**Sociological Overview on the**

**Sustainable Development and Environmental Challenges**

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**Abstract**

Nowadays environmental destruction directly affects the economic process of world countries. Erosion, ozone layer's becoming thin, pollution, increasing the number of dangerous flooding due to the destruction of settlements and climate changes altogether have a bad effect on people's lives.

While reserving environment and natural resources is among the most important human challenges in the turn of the new century, the necessity of improving the level of life standards in the developing countries still keeps its importance.

Environmental sustainability and development are two essential elements in development planning, and in order to enjoy sustainable development we should firm industrial development based on the concept of environmental sustainability. Some parts of environmental consequences and damages are the results of unclear regulations and their lack of administrative guarantee, so rereading legal considerations and making arrangement in this area seem to be necessary.

The process of globalization due to the lack of preparing essential provisions for compensating the results of its avarice at last leads to destroying environment and earth's natural resources and increasing poverty under the yoke of the world capitalism.

In this article, Iran's environmental challenges with respect to the concept of development and specially ''sustainable development'' have been discussed.

**Key words:** **Environment, Sustainable development, Environmental Punishment, Globalization**