

# Sustainable Development - A Gandhian Approach

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# Gandhiji as a spiritual being

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- **Gandhiji was a spiritual being first. Other things were by-products of his spirituality.**
- **He realized from an early age the importance of a great body and mind. His experiments on food, brahmacharya and fasting came from this belief. Followed age old yogic tradition.**
- **A spiritual person becomes less interested in material things. This was the basis of Gandhi's sustainability. He believed in simple living and high thinking.**
- **With little energy and very few needs he produced a very high quality of thought.**
- **His spirituality guided all his work in politics, rural development and non-violence.**

# Gandhiji's Rural Development

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- **Gandhi focussed on rural development for last 30 years of his life.**
- **He felt intuitively that future of India is in decentralized rural development. This is Nature's way.**
- **Hallmark of system evolution: size reduction; increase in complexity; increased efficiency and dynamic equilibrium with the surroundings.**
- **Gandhi was not anti technology or science. He was a prisoner of his time.**
- **He believed in local rural production and consumption. This was his concept of dream village.**
- **Modern high technology provides tools to bring his dream village to reality.**

# Decentralized Rural Development

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- **Rural development can take place with energy production.**
- **Energy is the basis of life. From it flow all affairs of humans.**
- **Decentralized resource like biomass, solar or wind.**
- **Biomass preferred source for rural areas and for NE.**
- **Taluka energy strategy. All energy needs can be met by biomass resources. Generation of 30,000 jobs in each taluka.**
- **National strategy adopted by MNES. 45 biomass power stations of 6-10 MW capacity installed.**
- **Taluka program can bring in Rs. 200 crores/yr. wealth.**
- **Economic power brings political power and democracy.**
- **Need for high technology in rural setting for sustainable development.**

# Philosophy of Sustainable development

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- All the development efforts should also be accompanied by change in mindset.
- Curbing greed is the biggest challenge. Spirituality might help in creating a “contended” mindset.
- Gandhiji’s maxim of *Simple living and high thinking* can be a possible driving force.
- Very difficult to impose in a democratic society.
- However for sustainable future we have to do it.
- Need for continuous education of children and college students regarding sustainability and love for natural systems.

# Thank You

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- <http://nariphaltan.virtualave.net>
- <http://education.vsnl.com/nimbkar/criticalmass.html>
- <http://education.vsnl.com/nimbkar/spiritual.html>