

Impact of Economic Vulnerability on Sustainable Development

Bruna de Moraes Santos¹, Bruno Reinert de Abreu², Helena Liebl³, Marcos Emerson Krzisch⁴, Evanira Maria Ribeiro Dos Santos⁵, Elba Vieira Mustafa⁶

^{1,3,4} University of the Itajaí Valley, Brasil, Itajaí, Santa Catarina, Brazil.

^{2,5,6} Galileo Institute of Technology and Education of the Amazon - ITEGAM, Manaus, Amazon, Brazil.

Abstract—The purpose of this article is to address economic vulnerability in sustainable development. The population of poor countries has a state that does not guarantee them minimum conditions of survival and sustenance, and in the pursuit of personal and social growth there is no concern with sustainable development. Countries that are in increasing poverty show a population that exploits the environment to its last resources. Therefore, the main objective is to address how countries with low economic and social development tend to exhaust natural resources in order to guarantee their livelihoods, while neglecting the need for sustainable development. Thus, the article was divided into three topics: the first dealing with sustainable development, the second on the financial and economic crisis and its social and environmental impacts, and finally the third dealing with how the crisis and the economic vulnerability of a country may result in the extraction of the available natural sources for their sustenance. The present research closes with the final considerations, in which are highlighted aspects about the environmental depletion in countries of low development. In the various phases of the research, the techniques of referent, category, operational concept and bibliographic research

Keywords— Environmental impact. Crisis. Economic vulnerability.

I. INTRODUCTION

The present article aims to address how countries with low economic and social development tend to exhaust natural resources in order to guarantee their livelihood, without concern for the environment and sustainable development. That is, to go deeper into the reasons why there is this unbridled degradation of nature, without concern for the environment, with other species or with future generations.

For that, the article is divided into three parts. In the first one, it will be approached about the Sustainable

Development, being drawn a general line on its meaning and its importance for the planet.

The second part will address the financial and economic crisis of the economically vulnerable countries as a justification for the lack of social structure for its inhabitants, implying the constant need for sustenance and the search for its own maintenance.

In the third item, it will demonstrate how the crisis and the economic vulnerability of a country can result from the extraction to exhaustion of available natural sources.

As for the Methodology used, it is recorded that in the Investigation Phase the Inductive Method was used, in the Data Treatment Phase the Cartesian Method, and the Results Report expressed in the present research is composed on the inductive logic basis (PASOLD, 2018).

II. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development occurs when there is an economic and social growth of a society and is marked with corresponding attention also to environmental preservation (CORREIA & DIAS, 2017).

Consciousness about the degradation of the environment is a recognized theme all over the world, for society is at a critical moment in the history of planet Earth (MARQUES, 2016), since much has been extracted from nature to advance growth, while our ecosystem has not regenerated at the same speed (PAMPLONA & CACCIAMALI, 2017; DE FREITAS, 2018).

Thus, having already reached levels of urbanization and development, all countries are more attentive to the fragility of nature, seeking to reconcile development with preservation (DE SOUZA, 2016).

Although greed motivates the enterprise at all costs, the edition of legislation pertinent to the use of the natural resources is growing, being societies, institutions, government, scholars and sympathizers in constant vigilance so that the Law pertaining to the environment is fulfilled, and the cases the necessary punishment and reprimand.

In this way, sustainable development is a way of maintaining a balanced relationship between the progress of man and the maintenance of nature, carefully regulating all activities that may adversely affect the environment.

As for this, Bosselman says:

The key element of sustainable development is recognition that economic and environmental objectives are inseparable. This prohibits any self-insulation of the economic development of the environment. Obviously, "needs" must be seen with respect to economic and environmental conditions (BOSELNANN, 2015).

The right to the environment is considered as a fundamental right (both individual and collective), protected by the Federal Constitution, which stresses that it is the right of everyone to health and to the ecologically balanced environment, being the duty of the State and of all to protect and to materialize one of the objectives of sustainable development, which is the communication between fundamental social rights and the fundamental right to the environment, as Fensterseifer points out:

Communication between fundamental social rights and the fundamental right to the environment is also one of the central objectives of the concept of sustainable development on the horizon constituted by the socio-environmental state of law, since, together with the idea of environmental protection, it is present in its central objective the service to the basic needs of the parts of the world and the equitable distribution of the natural resources (FENSTERSEIFER, 2008).

In relation to the need for the law to qualify human action from a responsible and communitarian perspective, Cruz emphasizes:

In this way, it is the duty of the law to axiologically qualify human action, not only in the perspective of responsible intersubjective and community behavior, but also as an extended ethical commitment and exercised in the long term, both for the benefit and attention of future generations as well as for all the community of life (CRUZ, 2008, page 68).

The concern is constant, as with the advancement of technology and access to information, consumption increases every day, and we are all in constant movement, and consequently, this state of alert is perennial.

III. THE STATE OF CRISIS IN ECONOMICALLY VULNERABLE COUNTRIES

A country in economic crisis experiences differences between the possibilities of financial capital accumulation.

The lack of structure, knowledge, social development, implies the unregulated advance of life with community, not paying attention to environmental issues, since in a poor people, the quest for survival is already difficult, so that one can still think of preservation of the environment, becomes almost impossible (BARBOSA *et al.*, 2016; FINCO & WAQUIL, 2016; MELLO & FREIRE, 2016; RODRIGUES *et al.*, 2016).

In relation to the crisis as a phase of recession and lack of investment, Bauman describes that "The economic crisis is, according to the dictionaries, a recession characterized by lack of investment, reduced production, increased unemployment" (BAUMAN & BORDONI, 2016).

Commenting on the impact of the crisis on the citizen of countries affected by the crisis, Bauman points out:

The countries affected by the crisis are too indebted and lack the strength, perhaps not even the tools to invest. All they can do is random cuts, which have the effect of exacerbating the recession rather than mitigate its impact on citizens (BAUMAN & BORDONI, 2016).

Countries with low economic power tend to grow in a disorderly way and the increase of the urban population without the figure of rule and of a public power accompanying this natural urbanization, has as unalterable consequences without adequate structure of security, unregulated use of sources of energy, in the end, a naturally disorganized growth (SCHONARDIE, 2017). The lack of sanitation in the homes "is indicative of unsatisfactory socioeconomic conditions, besides insufficient coverage and quality of the use of basic health care procedures, especially of children" (CHIARINI, 2006).

If in these countries there are few investments in education, health, food, culture, even fewer investments in social and urban structure.

Environmental destruction has a strong link to poverty, Beck warned:

(...) the ecological destruction conditioned by poverty and technical-industrial risks. The Brunatland commission was the first to point out that environmental destruction is not only the treacherous shadow of modern growth and that, contrary to popular belief, there is an intimate relationship between

environmental destruction and poverty (BECK, 1990, p.80).

Another relevant aspect is that we live in a society that tends to repeat the attitudes that it experiences and the mistakes of the past, reconstructing its experiences from the previous references it has, that is, the past of poverty, together with the lack of improvements, will bring a sequence of repetition.

As a result, environmental degradation and lack of concern for the environment become something common and normal (SÁNCHEZ, 2017).

Poverty can be one of the main problems of environmental degradation, as well as the highest income in rich countries, causing a relationship between poverty and environmental degradation with the income levels of the population:

In general, the relationship between poverty and environmental degradation is linked to the income levels of the population; a higher income suggests environmentally cleaner consumption patterns, higher levels of education and, consequently, an adequate destination for their waste is expected. This increase in income can lead to improved water quality, increased access to basic sanitation and reduced pollution. The improvement in environmental quality can lead to an improvement in the quality of life, such as a decrease in the incidence of infectious diseases, a drop in infant mortality, among others, problems in populations living in poverty and social vulnerability (MORETTO & SCHONS, 2007).

Claiming that history is ever more immediate, objective and ephemeral, Bauman asserts:

The story began to appear on the front page, and so it is more and more immediate, objective and ephemeral. It is easy to forget and to be replaced by the next news, in a fast process, which loses the whole of sight, and consequently offers an always current, vivid, but fragmented, incoherent and contradictory image (BAUMANN, 2016, p. 11).

Bauman also says that:

The society of the future is a society without memory, destined to repeat the mistakes of the past and to reconstruct its own experience exhaustively from the rubble, but so different from the modern

society that we leave behind that even the mistakes of the past, thus repeated, will emerged in new light, as if they had never been evaluated. So profound is the change that has taken place with the end of modernity, and so rapid are the innovations that experience does little good. It is simple archeology and as such should be preserved in museums (BAUMANN, 2016, p. 132).

Bauman points out that "for this reason, the most recent event, the present and the new, represents the face of the truth and defeat of the previous event" (BAUMANN, 2016, 132), and complements:

The past does not directly interfere with the present: all interference is mediated by a story. Which way this interference will take in the end, this is something decided on the battlefield of memory, in which stories are the troops and storytellers are the cunning or unfortunate commanders of the fighting forces. The lessons to be drawn from the past represent the main booty of the battle (BAUMANN, 2016, page 68).

About the growth of countries without structure and organization, the losses are taking on even greater proportions, since growth does not imply improvement, only increasing.

Commenting on this uncontrolled growth, Cruz (2012) claims to be a source of imbalance and injustice:

The existence of an uncontrolled international economy, a source of disequilibrium and injustice, the growing distance between the developed world and those excluded from the earth, or the permanent threat of wars and ecological catastrophes, have put humanity in an undeniable civilization crisis, including its continuation as a species (CRUZ, 2012, page 56).

The countries of the European Union have seen their wealth grow between fifty and seventy percent in the last twenty years. The economy grew much faster than the population. The European Union has twenty million unemployed, five million people living in poverty and five million homeless people (BECK, 1990, p.20), and complements.

The customs that people of poor countries have is shaped as a mirror of the life with which local communities lead, without structure, without organization, in a simple way, and are more concerned with personal survival than with the organization of advancement.

In the report prepared at Founex, several warnings were included on the issues that could hinder the development of Third World nations, reaching four theses:

- 1) The degradation of the environment in rich countries derives mainly from the development model, while the environmental problems of the underdeveloped countries are a consequence of underdevelopment and poverty.
- 2) Threats may arise for exports from underdeveloped countries as a result of the environmental concerns of developed countries.
- 3) There is a need to monitor the creation of non-tariff barriers based on environmental concerns.
- 4) Additional funds are needed to support research on environmental problems in third world countries to offset major changes in export flows; to cover significant increases in the cost of many projects due to higher environmental standards; and to finance the restructuring of investment, production or export profile, which would be required by the developed countries' environmental concerns (DA VEIGA, 2013).

As for the human experience as a reference for the image that each creates of the world, Bauman ponders:

People tend to weave their images of the world with the threads of their experiences. The present generation may find Logstrup's sunny and joyful image of a confident and trusting world to be forced, or even in sharp conflict with what one learns today and with what is hinted at by the common narratives of human experience heard all the days (BAUMANN, 2016, 43).

In a very elucidating way Bauman cites examples in which there is a conflict between personal values but the needs of the behavior pattern of a world of consumption: The severe demands of professional survival often confront men and women with morally devastating choices between the demands of their careers and the likes of others. Bosses prefer to employ dishonest individuals, ready to break all ties in the face of a moment's demand, who never think twice about sacrificing "ethical demands" in the name of "job demands."

We live today in a global consumer society, and patterns of consumer behavior can only affect every other aspect of our lives, including working and family life. We are all pressured to consume more, and in this journey we ourselves become products in the consumer and labor markets (BAUMANN, 2016, pp. 44/45).

In a world of competitiveness, where we are constantly encouraged to consume, the vulnerability of a country leads its people to seek exclusively personal improvement, and there is no opportunity to reach levels of environmental concern.

IV. OF THE ENVIRONMENT OUTLINING POVERTY

In poor countries, with uneven development and lack of orderly growth, their citizens have become warriors in the pursuit of survival.

Citizens who do not have decent living conditions, health, education, culture, leisure, offered by the government, still have the capacity to condition their survival to care for the environment.

Seeking the improvement and guarantee of sustenance will be done at all costs, having no criterion of care with the environmental preservation. And this from the conditions for housing, food, sanitation, among others.

In order to assess socio-environmental quality, account should be taken of the seriousness of existing environmental problems, according to two criteria: (a) the impact that such a problem has on the health of the human being; (b) the degree of damage that the environmental problem can bring to aggravate the depletion of natural resources essential to a sustainable (HARDOY & SATTERTHWAITE, 1990).

"(...) the environmental conditions to which people are exposed are intimately related to quality of life, a concept whose fundamental reference is the individual person. Quality of life is conceived as resulting from the health of the person (evaluated objectively or intersubjectively) and the (subjective) feeling of satisfaction" (GALLOPÍN, 1982).

If in economically vulnerable countries there is talk of environmental degradation in the area of deforestation for urbanization, excessive use of natural resources, inadequate disposal of solid waste, the structure and necessity of these places is very different from the growing countries where it is worth pondering, the degradation reaches even higher levels. In these countries the population seeks to guarantee their housing, food, growth, causing environmental degradation with excessive use of chemical fertilizers and polluting fuels, contamination of groundwater, rivers and soil impoverishment, among others, we have that in the great world powers the natural injury reaches much larger proportions, such as the use of nuclear energy.

Degradation does not only affect industry, agriculture and livestock, but also in individual and family social issues, since, since they do not have the economic capacity to structure themselves in the housing market, the poor settle informally in any marginalized areas and live there, without sanitation, without security, without organization (PIMENTA & PIMENTA, 2016; SOUZA, 2016; SANTOS, 2017).

Developed countries seek to use technological innovations to create ecologically viable production

processes, but they have an urban and industrial structure that.

Thus, in the pursuit of social growth and the development of daily life, it is not uncommon to practice depletion of natural resources in poor communities, justifying the damage of environmental degradation by the need to live, to sustain oneself, to maintain oneself with dignity. In this sense, Beck highlights the focus theme that inspires the production of this scientific article, stating:

It is not hard to imagine that a country living in increasing poverty will exploit the environment to its ultimate resources. In despair (or in the political cover-up of despair) he can use the armed force to take possession of foreign sources of survival (BECK & CARONE, 1999).

And often the depletion of the environment of a country is not only to meet the needs of its people, but also because of the greed of better developed countries that take advantage of this vulnerability to benefit from natural matter with low cost and abundance.

It is noted that great world powers were born and stood out because of this exploitation of the poorest countries, exhausting their natural resources at low cost.

Fortunately, there have been disruptions and productive restructuring around the world, as more conscious countries are engaged in the discovery of new energy sources, technological innovations and workforce management adjustments, always aiming at a sustainable development that can be applied around the world.

Unsustainable exploitation of natural resources in poor countries can be bypassed as long as they invest in decent living conditions, education and income opportunities. Cruz, defends the possibility of economic justice for distribution of wealth, adding that "it becomes indispensable to configure a new concept of democracy that helps to safeguard legality in the transnational scope" (CRUZ & BODNAR, 2012).

It should be borne in mind that economically developed countries should assist economically vulnerable countries. In this regard, "[...] the question is not whether the rich world can afford to help the poor but can afford not to help them." (SACHS, 2005). It is important to emphasize that "this aid" would consist of administering the "consequences" left by poverty and environmental depredation, based on technological outputs, far from the economic, political and social determinants that produce them (SCHONS, 2012).

The idea that any damage done on planet Earth directly affects all its inhabitants has intensified the discussion of the growth model more suited to the goal of sustainable development, and it is also up to the developing countries to collaborate for improvements in all continents.

Thus, the poverty-environment relationship must understand the themes of equity, justice and ecological health, not allowing the belief that the poor are the cause of all urban evils to crystallize (COMIN, 2002).

Finally, the duty to the environment is the duty of all, not only of the states and the private sector, but must be guaranteed for future generations, beyond the current one.

V. CONCLUSIONS

At the end of this article, we notice the degradation of the environment is present in economically vulnerable countries, in the sense that no economic conditions for the sustainable use of the environment, and often not even a study on this.

The constant search for economic development causes these countries to degrade the environment in order to reach their goal of industrializing and developing economically before the rest of the world.

The advance of civilization and urbanization of cities has led to environmental disasters so severe that it has become essential to create regulations to minimize environmental degradation.

Sustainable development should not be a goal to be followed, but it is a fundamental condition for guiding the advancement of civilizations with the guarantee of environmental conditions already so damaged.

Most developed countries have already severely degraded the environment to reach the levels of urbanity and social structure they experience today, which is why laws and regulations have emerged that set limits to the advance of modernity.

This is because it is not enough to think about advancement and growth without the concern that there is a healthy and adequate environment for future generations.

In countries with low economic and social development, we have the difficulties of their populations, even in the challenge of their own survival, in search of housing, food, study, culture, leisure, among others.

This vulnerability implies practically no concern and possibility of care with environmental and social degradation.

The poorer the population, without a state fulfilling its role as provider of social welfare, people will have less education, financial conditions and will have less awareness and opportunities to pay attention to environmental issues and to effectively difference.

Therefore, a poverty-stricken country will result in inhabitants exploiting the environment to their last resources, depleting natural resources, without any concern for sustainable development.

The existence and creation of means of production, distribution and consumption of existing resources, in a

more ecologically viable way, is essential, to be initiated by countries already in development, in collaboration with the poorest countries, that is, state intervention is necessary.

There is no way to forget the existential minimum ecological, which is a constitutional guarantee of a dignified existence, which operates in a way linked to fundamental social rights and fundamental environmental law.

The socio-environmental state is also concerned with guaranteeing people's quality of life and the protection of the environment, and not only with the unbridled economy, and it is in this sense that the developed countries must operate in favor of the less favored.

Finally, one realizes that the individual is the protagonist of his own history, and plays a fundamental role, together with the State, in the construction of fundamental rights, as well as in the rescue, protection and growth of sustainability and the environment ecologically correct and dreamed by all.

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