials)
Need to develop human happiness into higher levels (more mind and wisdom based)
Less dependence on materials: resources can be saved or released to help other people/used more on human development
Happiness of givers and receivers increase. Lead to the increased in societal happiness
Moderate and reasonable in consumption, needs, and accumulations
Middle way of life; the optimum of consumption for quality of life and life satisfaction – happiness
2. Socio-economic systems

- Supporting systems, i.e., Buddhist economics, sufficiency economy, etc.
- Analyze and synthesize related concepts
- Integrate these works and propose a system, how it can apply in practical ways of life, esp. to apply to modern development world, suggest policies and actions, as well as development practices
3. Governance

• Governance, policies, regulations allowing suitable socio-economic system work
Proposed new concept

• “Buddhist sustainable development driven from human spiritual development that human are developed to be happy from appropriate needs or less attach to unnecessary desire/materials, leading to less resource utilization and compassion to others and nature”. 