

THESIS TITLE: The Concept of Sustainable Development according to P.A. Payutto: A Critical Assessment
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Abstract

Actually, nature is a source of valuable resources which benefit all living and non-living things on this earth. Life and nature are interconnected and should not be separated from each other. A cycle of arising, continuation, and destruction through the laws of nature causes a balance among all living and non-living things but trying to satisfy unlimited desires of human beings causes imbalances in nature.

Thinking only about economic development is *not* sustainable development because human beings operate under the misconception that they were born to dominate and conquer nature and ignore the fact that they are a *part* of nature. In this research on sustainable development according to the Venerable Bhikkhu Phra Dhammapitaka (P.A. Payutto) it was found that he believed both capitalism and socialism are based on similar ideas—to aim solely for economic development, but ignoring human development. He emphasizes that since human beings are a part of nature, we should train them to live in harmony with nature and to preserve nature through development in four ways: Physical development, emotional development, mental development, and the development of wisdom.

Sustainable development according to the World Commission on Environment and Development focuses on economic development and environmental development, but Payutto claims that these alone are not enough to promote sustainable development. He argues that we must concentrate of *human development*. So he creates the word “evolvability” to mean that human beings have the capacity to develop their own potentiality.