
Paradoxes of sustainable development – a geographical view

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Abstract

New and new questions are added to mankind by global problems that should be answered. However a general answer, Idea of sustainable development (SD) has been become well-known all over the world, some of important goals, has been set up by United Nations, have not been achieved. Aside from different opposite opinions on existence of sustainable development, it is fact that implementation of sustainable development is a crucial question of our future. The ways, used up to now, are less efficient then they would have been expected. New economic-social paradigm instead of market economy is in focus of some progressive scientists. Efficient results would hardly be achieved if structural problems of global market economies, its social consequences are not been clarified.

Modern economies, societies have extremely complex structure in connect society and nature. Holistic, furthermore objective approach, as it is possible, is fundamental to find elements of this system which cause functions against implementation of sustainable development. These are mostly paradoxes that are crucial or key-points in this problem.

These paradoxes are in focus of this research based on function of our society. What kind of paradoxes can be determined in our economy, society? How they influent to each other? What are the fundamental driving forces? How can economy, consumption, man influenced by them? What kind of solutions should be find to solve paradoxes and for effective implementation sustainable development? Can it help to set up a new efficient paradigm?

The first level of paradoxes related to economy. The basic features of economy have contradictory elements to real sustainability. Not only on micro-economy level but macro-economy level, too. The second level is the state own. Annual state budget determines annual processes, furthermore it has long term influence for future. It is easy to understand interest of state by its budget in many cases contrary to expectations of sustainability. A trivial example is economic growth compare to degrowth. The third level is society as population and man. The individual person with his interests could have determinant role but demography and other factors importance are not negligible. Contradictories come out mainly in their interrelationships. Survey of these paradoxes could help to find solution to reach a better, long term well-being life for mankind of present and future.

From geographical point of view the necessary changes will overdrew map of world maybe in every segment of economy, consumption and society but hopefully not the nature.

Keywords: sustainable development, paradoxes, economy, new paradigm, economic development

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