

'Spirituality for promoting community and environmental sustainability' is the third book in the series of Spirituality and Social Work. Promoting community and environmental sustainability was the theme of World Social Work Day for the past two years (March 21, 2017 and March 20, 2018). This theme consists of twin goals of sustainable communities and sustainable environment, it implicates the social workers' responsibility towards the achievement of sustainable community and sustainable environment. This work is an attempt to establish spirituality as the contributing factor towards sustainable community and sustainable environment. It has five chapters describing relevance of spirituality for sustainable development, spiritual nature of human beings, the spiritual foundation of ethical behaviour, the role of spirituality in global peace building process and finally factors of sustainable and unsustainable development based on a field study. This book will be useful resource for social service professionals to understand the spiritual foundation of sustainable development. While discussing the ethical and anthropological features of spirituality, it attempts to highlight the application of spirituality in peace building and explores into factors promoting sustainable development based on a field study.

Contents:

1. Spirituality and Sustainable Development 2. Spirituality and Human Nature 3. Spirituality and Ethics 4. Spirituality and Peace 5. Factors of Sustainable and Unsustainable Development: A Field Study on Professional Social Workers in India **Bibliography**



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Spirituality for Promoting Community
and Environmental Sustainability

Dr. Jaimon Varghese



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interrelatedness, love and spirituality; personal identity, human destiny and spirituality; mind, matter and spirituality; expressions and operations of mind and spirituality; and finally the destiny of mind and spirituality.

Third chapter explores the connection between spirituality and morality. Promotion of community and environmental sustainability is an ethical responsibility of human beings. Spirituality has intrinsic connection with ethical and moral behaviour. This chapter describes the challenges of ethics and morality, Indian ethics and spirituality, history of western ethics and spirituality, ethical foundations and spirituality, values and spirituality, virtues and spirituality, rights and spirituality, duties and spirituality, applied ethics and spirituality, international ethics and spirituality, bio ethics and spirituality, and environmental ethics and spirituality.

Fourth chapter discusses on an important applied feature of spirituality, that is, peace building. Peace is an essential condition for sustainable development. This chapter on spirituality and peace describes peace building and spirituality, concepts, levels, measures and culture of peace; conflict resolution and spirituality, concept, types, sources and impacts of conflict and methods of conflict resolution; and peace education and spirituality. Peace is a spiritual product. Spirituality is the foundation of sustainable peace and conflict resolution. Peace building is a spiritual enterprise.

Fifth chapter compiles the findings of a field study which explored social workers' perspectives on factors of sustainable and unsustainable development. Factors of sustainable development are role of social work and community based organisations, spiritual factors, education and awareness factors, role of government agencies, ecological and environmental factors and cultural and geographical factors. Factors of unsustainable development are personal and psychological factors, communal and caste related factors, political and administrative factors, economic factors, criminal factors and ecological and environmental degradation.

This book will be useful resource for social service professionals to understand the spiritual foundation of sustainable development. While discussing the ethical and anthropological features of spirituality, it attempts to highlight the application of spirituality in peace building. It has also enlisted the factors of sustainable and unsustainable development as professional social workers see them.

—Jaimon Varghese

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Spirituality and Sustainable Development

Introduction

Sustainable development is a common task of all the nations. Spirituality is a significant variable for sustainable development. Chief purpose of sustainable development is to preserve the natural resources not only for the sake of human being, but also for the conservation of biodiversity of the world. Sustainable development is essentially inculcating healthy living habits towards conservation of natural resources, conscious use of energy resources and integrated management of conventional and non-conventional sources of energy. 'Sustainable development is a process of maintaining resilience of the ecological, social and economic systems, maintaining critical thresholds of ecological capital including each major component, maximising economic welfare and without destroying planet's reserve' (Rao, 2001:91). Modern capitalist trend of unlimited competition and market based economy result in wastage of scarce natural resources. It leads to both unsustainable economic development and unsustainable life on this earth. There should be a self imposed control of the use of scarce means of economic production. Survival of human beings and other living beings is the primary concern of sustainable development. Survival of any species on earth will be a collective enterprise. In order to maintain bio-physical productivity, there is a need for preservation of environment quality and ecosystem.

Sustainable development is protecting and promoting, inter and intra generational equity, social justice and self-reliance. Sustainable