

GEOG 370 Geography of Sustainable Development

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Q1 : Final exam.

Write an essay about the local knowledge as a bottom-up approach of sustainable development? Give 4 examples from peer reviewed journals

- In other words, people's local knowledge could be used in development.
- This approach stems from the fact that the poor acquired this knowledge over centuries through "**trial and error**". through direct contact with nature on a day-to-day basis.
- Unlike western "**Science**" which has been initiated in laboratories first and then applied in nature.
- **People's local knowledge** is also called indigenous knowledge, people's science, village science, ethno science, folk science and folk ecology.
- For example, peasant farmers' detailed agro-ecological knowledge, includes crop selection, ranking and maintenance, soil taxonomy, **Ethnobotany, ethnobiology**, weather and micro-climate analysis; and forest and land management.
- **On contrast**, indigenous knowledge was seen for a long period of time by western scientists as **unsystematic, imprecise, misguided, superficial**, and thus **lacking legitimacy** in mainstream thinking or just **plain wrong**.
- Western scientists think local knowledge cannot be used for the basis of development similar to the modern scientific system.
- However, while both systems function within their own socio-cultural domains, it is erroneous to think of one as "**scientific**" and the other as "**folk**" knowledge; each has elements of both
- Since **local knowledge** is based on practical daily experience using environmental resources in a flexible way.
- Therefore, scholars argued that the **combination** of this grass root ethno-scientific data (local knowledge) with standard scientific approaches provides a fuller understanding of local knowledge than either one alone.
- As a result, scholars called for **people participation** and **people involvement** in the process of development, together with the scientific approach have led to the emergence of what is call **participatory approach**.
- This point was further illustrated by scholars who argue that problems of environmental change, soil erosion and resource management are more complex than can be dealt with through; **simplistic**, "**linear**", "**orthodox**" and "**received wisdom**" approaches alone.
- Instead, writers call for a new more comprehensive **people oriented, democratic**, "**pluralistic**", "**hybrid**" and "**participatory**" approaches.
- This can incorporate indigenous knowledge in the process of decision-making with regard to improving agricultural production and resource management.
- Participatory approach showed success in the
- fields of resource management, drinking water supply and sanitation, and forest management.

References