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Aspects of sustainability:

Sustainability requires consideration of four aspects (sometimes also known as perspectives, pillars). While all four aspects of sustainability are important, environmental sustainable is fundamental to the protection of our environment.

Environmental – this aspect acknowledges the need to enhance and maintain the biophysical systems that sustain all life on Earth. It includes the structure and function of natural ecosystems and the interactions between them and people, and calls for guardianship of our environment.

Social – this aspect acknowledges the need for equity within and between generations, and within and between ethnic and social groups. It is inclusive of people’s mental and physical well-being and the cohesion of their communities based on a fair distribution of resources.

Cultural – this aspect acknowledges the need to nourish and share attitudes and values that represent diverse worldviews, and the political need for all people to express their views freely and to participate in decision-making. Addressing these needs can build resilience for the future.

Economic – this aspect acknowledges the interactions of humans with the natural environment in using resources to create goods and services which add value to their lives. It acknowledges the resource use and waste disposal must occur within the capacity of our planet. It encourages a fair trading system that equitably distributes benefits and costs. It further encourages innovation and creativity in developments that lead to a sustainable future.

An integrative model: A model showing how these aspects are related (in this model, the social and cultural aspects sit within society). This model shows how our economy is a subset of our society, as in reality it is situated entirely within our society. It also shows that everything in our economy and everything in our society is situated within, and entirely dependent on, our



environment. This relationship means that any impact or change to our environment will impact on society and the economy, and therefore that any sustainability-related issue must be considered holistically, and recognize this interdependence.

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UNSUSTAINABILITY

Unsustainability refers to a condition or situation that cannot be maintained over the long term without causing negative consequences, particularly in relation to environmental, social, or economic systems. It implies that the current practices, policies, or behaviors are not capable of being continued indefinitely without depleting resources, damaging ecosystems, or causing harm to communities and societies.

There are various aspects of unsustainability that can manifest in different contexts:

Environmental unsustainability: This refers to practices or behaviors that degrade or deplete natural resources, disrupt ecosystems, or contribute to environmental degradation such as deforestation, overfishing, pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions. Environmental unsustainability can lead to long-term negative impacts on the health of the planet, including loss of biodiversity, climate change, and habitat destruction.

Social unsustainability: This refers to practices or behaviors that harm communities, societies, or human well-being. Examples include social inequality, discrimination, human rights abuses, labor exploitation, and disregard for cultural heritage. Social unsustainability can result in social unrest, conflict, and inequality, leading to long-term negative impacts on the well-being and stability of societies.

Economic unsustainability: This refers to economic practices or behaviors that are not viable over the long term, leading to economic instability, inequality, and inefficiencies. Examples include unsustainable debt levels, overreliance on non-renewable resources, unsustainable consumption patterns, and lack of economic diversification. Economic unsustainability can lead to economic crises, inequality, and poverty, affecting the long-term well-being of societies.

Addressing unsustainability requires adopting sustainable practices, policies, and behaviors that balance economic, social, and environmental considerations. This may involve transitioning to renewable energy sources, conserving natural resources, protecting ecosystems, promoting social

equity and inclusion, promoting responsible consumption and production, and adopting circular economy principles. It also involves considering the long-term impacts of our actions and making decisions that prioritize the well-being of people and the planet for present and future generations.

CAUSES OF UNSUSTAINABILITY:

Unsustainability can arise from a combination of various factors and causes, which can vary depending on the context and the specific issue being addressed. Some common causes of unsustainability include:

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Overexploitation of natural resources: The extraction, production, and consumption of natural resources beyond their regenerative capacity or carrying capacity can lead to depletion and degradation of resources, such as deforestation, overfishing, and over-extraction of fossil fuels. This can result in ecosystem disruption, loss of biodiversity, and environmental degradation, leading to unsustainability.

Environmental pollution: Pollution of air, water, and soil caused by human activities, such as industrial emissions, chemical waste, and plastic pollution, can have detrimental impacts on the environment, wildlife, and human health. Pollution can disrupt ecosystems, degrade natural resources, and contribute to climate change, leading to unsustainability.

Unsustainable consumption and production patterns: The patterns of production and consumption in modern societies, characterized by excessive resource use, waste generation, and a linear "take-make-dispose" approach, can contribute to unsustainability. This includes overconsumption of goods and services, planned obsolescence, and wasteful production practices that result in resource depletion, pollution, and waste accumulation.

Social and economic inequalities: Social and economic inequalities, such as poverty, lack of access to education, healthcare, and basic services, and discrimination, can contribute to unsustainability. These inequalities can lead to social unrest, conflict, and instability, which can have long-term negative impacts on societies and their ability to achieve sustainability.

Lack of policy and governance mechanisms: Inadequate or ineffective policies, regulations, and governance mechanisms can contribute to unsustainability. This includes weak enforcement of environmental regulations, insufficient planning and management of resources, and lack of coordination among different stakeholders. Inadequate policy and governance mechanisms can hinder the adoption of sustainable practices and contribute to unsustainability.

Short-term focus and prioritization of economic growth: An emphasis on short-term economic gains and prioritization of economic growth over long-term sustainability can contribute to unsustainability. This includes practices such as overexploitation of resources for immediate economic benefits, disregarding environmental and social considerations, and prioritizing profit over people and the planet.

Lack of awareness and engagement: Limited awareness, understanding, and engagement among individuals, communities, businesses, and governments about the importance of sustainability, and

the need for sustainable practices and behaviors, can contribute to unsustainability. This includes lack of education, information, and motivation to adopt sustainable practices, resulting in unsustainable behaviors and choices.

It's important to note that unsustainability often arises from complex, interconnected factors, and addressing it requires a multifaceted approach that considers the interactions among environmental, social, and economic dimensions. Solutions often involve systemic changes in policies, behaviors, and attitudes, as well as fostering awareness, education, and engagement at individual, community, and

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global levels.

Difference in Sustainability and Unsustainability:

Sustainability and unsustainability are two contrasting concepts that describe the ability of a system or practice to maintain itself over the long term. The main differences between sustainability and unsustainability are as follows:

| | Sustainability | Unsustainability |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| Environmental Impact | Sustainability refers to practices that are environmentally responsible , where resources are used efficiently and the natural environment is protected or conserved for future generations | Unsustainability, on the other hand, refers to practices that harm or deplete the environment, resulting in negative impacts such as pollution , deforestation, or over-extraction of resources. |
| Social Responsibility | Sustainability encompasses social responsibility, which involves considering the social and cultural impacts of practices on communities, workers, and other stakeholders. Sustainable practices aim to promote social equity, diversity, and inclusivity, and protect human rights. | Unsustainability, on the other hand, may neglect social responsibilities , leading to negative social impacts such as exploitation, inequality. |
| Economic Viability | Sustainability involves economic viability, where practices are economically feasible and do not compromise the long-term economic well-being of individuals or communities. Sustainable practices often aim to create economic value while minimizing negative impacts. | Unsustainability, on the other hand, may result in short-term economic gains at the expense of long-term economic stability, leading to economic decline, inequality , and financial instability. |
| Long-Term Outlook | Sustainability is focused on the long-term , aiming to create practices that can be maintained indefinitely without compromising | Unsustainability, on the other hand, often involves short-sighted practices that prioritize immediate gains without considering long-term consequences , leading to depletion of |
| | the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. | resources, environmental degradation, and social and economic challenges in the future. |
| Holistic Approach | Sustainability takes a holistic approach, considering the interconnections between environmental, social, and economic aspects of a system or practice. It seeks to balance these three pillars to create a sustainable system. | Unsustainability, on the other hand, often neglects this holistic approach and may prioritize one aspect at the expense of others , leading to imbalances and negative impacts in the long run. |

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Summary:

| Sustainability | Unsustainability |
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| Sustainability refers to the practices that are <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmentally responsible• Socially equitable• Economically viable• Long-term oriented• Holistic | Unsustainability refers to practices that are <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmentally irresponsible and harming.• Neglect social responsibility• Compromise economic viability• Lack a long-term outlook and prioritize short-term gains over long-term well-being• Concentrate or focus on one aspect/ Unholistic |