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Analysis of the Conceptual Structure of the Sustainable Development Strategy

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ABSTRACT

This article presents authorial approaches to the structural composition of sustainable development, developed on the basis of an analysis of scientific views formed in the economic literature on the topic.

Keywords: sustainable development, economic sustainability, social sustainability, environmental sustainability, green economy, strategy, sustainable development strategy.

In the economic literature, research on sustainable development can be classified into social, economic, and environmental scientific theories, based on the structural components of the concept. Each group of theories is interpreted below according to its essence:

- Social theories of sustainable development primarily focus on reducing poverty within society, improving indicators of population welfare, and enhancing overall quality of life.
- Economic theories of sustainable development are mainly directed toward stimulating economic growth and achieving long-term development trends. In contemporary economic thought within this direction, particular emphasis is placed on innovation and digital technologies as key drivers of sustainable economic growth.
- Environmental theories of sustainable development are significant for their focus on the rational use of natural resources, the prevention of environmental and climatic degradation, the assurance of ecological sustainability, and the preservation of biodiversity in flora and fauna.

To fully comprehend the content and essence of the sustainable development strategy, it is essential to conduct an in-depth analysis of its scientific and theoretical structural components. In light of this, we found it necessary to investigate the groups of scientific theories that constitute the concept of sustainable development and to carry out their comparative analysis.

In the formation of social theories of sustainable development, R.D. Putnam's "Theory of Social Capital" also plays a significant role. This theory is noteworthy for its emphasis on collective action among members of society, based on mutual trust and cooperation in pursuit of common development goals. In his research, Putnam distinguishes between cognitive and structural forms of social capital.

In his research, the scholar distinguishes between cognitive and structural social capital when explaining the concept. Cognitive social capital is reflected in social norms and quality-of-life indicators related to society, while the established social connections and the directional vectors of the relationships between members of society reflect the structure of social capital.

The second group of theories of sustainable development comprises scientific views aimed at economic development. Today, in economic literature, these views are represented by theories such as Keynesianism, Neoclassical economics, the Economic Equality for Each Generation model, and the Green Economy approach. These theories focus on developing sustainable models of economic growth.

The ongoing development of market economies has led to the establishment of new boundaries for government regulation of the economy, as well as the creation of modern mechanisms to support real-sector industries. These scientific views are primarily based on J.M. Keynes' economic theories and have contributed to the formation of the "New Keynesian" school of thought today. These approaches advocate for achieving sustainable development through government regulation of the economy, including controlling inflation, increasing capital flow efficiency through public funding, and implementing state policies aimed at ensuring environmental and climatic stability and ecological sustainability.

In recent years, numerous scientific studies have been conducted in economic science on the topic of "**Green Economy Theories"** in the context of sustainable development. These scientific perspectives are characterized by their focus on achieving sustainable development goals while avoiding ecological risks and minimizing negative environmental impacts. The aim is to establish an economic system interconnected with the environment. This approach emphasizes the importance of **natural capital**, **ecological services**, and **ecosystems**, with the goal of optimizing production costs while considering their economic significance.

In recent years, the scientific works of prominent foreign economists such as A. Sulich, M. Adamovich, I.A. Putri, K. Yang, and L.J. Kozar have explored the priority directions for achieving sustainable development goals based on the "Green Economy Theory".

Overall, it has been determined that the key characteristics for scientific perspectives on the economic aspect of sustainable development include efficient resource utilization, innovation and modern technologies, and local and global cooperation.

Scientific views on the environmental dimension of sustainable development are considered significant due to their focus on protecting the environment and, in particular, reducing the negative ecological impact of human activities. In the formation of environmental theories of sustainable development, T. Malthus's scientific perspective on population growth has played an important role. His theory scientifically demonstrated that an increase in population leads to the scarcity of resources—especially natural resources.

In recent years, studies conducted by foreign scholars such as R.S. Sutter, Y. Tao, I.M. Sisercia, and A.A. Sojeska have evaluated the relationship between rising population numbers and the growing demand for natural resources, based on Malthusian theory. These studies have identified potential solutions in industry and agriculture for the rational use of natural resources, as well as opportunities for reducing the negative environmental impact of human activity.

Another group within the environmental dimension of sustainable development theories is represented by the **"Ecological Footprint Theory."** In recent years, foreign economists such as **D. Lin**, **Z. Wang**, **F. Alruwaili**, and **S.V. Oprea** have conducted research in this area, demonstrating that **continuous economic growth** can be achieved through the **rational use of natural resources**. In this context, human impact on nature is evaluated as a "footprint," and the focus is placed on strengthening the resource supply chain by creating opportunities for the regeneration of resources through the proper and efficient use of **renewable resources**. In some

economic studies, the scientific perspectives in this field have also been referred to as the **"Renewable Resources Theory."**

Overall, scientific views within the environmental dimension of sustainable development are characterized by the following features: **environmental protection**, **combating climate change**, and the **rational use of water and soil resources**.

Based on the analysis, the following characteristics were identified for the three theoretical components of sustainable development:

- **Social theories** aim to ensure **social equality** and **public welfare** within society, and focus on the development of **social (or human) capital**, often placing less emphasis on economic efficiency.
- **Economic theories** prioritize **economic growth** as the main objective, with **social** and **environmental factors** considered of secondary importance.
- **Environmental theories** give primary importance to **ecological safety** and **environmental protection**, even if it may come at the expense of economic development.

In conclusion, it has been determined that in order to effectively develop a country's economy on the basis of a **sustainable development strategy**, it is essential to formulate a **national development model** that integrates the **social**, **economic**, and **environmental** components of the strategy. In doing so, it is advisable to prioritize the **effective utilization of the country's development potential**, taking into account the **specific characteristics of the national economy**.

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