Disponível em
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Desafio Online, Campo Grande, v.4, n.3, Set./Dez. 2016

DO CRESCIMENTO ECONÔMICO AO DESENVOLVIMENTO SUSTENTÁVEL

THE ECONOMIC GROWTH TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Resumo

Os conceitos de responsabilidade socioambiental, desenvolvimento econômico, desenvolvimento sustentável e sustentabilidade são muito abrangentes. O principal objetivo desse artigo é apresentar os temas responsabilidade socioambiental, desenvolvimento sustentável e sustentabilidade. Os conceitos de desenvolvimento sustentável são apresentados juntamente com o desenvolvimento econômico devido à constatação que a manutenção do modelo de desenvolvimento atual é depreciativa, tanto em termos ambientais como em termos econômicos e socioambientais. O desenvolvimento sustentável, nesse sentido apresenta uma nova forma de se promover o desenvolvimento mundial, equilibrando as necessidades de resultados financeiros com a preservação do ecossistema terrestre e a melhoria da qualidade

de vida das populações atuais e futuras. Embora na teoria do poluidor pagador, o desenvolvimento sustentável se apresente de forma viável, a sua execução é complexa, exigindo a coordenação e a colaboração de diversos agentes econômicos.

Palavras chaves: sustentabilidade, desenvolvimento econômico, meio ambiente, responsabilidade socioambiental, desenvolvimento sustentável.

Abstract:

The concepts of environmental responsibility, economic development, sustainable development and sustainability are very comprehensive. The main objective of this paper is to present the topics environmental responsibility, sustainable development and sustainability. The concepts of sustainable development are presented along with economic development because of the realization that maintaining the current development model is diminishing, both in environmental terms and in economic, social and environmental terms. Sustainable development, in this sense presents a new way of promoting global development, balancing the needs of financial results with preserving the earth's ecosystem and improving the quality of life of current and future populations. Although in theory the polluter pays principle, sustainable development is presented viably, its implementation is complex, requiring the coordination and collaboration of many economic agents.

Keywords: *sustainability, economic development, environmental responsibility, sustainable development.*

1. INTRODUCTION

From the 1960s, some economists began to see that the stresses in the terrestrial ecosystem and its preservation should be discussed in the economic and environmental policy with effective participation of the State (ROCHA, 2004).

This change of behavior in society can be seen in the report on the limits to growth developed by the Club of Rome in 1968. In this pessimistic report was provided for all energy reserves such as oil, coal and fossil fuels would be exhausted by 2030 . this document was proposed zero growth in the world economy to mitigate the wear of the environment. However a portion of the population suffering from social deprivation would be penalized since they would have kept a very low level of quality of life. With that environmental issues would be assuaged, but with the worsening of social and environmental problems of disparity in the quality of life of the population. Faced with this prospect, many critics condemn this analysis to save the terrestrial ecosystem with low or no economic growth. But it should be noted that not always economical financial growth brought economic development for all countries (ROCHA, 2004).

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2. METHODOLOGY

The methodology used in this work explains how we intend to analyze the evolution of the concept of economic growth to the current consensus of sustainable development.

According to Miles and Huberman (1994) and Chauri and Gronhaug (1995), qualitative research allows the researcher impetre adequate information about complex topics such as human or organizational behavior. Godoy (1995), shows that qualitative research obtains information about people, places and interactive processes through interaction between researcher and studied the situation. The qualitative approach in this research is guided by a pathway that allows observation and analysis of the situation studied. The method chosen for this research provides reflection and understanding of the context of the problem, with an unstructured and exploratory methodology allowing to analyze a problem and its data can be considered conclusive, but not generalizable to the target population.

As Godoy (1995), the qualitative method fits a wide variety of working methods, modes of analysis and display of effects and different considerations. Regarding the research method, it is assumed that the content of this investigative work is an exploratory, extended with the aim of adapting an overview of approximate type, about certain fact, descriptive and explanatory, that, according to Gil (2007), aims embroiled knowledge of a pointed problem, seeking to delineate the characteristics of a predetermined event or population and its analogy between the variables. Cooper and Schindler (2003), despite the obvious value of exploratory research, the researchers offer less attention to the exploration of what really should ascertain, there is intense pressure for quick answers.

Thus, this study is an exploratory, grounded in the interest of increasing knowledge about sustainable development and economic growth. Hair et al. (2005) welcome to the exploratory research is beneficial when the provisions have responsibility for providing limited information analysis of the perceptions and behaviors. Cooper and Schindler (2003), when a researcher to gain knowledge about the nature of a particular problem, the most appropriate type of research is exploratory. This study does not present a rigid structure, methods are flexible, unstructured and qualitative.

3. ECONOMIC GROWTH TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

During the 1970s the terms are created greening and eco-development that influence many scholars on the subject. For Sachs (1981), the company need not sacrifice their

development to prevent wear of the environment. The rational use of environmental resources along with the use of alternative energies such as wind and solar, allows produce wealth without depleting the environment.

To override the controversial report of the Club of Rome suggested that zero growth from 1980 begins the concept of sustainable development as the Brundtland Report, is one development that aims to meet the current needs arise, but without compromising the future development. This new concept was originated to try and reconcile financial economic growth economic development and to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality, but without degrading the environment, or wear as little as possible so that it can be regenerated naturally.

Even with the immense acceptance, dissemination and propagation of the term sustainable development in society its interpretation and application is very divergent. Currently, its countless definitions and interpretations have caused many difficulties in verifying whether or not what is actually sustainable development. Many industries have adopted the title of sustainable even with its renowned and notorious environmental depredation, such as the alcohol sector.

Despite being much discussed, technological advances have afforded to a small part of society levels of quality of life amazing. But it occurs to environmental degradation and sacrifice of the vast majority of the population living with low quality of life causing enormous social inequality. Thus, we must analyze how this improvement has occurred in the life of the corporate elite in environmental detriment.

The aspect that studies the environmental degradation known as Environmental Economics (neoclassical mainstream) do not always consider the environmental resources as a source of inputs and not as a deposit of externalities. Thus, the terrestrial ecosystem in the long term was not considered as a factor limiting economic expansion. This notion of infinity of environmental resources has been the target of fierce criticism by several authors, and in time was modified and included in the production function. However, the concept remained that the limitations placed by the availability of environmental resources were only partial and can be overcome by scientific progress. That is, with the technological advancement can vary the way to produce a product, replacing the expensive and scarce inputs by other abundant and cheap. Technological advancement is the factor that allows the change of the resource base, enabling economic and financial growth, without acting as a reducing growth (ROMEIRO, 2001) terrestrial ecosystem.

Thus, the market mechanisms and tools are primarily responsible for infinite increase the limits on the use of environmental resources as inputs to growth. For resources not traded in markets and nature and public interest such as air and water, market mechanisms are flawed, and intervention is necessary to change the form of payment for use of these resources. However, for resources as inputs traded in the market, this market mechanism can provide satisfactory results, because as scarcity increases, prices increase favoring the introduction of innovations that enable modification or saving resources, exchanging the other most abundant resource (ROCHA, 2004).

Environmental resources have different uses and therefore different values for groups with specific interests and often conflicting. These features, in addition to finite and scarce have alternatives, varied and antagonistic interests utilities (ROMEIRO, 2001).

According to Rocha (2004), these interests change as the degree of development of society. Note that in an early stage of development of society, the population is so conniving with the coming environmental degradation with the economic and financial growth. From a certain level of welfare of society, the population becomes sympathetic to environmental preservation and is willing to pay for environmental improvements. This behavior can be explained by the Kuznets curve: as per capita income increases with economic and financial growth to environmental degradation increases up to a point, from which the environmental quality starts to improve.

Ideal solutions for this aspect would be addressed by the creation of conditions for the functioning of free market mechanisms with the elimination of the public interest known as Coasian bargaining; or through financial and economic measurement of environmental degradation and requiring payment of these amounts through rates, known as Pigouvian tax (ROMEIRO, 2001).

The Coasean bargaining implies privatization of natural resources, bumping the high cost of negotiation between the agents involved. For Coase, the effects on the terrestrial ecosystem was private interest against another private interest and not private front of an audience. With this, the private ownership of the means Ambienta would be the ideal solution for society, as a public good could not be effectively preserved by the fact that what is everybody belongs to nobody. Thus, privatize all environmental resources would be the best solution (ROCHA, 2004).

A Pigovian tax provides for the pricing of environmental degradation and the transfer of these values for the prices of products arising from the financial and economic growth. It is

part of the principle of the existence of a cost curve of environmental degradation, ignoring the unpredictable nature of environmental disasters. But Pigou (1920), the most efficient environmental policy is to create mechanisms and initiatives through pricing, so that agents "internalize" the costs of environmental wear and tear caused by socioeconomic agents. For Pigou (1920), the unintended effects of projects and production activities of the organizations, externalities are called (ROCHA, 2004).

To minimize these negative externalities state action should occur through taxation. Such taxation should reflect the environmental costs inflicted on society by environmental wear caused by the use of environmental resources by a single agent. Thus, incorporating environmental costs into product prices, the institutions would not have grounds to stop polluting (ROMEIRO, 2001).

The Coase theorem is based on property rights rather than on economic valuation as Pigou model, which sees the state as the most effective agent for controlling and regulating externalities. But both Coase, preaching free trade, as Pigou, proposing to fees, dues and contributions, proposes that the free market should be the defining compensation to the terrestrial ecosystem of the ills caused by the capitalist economic system. Even assuming allocative efficiency of the free market suggested by Coase and Pigou, this line coming up, respectively, the difficulty in measuring social cost for a monetary value and definition of property rights in the use of environmental resources along with the benefits and externalities. For both authors, solutions to environmental issues will only be formed when the resources become scarce. The charge to diagnose the best way to address the preservation of the Earth's ecosystem would be the free market. Market power is the defining the degree of scarcity of environmental resources (ROCHA, 2004).

Thus, the discussion of aspects Environmental economics is centered on the creation of mechanisms to the efficiency of resource allocation, ie, the choice of the set of assets in order to employ the best natural resources, with scientific advances of production (SOUSA, 2006).

The choice of efficient allocation of environmental resources may be performed through market mechanisms based on the neo-classical culture constructing hypothetical markets for these resources, determining the optimum allocation of the same. In neoclassical theory, the wear of terrestrial ecosystem caused by financial and economic growth is caused by the waste of environmental resources due to the fact no rules for the preservation and maintenance of the terrestrial ecosystem (ROMEIRO, 2001).

The green economy encompasses the issue of the use and allocation of environmental resources valuing sustainable use, respecting nature's ability to withstand the waste imposed by the operation of the business activities of the economy without forgetting the benefits and harms of the expansion of human activity (Mattos et. al., 2005).

Constanza (1994) states that it is a transdisciplinary approach, which overcomes traditional conceptions, which includes all the inter-relationships between ecological and economic systems. It should absorb the social relationships while incorporating ecological analysis of the long-term. The economic analysis must overcome entrepreneurial limits covering all incorporating the ecosystem consequences of economic decisions.

For May (1996), this new approach preaches the conservation of environmental resources, thereby seeking to avoid social and environmental disasters. For the author, the scarcity of environmental resources and the absorptive capacity of externalities caused by industrial growth, are not summarily be overcome by technological progress. Thus, the allocation and distribution usually accepted in economic analysis, ecological economics embed the concept of scale, referring to physical amount of energy absorbed and converted and the entropic processes of economic expansion matter.

As May (1996), ecological economics has two main main methodological aspects:

• Expand the boundaries of traditionally accepted analysis of cost-effectiveness using methods of environmental valuation.

• Limiting the interference of the economy in the terrestrial ecosystem and recognize the difficulty in expanding the boundaries of analysis traditionally accepted cost-effective to quantify the interactions between economic activity and ecological functions. Thus, this aspect recognizes the difficulty of participation across society in the decision to choose public policies with different perceptions of values process.

For many authors, as Mattos et. al., (2005) and May (1996), ecological economics seeks sustainable development, seeking to preserve environmental resources over time.

Currently, the discussion of financial and economic growth has been expanded to include other elements of social welfare. To maintain the use of environmental resources over time, you should use renewable environmental resources while optimizing the efficiency of non-renewable resources used and replace them with new technologies (Mattos et. Al., 2005).

Despite the economic development encompass the financial and economic growth they differ because of economic development seek to improve social conditions and welfare of the

population. The financial and economic development encompasses a number of aspects that provide the welfare of society, and the state's main driver development agent, leaving him the promotion of actions that facilitate the needs to reduce the level of poverty, create employment opportunities expand income, avoid social inequalities, improve the quality of life and measure the use of environmental resources by promoting sustainable use (ROCHA, 2004).

To Common (1995), the sustainable development of society should have three ecological characteristics:

• The population in terrestrial ecosystem shouldnt be Relatively stable or even declining;

• The productive Activities of organizations must not Exceed the limits of environmental resources imposed by the biosphere.

• The benefits of productive system should not be related to Increased levels of consumption of environmental resources or Activities que Provide reduced productivity of the ecosystem.

A question that has been much discussed is the need to have a sustainable development that respects the limits of ecosystems. Energies should be conducted to limit the scale to a sustainable level. The wear of the terrestrial ecosystem has been studied by economic thought, trying to analyze the price of a product and the cost of external environmental effects of production activities, making the final price incorporates the degradation of the environment. This analysis on how to embed environmental stresses in product prices, forgets that the micro economy is inside another system that is the terrestrial biosphere (Mattos et. Al., 2005).

The biosphere is the supplier of matter / energy and is the energy deposit of economic processes, and macroeconomics another open system of the biosphere and highly dependent on it. Thus, the physical exchanges that cross the boundary between the ecological system and the economic system are the object of study of ecological economics. The economy needs a range of physical size, physical volume of the flow of energy and matter suitable to the environment. It is essential to define the scale of the economy relative to the environment, because the economic system can not change the biosphere indefinitely, of which the economy is a subsystem. The economy has to set a size for the ecosystem can support it as a provider of resources and as a place to dump waste. The maintenance of life can be interrupted if the economic processes beyond the boundaries of the regenerative capacity of

the biosphere. As there is no possibility of internalizing the wear, the alternative is to wear the incorporation of terrestrial ecosystem (externalities) the prices of goods and services. The ecologically sustainable economic development depends on the terrestrial ecosystem as a source of environmental resources or evacuation of energy and matter (Mattos et. Al., 2005).

Do not remove more than the terrestrial ecosystem regeneration itself and not propel larger amount than its absorption and sustainable regeneration will impose limits on the terrestrial ecosystem avoiding the disruption of these ecosystems (ROCHA, 2004).

An economic process is sustainable if the situation where environmental critical functions are observed, such as absorption and neutralization of waste from business activities; and maintaining climatic stability of the ecosystem. But on the other hand, if they are offered at high costs, uneconomic price of the products produced may result in exclusion blocking access to these products (CAVALCANTI, 1995).

From the moment it ceases system compatibility, the ecosystem is the need to adjust the relationship between society and nature. Economically evaluate the terrestrial ecosystem aims to show the economic value that nature can provide or even the damage that can occur if this will be permanently altered (ROMEIRO, 2001).

But it should be noted that change the Earth's biodiversity will lead to social and environmental problems such evils: global warming, climate change and the hydrological cycle, extinction of vegetation and animals beyond the enhancement of uptake and use of environmental resources (ROCHA, 2004).

For the process of generation of goods and services continue to be productive, the cost of wear of the environment, arising from the high consumption of natural resources, have to be embedded in economic processes.

For many authors, such as May (1996), Cavalcanti (1995) and Mattos et. al. (2005), the demand for goods and services provided at zero cost is higher than if you had a built-in cost. And so the great demand provided by the zero cost can disrupt the ecosystem regeneration.

To avoid deterioration of the terrestrial ecosystem or only postpone it, the environmental resources should be treated with very high economic values so they can be used correctly benefiting the whole society and its future generations. Therefore reduce them to provide a low cost risk exaurirmos resources jeopardizing the sustainability of terrestrial ecosystem.

But simply pricing the externalities of business activities not definitively solve the problems of the impacts of activities on the environment. If only that pricing occurs, one runs the risk of creating the idea that only a wealthy portion of society has the right (due to the financial situation) to enjoy and be able to pay for the use and benefit of the products arising from economic activity. Along with the pricing of environmental resources must be created policies to minimize the negative externalities of ensuring free market allocation of resources benefiting society (ROCHA, 2004).

The rise in prices of goods and services, due to the inclusion of social and environmental wear, you can avoid the waste of natural resources, but let the market solve these impacts would be naive, because in a market economy the dominant class has the practice to internalize profits and externalize the costs to all of society (ROMEIRO, 2001).

Reduce and minimize waste, maintain a low consumption of certain natural resources, maximize renewal with natural regeneration, benefiting the entire society, will provide a less impactful development for the terrestrial ecosystem and with less use of natural resources. For this to occur it is necessary to change the logic of consumer capitalism as imposed by the rapid obsolescence.

According to Marx (1975), when economic agents seek to introduce any change in the production process expect capital appreciation and increasing the rate of profit. Technical progress means progress of capitalist production techniques, seeking capital appreciation and increasing rates of profit.

The reversal of capital for technological progress is a decision of the capitalist system, mediated by a whole strategic analysis of the possibilities of return, capital appreciation, taking into account the variables of political and financial nature can change the pace and the intensity of progress technical (ALVES, 1991).

In the logic of the capitalist system, the environmental and productive resources are used intensively to obtain profit, not considering environmental criteria. The free market and its logic based on the principle of productive and permanent destruction of environmental resources do not accept obstacles in its path of development. While the assumptions of Marxist political economy are not taken into consideration the market, the Marxist theory will remain a threat to neoliberal capitalism. Thus, it is considered a hindrance to the market economy, projecting the social and environmental needs as essential rather than prioritizing the maximum profit (FOLADORI, 2001) goals.

For Marx (1975), neoliberal relations of production are the central causes of the deterioration of the Earth's ecosystem and socio-environmental relations. This is because the relationship between man and nature is mediated relationships between classes that have certain goals that represent the group, and these interests are hardly harmonious or universal. Man's relationship with the Earth's ecosystem can almost never be considered neutral. Any appropriation of environmental resources is always guided by private interests and invariably abusive to the interests of the whole society (SOUZA LIMA, 2004).

Theories and contrary to the current neoliberal phase of capitalism economic policies, will only be considered when the population and the economy become contaminated and become unproductive. The consequences of a terrestrial ecosystem unviable for producing cause problems for the economic system. Thus, environmental resources are important not because they meet social needs, but because, when contaminated, endangers economic success. When misuse of environmental resources affects economic system, they become essential (SOUZA LIMA, 2004).

But it should be noted that the current capitalist model of economic and financial growth caused great changes to the whole terrestrial ecosystem. On one hand, generated wealth in the world, but then caused enormous environmental and social distortions. Faced with this realization, emerges the idea of sustainable environmental development, seeking to balance economic development and financially to the preservation of terrestrial ecosystem aimed at environmental development.

According to Cavalcanti (1995), sustainable development has six features that can be understood as goals:

• The satisfaction of the primary needs of the population (food, education, leisure, health, etc.);

• Solidarity with future generations (preservation of environmental resources so they have a chance to live);

• The awareness of the need to preserve the environment;

• The preservation of environmental resources (water, oxygen, etc.);

• The development standards, procedures and tools that guarantee employment, respect for other cultures, eradicating poverty and prejudice;

• The effectiveness of educational programs.

The definition of the global commission on terrestrial ecosystem UN sustainable development is:

> "Whoever meets the needs of the present without causing changes that compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs, and can also be used with the meaning of improving the conditions of human life within the limits of the capacity of ecosystems". (MILARÉ, 2007)

Milanez (2002) states that the concept of sustainability has featured the following principles:

• precautionary principle: what determines where the possibility of serious health damage of living beings, lack of full scientific certainty should not postpone preventive measures;

• precautionary principle: risk and environmental damage should be assessed beforehand and avoided when possible;

• Compensatory Principle: compensation for victims of pollution, being the compensation for environmental damage must be provided for by law;

• the polluter pays principle: the costs of environmental remediation and compensatory measures should be borne by the responsible parties.

The aggression against the goods of nature and the very web of life, jeopardizing the fate of man, is one of the evils coming terrifying humanity. Therefore, the UN conferences created the principle of sustainable development. Was in Stockholm which arose the term used this principle at the World Environment Conference in 1972, which was followed by other conferences related to the environment.

4. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The principles of sustainable environmental development seek to maintain the fundamental bases of human reproduction and also their activities, ensuring the same level the relationship between human beings along with the terrestrial ecosystem in which they live, so future generations can enjoy the same features available in this environment.

Sustainable development seeks to reconcile the protection of terrestrial ecosystems and socioeconomic development for improving the quality of human life. It is unquestionable relevance of development for society. However, economic development and environmental development should coexist, so that does not cause the termination of this.

There is no objective stress that the sustainable development limiting economic development. It is clear that economic activity often is damage to the environment, however, seeks to minimize it, then, to think otherwise is to say that no industry that has the likelihood of damaging the terrestrial ecosystem will be installed because it is not the intention. The correct interpretation is that the activities are carried out by appropriate mechanisms to reduce environmental degradation.

But it is necessary to establish the difference between growth and development. The difference is that the economic and financial growth does not always lead to social equality or justice because it does not consider the quality of life, only the accumulation of wealth in a small portion of society. Economic development, in turn, is concerned not only with the generation of wealth, but also how to distribute them, to improve the living conditions of the entire society.

Currently, an index commonly used to measure this development is the Index or HDI Human Development. This index reveals the economic and environmental performance of a country, state or municipality, whose major purpose is to present, as its name, a measure of human development. The HDI is an indicator that can serve as a baseline for measuring economic development, and can be considered as quality of life offered to society worrying about the following variables: healthy life, access to hygiene and health, access to education, standard of living, life expectancy, GDP per capita among others.

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