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Sustainable Development using Renewable Energy Technology

Rakhi Biswas, Sunit Jana, Koushik Pal, Deepshikha Chatterjee, Nikita Pal, Anirban Ghosal*
Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering
Guru Nanak Institute of Technology, Kolkata, India
JIS College of Engineering, Kolkata*

Abstract: *India has a lot of problems to deal with when it comes to sustainable development because its population and economy are growing so quickly. The shift to renewable energy sources is a major factor in sustainable development. Research on renewable energy has become a crucial subject in the twenty-first century due to the escalating energy crisis. Conversely, the energy extraction process, akin to the combustion of fossil fuels, generates significant pollution globally; consequently, the utilization of these energy sources results in their rapid depletion. The concept of sustainable development in India and the existing framework for renewable energy policy are examined in this paper. It looks at how important renewable energy is to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how it could change economies.*

Keywords: Climate change, renewable energy, sustainable development, and growth of the economy.

I. INTRODUCTION

"Development that meets the needs of the present without making it harder for future generations to meet their own needs" is the definition of sustainable development given by the Sustainable Development Commission. In order to improve everyone's quality of life, sustainable development considers social, environmental, and economic aspects. Sustainable development is the collection of methods and approaches that can be employed to achieve sustainability, which is a long-term objective.

As the world transitions to a low-carbon economy, there is a greater need than ever for clean and sustainable energy sources. The environment and many aspects of life, such as human and animal health, the supply of food and water, and the stability of the economy, are seriously threatened by climate change. India is dealing with a lot of big environmental problems, such as climate change, extreme weather, changes in rainfall patterns, rising sea levels, air and water pollution, deforestation, soil degradation, and loss of biodiversity. These problems get worse when cities grow, industries grow, and farming gets more intensive because they put a lot of stress on the environment, infrastructure, and resources. These strategies try to solve these problems by promoting conservation, controlling pollution, and using land in a way that is good for the environment. Sustainable development encourages the use of green resources and technologies to keep economic growth and environmental damage separate.

II. RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

Renewable energy is derived from naturally occurring sources like sunshine, wind, tides, waves, etc. that gradually replenish themselves. Nonetheless, the rate of depletion of fossil fuels is substantially higher than the rate of replenishment. While the majority of renewable energy sources are considered sustainable, some, such as specific types of biomass, are not.

Renewable energy sources are any types of energy that are never depleted, are always replenishable, and are renewable. Among other things, they generate electricity for use in residences, workplaces, and vehicles.

A few examples of renewable energy sources for sustainable development are as follows:

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Solar Energy:

An innovative technological solution that transforms sunlight into useful thermal or electrical energy is a solar power system. Solar energy, the most plentiful and ecologically friendly energy source, is essential to achieving the world's renewable energy targets.

Indoor climate control, water heating, and electricity generation are just a few of the commercial and residential uses for solar technologies. The main techniques consist of:

- Solar panels are used in photovoltaic (PV) systems : Directly convert sunlight into electrical power.
- Solar Heating and Cooling (SHC): Heat spaces and water by harnessing solar radiation.

Despite its enormous potential—**the sun can supply more than 7,500 times the Earth's current energy needs**—widespread adoption is still constrained by factors like high installation costs, weather dependence.

Bio Energy:

Bioenergy uses biomass, or organic waste like wood, crops, and sewage, to produce fuel, heat, and electricity. It helps cut down on landfill waste and is carbon-neutral and renewable.

Benefits:

- Generally accessible
- Reduces solid waste by up to 90%.
- Supports the goals of clean energy

Challenges:

- Not as efficient as fossil fuels.
- Deforestation risk in the absence of sustainable use.

Wind Energy:

Wind turbines are used in wind energy to turn moving air into electrical power. It is among the most environmentally friendly choices since it is a clean, renewable, and widely accessible power source that emits no greenhouse gases.

Benefits:

- Minimal environmental impact
- Secure and trustworthy
- Carbon footprint elimination

Challenges:

- Could have an impact on wildlife and birds
- Produces noise pollution
- Has the potential to disrupt communications

Geothermal Power:

Geothermal energy generates electricity by harnessing the heat that exists within the Earth. Although it is dependable and clean, it is only available in certain areas, has high setup costs, and may release gases underground.

Hydropower:

Using hydropower, electricity is produced from flowing water. Although it is effective, renewable, and low-maintenance, dam operation can endanger aquatic life, release methane, and increase the risk of flooding.

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III. ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES

Advantages

- Lowers greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduces air and water pollution
- Boosts energy security
- Creates jobs and stimulates local economies
- Powers remote areas through off-grid systems
- Improves public health by reducing pollution

Disadvantages

- Intermittent supply (weather-dependent)
- High initial installation costs
- Large land area needed for some systems
- May impact wildlife and ecosystems
- Requires advanced technology and grid upgrades

IV. RAPID EXPANSION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPACITY WORLDWIDE

As renewable energy capacity increases at a never-before-seen rate, the global energy landscape is undergoing a significant transformation. According to the International Energy Agency, the world is expected to add almost 3,700 gigawatts of renewable power between 2023 and 2028, with an astounding 95% of that power coming from solar and wind. Solar photovoltaic installations increased by more than 29% in 2024 alone, and wind capacity expanded rapidly in North America, Europe, and Asia. With more than 373 gigawatts of new capacity, China is spearheading this clean energy revolution. India and the European Union are not far behind, having both implemented ambitious goals and forward-thinking policies. Rapid technological advancements, falling costs, and growing public and political commitment to climate action are driving this global momentum.

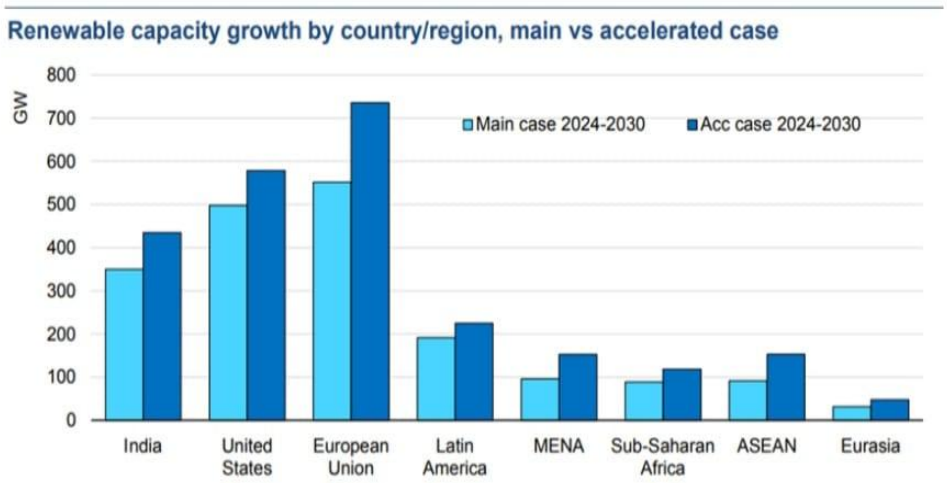

Fig.1. Renewable Capacity Growth by Country

V. DEVELOPING RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

Innovation in renewable technologies is being accelerated by the global drive for sustainable energy. Advanced solar energy systems, such as bifacial panels and perovskite solar cells, are increasing efficiency and reducing production costs. Because floating wind turbines can access energy from deeper ocean regions, the offshore wind industry is growing.

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Green hydrogen, which is made by electrolysis powered by renewable energy sources, is becoming more and more popular as a clean fuel for transportation and industry. Comparably, bioenergy systems that use organic waste and algae provide greener substitutes for fossil fuels. Newer energy sources with low emissions include geothermal and tidal power. These developments are supported by energy storage systems, smart grids, and Internet of Things platforms that allow for consistent power supply, improved grid integration, and real-time monitoring. When taken as a whole, these developments are changing the energy landscape by increasing the accessibility, efficiency and scalability for a cleaner global future.

VI. FUTURE WORK

With innovative technology, smart infrastructure, and inclusive policymaking, renewable energy has the potential to completely transform global sustainability in the future. Innovations like algae-based biofuels, floating offshore wind farms, and perovskite solar cells promise increased efficiency and wider use. With cutting-edge storage technologies, such as solid-state and grid-scale batteries, guaranteeing 24/7 dependability, addressing intermittency will be crucial. Blockchain, IoT, and AI integration will make smart grids and decentralized microgrids possible, promoting peer-to-peer energy exchange and real-time optimization. Hard-to-abate industries like heavy industry and transportation are expected to decarbonize thanks to green hydrogen, which is created through electrolysis powered by renewable energy. Environmental impact will be reduced throughout the technology lifecycle by adopting sustainable manufacturing practices and the concepts of the circular economy. Adoption will be accelerated in the interim by financial instruments like climate funds and green bonds, particularly in emerging economies.

VII. CONCLUSION

As a revolutionary substitute for traditional fossil fuel systems, renewable energy is a key component of sustainable development. These technologies promote economic resilience through the creation of green jobs, increase long-term energy security, and reduce environmental harm by leveraging abundant natural resources like solar, wind, hydro, and biomass.

Global momentum driven by innovation, supportive governance, and international collaboration is quickly closing these gaps despite present obstacles such as variability, upfront investment, and infrastructure demands. An important step toward a cleaner, more equitable, and more resilient future for current and future generations is the adoption of renewable energy, which is now a necessity rather than an option. It is the cornerstone of an international shift toward inclusive, sustainable development and climate stability.

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