

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS



Open Access, Refereed Journal Multi-Disciplinary
Peer Reviewed

www.ijlra.com

DISCLAIMER

No part of this publication may be reproduced or copied in any form by any means without prior written permission of Managing Editor of IJLRA. The views expressed in this publication are purely personal opinions of the authors and do not reflect the views of the Editorial Team of IJLRA.

Though every effort has been made to ensure that the information in Volume II Issue 7 is accurate and appropriately cited/referenced, neither the Editorial Board nor IJLRA shall be held liable or responsible in any manner whatsoever for any consequences for any action taken by anyone on the basis of information in the Journal.

Copyright © International Journal for Legal Research & Analysis

EDITORIALTEAM

EDITORS

Dr. Samrat Datta

Dr. Samrat Datta Seedling School of Law and Governance, Jaipur National University, Jaipur. Dr. Samrat Datta is currently associated with Seedling School of Law and Governance, Jaipur National University, Jaipur. Dr. Datta has completed his graduation i.e., B.A.LL.B. from Law College Dehradun, Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar, Uttarakhand. He is an alumnus of KIIT University, Bhubaneswar where he pursued his post-graduation (LL.M.) in Criminal Law and subsequently completed his Ph.D. in Police Law and Information Technology from the Pacific Academy of Higher Education and Research University, Udaipur in 2020. His area of interest and research is Criminal and Police Law. Dr. Datta has a teaching experience of 7 years in various law schools across North India and has held administrative positions like Academic Coordinator, Centre Superintendent for Examinations, Deputy Controller of Examinations, Member of the Proctorial Board



Dr. Namita Jain

Head & Associate Professor

School of Law, JECRC University, Jaipur Ph.D. (Commercial Law) LL.M., UGC -NET Post Graduation Diploma in Taxation law and Practice, Bachelor of Commerce.

Teaching Experience: 12 years, AWARDS AND RECOGNITION of Dr. Namita Jain are - ICF Global Excellence Award 2020 in the category of educationalist by I Can Foundation, India. India Women Empowerment Award in the category of "Emerging Excellence in Academics by Prime Time & Utkrisht Bharat Foundation, New Delhi. (2020). Conferred in FL Book of Top 21 Record Holders in the category of education by Fashion Lifestyle Magazine, New Delhi. (2020). Certificate of Appreciation for organizing and managing the Professional Development Training Program on IPR in Collaboration with Trade Innovations Services, Jaipur on March 14th, 2019



Mrs.S.Kalpana

Assistant professor of Law

Mrs.S.Kalpana, presently Assistant professor of Law, VelTech Rangarajan Dr.Sagunthala R & D Institute of Science and Technology, Avadi. Formerly Assistant professor of Law, Vels University in the year 2019 to 2020, Worked as Guest Faculty, Chennai Dr.Ambedkar Law College, Pudupakkam. Published one book. Published 8Articles in various reputed Law Journals. Conducted 1Moot court competition and participated in nearly 80 National and International seminars and webinars conducted on various subjects of Law. Did ML in Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Administration. 10 paper presentations in various National and International seminars. Attended more than 10 FDP programs. Ph.D. in Law pursuing.



Avinash Kumar



Avinash Kumar has completed his Ph.D. in International Investment Law from the Dept. of Law & Governance, Central University of South Bihar. His research work is on "International Investment Agreement and State's right to regulate Foreign Investment." He qualified UGC-NET and has been selected for the prestigious ICSSR Doctoral Fellowship. He is an alumnus of the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi. Formerly he has been elected as Students Union President of Law Centre-1, University of Delhi. Moreover, he completed his LL.M. from the University of Delhi (2014-16), dissertation on "Cross-border Merger & Acquisition"; LL.B. from the University of Delhi (2011-14), and B.A. (Hons.) from Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi. He has also obtained P.G. Diploma in IPR from the Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi. He has qualified UGC – NET examination and has been awarded ICSSR – Doctoral Fellowship. He has published six-plus articles and presented 9 plus papers in national and international seminars/conferences. He participated in several workshops on research methodology and teaching and learning.

ABOUT US

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH & ANALYSIS
ISSN

2582-6433 is an Online Journal is Monthly, Peer Review, Academic Journal, Published online, that seeks to provide an interactive platform for the publication of Short Articles, Long Articles, Book Review, Case Comments, Research Papers, Essay in the field of Law & Multidisciplinary issue. Our aim is to upgrade the level of interaction and discourse about contemporary issues of law. We are eager to become a highly cited academic publication, through quality contributions from students, academics, professionals from the industry, the bar and the bench. INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH & ANALYSIS ISSN 2582-6433 welcomes contributions from all legal branches, as long as the work is original, unpublished and is in consonance with the submission guidelines.

"SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE: IS IT AFFORDABLE FOR BELOW POVERTY LINE CONSUMERS?"

AUTHORED BY - ABHINAY SINGH YADAV

3rd Year BALLB

Kristu Jayanti College Of Law

Abstract:

Sustainability is often presumed to be a luxury engaged to the wealthy, but in reality, it is the eco-friendliness that is essential to maintain a long-term reduction in cost and a healthy environment, due to higher initial investment people below the poverty line cannot access it. This unveils the budgetary difficulties that obstruct low-income communities from accessing sustainable lifestyles.

Higher upfront costs, on sustainable energy (solar panels), organic food, and eco-friendly products are inaccessible due to other conventional alternatives to poor households. BPL consumers prioritize immediate needs like food, shelter, and healthcare over long-term sustainability. Despite government initiatives like PM-KUSUM (a scheme to provide solar energy for farmers), Ujjwala Yojana (cooking gas), and Swachh Bharat Mission (sanitation), which aims at bringing sustainability to ground level, its unequal implementation due to bureaucratic delay and lack of awareness makes its impact limited.

Despite these challenges, inclusive and affordable sustainability is possible through, Mass production and economies of scale, Public-Private Partnership collaborations, and Corporate social responsibility which intend to improve the standard of living.

Achieving progress requires prioritizing appropriation, efficient supply chains, and community involvement through cooperative natural cultivation or waste-to-economy initiatives. Additionally, the future is bright. Learning and meditation programs will have a significant impact on the evolution of self-discovery techniques and incorporating maintainability into daily life.

A greener future is not a privilege, but rather an entitlement. Through the right strategies,

innovations, and collective actions, we can ensure maintainability as reasonable, comprehensive, and transformative for all. ". It's time to act.

I. INTRODUCTION

Sustainability is a way of using resources to meet the needs of today without harming or compromising the needs of future generations. In simple terms, sustainability is the ability to sustain by preventing complete depletion of resources.

Sustainable Lifestyles are contemplated as ways of living, social behaviors, and choices, that minimize natural corruption i.e., utilization of common resources, CO2 outflows, waste, and contamination, instead supporting impartial socio-economic advancement and superior quality of life for all.

A sustainable lifestyle is often presumed to be expensive because most eco-friendly products have limited availability in the market, usage of high-end technology, and increased cost of production, making it a barrier for the middle class. Nonetheless, it can be made affordable by taking a minute step towards sustainability for instance reducing the use of plastic bags and using jute or stitched bags.

With increased inflation in the Indian economy, poverty is also increasing making people below the poverty line face economic challenges. Below Poverty Line (BPL) is an economic benchmark set by the Government of India to identify financially weaker individuals and households who need government assistance. People earning below this threshold are classified as BPL and qualify for various subsidies and welfare schemes.¹

People spending less than 33 rupees in urban areas and less than 27 rupees in rural areas are classified below the poverty line.

Can sustainability be affordable for BPL consumers?

Individuals Below the Poverty Line (BPL) frequently battle to access a sustainable way of life due to money-related imperatives. However, a few reasonable and available arrangements can offer assistance to them adopt feasible practices:

¹ ClearTax, 2025. *Below Poverty Line (BPL)*. ClearTax. Available at: <<https://cleartax.in/glossary/bpl-below-poverty-line>> [Accessed 25 February 2025].

- Low housing facilities through Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), a government-initiated program that provides eco-friendly and affordable housing.
- Preserving water through rainwater harvesting and using low-budget water filters like charcoal, and boiled water makes it safe for drinking and reducing dependency on bottled water etc.

II. Understanding sustainability

Components of sustainable energy:

- Solar Power: Solar, deriving from the Latin word ‘solarium’ refers to energy from the sun. Solar energy is captured through panels, which can be either made up of photovoltaic (PV) cells or concentrating solar-thermal power (CSP) systems. The former, cheaper and easier to install, is the more prevalent kind.²

PV solar panels convert sunlight directly into electricity. In contrast, CSP systems use a configuration of mirrors to concentrate the sun’s energy and convert it into heat, which is then generated into electricity.³

- Wind energy: Wind energy is one of the fastest-growing sources of power era and is key to meeting our nation's clean energy objectives. Wind energy reduces the production of waste and encourages recycling.

About 85%–90% of the mass of a wind turbine is made of materials that can already be commercially recycled.⁴

- Sustainable food practices: Food sustainability is not just about the food itself. It is a combination of factors – like how the food is produced, distributed, packaged, and consumed. The term ‘food sustainability’ has begun cropping up more and more in recent years. Whilst it is an important notion to consider for the planet, it is also a trend that is growing in popularity amongst home cooks, chefs, and customers alike.⁵

Sustainable food practices help reduce waste and emission of greenhouse gases, secondly using organic farming methods can reduce waste and protect soil fertility from chemical pesticides and fertilizers, which affect soil health in the long term.

² Jan Rieche, ‘Sustainable & renewable energy sources: How are they different & what’s their environmental impact’ (Anova, 2024) < <https://www.anavo.com/learn/sustainable-renewable-energy-sources-how-are-they-different-whats-their-environmental-impact/> > [Accessed 25 February 2025].

³ Id.

⁴ U.S. Department of Energy, 2025, *Wind Turbine Sustainability*, U.S. Department of Energy. <<https://www.energy.gov/eere/wind/wind-turbine-sustainability>> [Accessed 26 February 2025].

⁵ Addie Lewis, ‘Sustainable food practices: Choices and Importance’ (High Speed Training, 2021) <<https://www.highspeedtraining.co.uk/hub/what-is-food-sustainability/>> [Accessed 26 February 2025].

People can select to consume seasonal foods to avoid unnecessary human intervention like artificial ripening or mass storage. Seasonal consumption is considered sustainable for its nutritional and environmental benefits like supporting local farmers and reducing carbon footprints.

III. Economic barriers for BPL consumers

BPL is characterized by a need for wages that prevent people and families from meeting their fundamental needs, such as nourishment, shelter, healthcare, education, and clothing. These individuals frequently find themselves trapped in a cycle of deprivation, battling to elude destitution due to restrictions to accessing opportunity.

Economic barriers include

- **Income constraints:** one of the most common barriers to people below the poverty line is income, they hardly earn 1150 or less which decreases their purchasing power a primary factor in determining the standard of life.
- **Prioritizing needs over sustainability:** for families like BPL basic needs come first they prioritize necessities over sustainability, due to income factors they find it difficult to afford sustainable products because it is pricer when compared with other alternatives that are cheaper and easily available. Hence, they prefer low-cost, subsidized food over organic and expensive options.
- **Limited access to sustainable alternatives:** even with awareness of sustainability, most people especially people below the poverty line (BPL) face limited access to sustainable alternatives due to social, infrastructural, and economic barriers. In comparison with conventional shop options, sustainable products like organic food, biodegradable packaging, and electric vehicles are expensive. Sustainable sources of energy like solar panels, and other sustainable appliances require high upfront costs making them inaccessible to people below the poverty line. Though it is a long-term saving, due to its higher initial investment it becomes a barrier to BPL consumers.
- **Division of availability:** sustainable products being limited in production is unequally distributed. It is easily accessible in urban areas or specialized stores making it hard to find in rural and economically weaker areas. Many communities lack proper waste management, such as waste segregation, recycling, etc.
- **Limited awareness and education:** people in rural areas get limited access to education due to which they are unaware of the benefits of a sustainable lifestyle, people are under the misconception that sustainable products are unnecessary luxuries by neglecting their

long-term investment in health and the environment. They prioritize affordability over long-term sustainability due to financial constraints.

- Limited government and NGO outreach in rural areas: regardless of efforts by NGOs and initiatives by the government, they often struggle to reach rural areas due to several reasons like infrastructural gaps (lack of proper roads, electricity, digital access, etc.) and ineffective policy implementation due to bureaucratic delay and lack of awareness. NGOs depend on grants and donations. Financial constraints often limit their ability to scale sustainable projects in rural areas.

IV. Government Arrangements and Intercessions

An economical way of life requires an adjustment between financial reasonableness and natural obligation. For below-poverty-line (BPL) buyers, government intercession plays a significant part in making maintainability available. A few existing arrangements in India point to advanced reasonableness in divisions like vitality, nourishment, lodging, and squander administration. In any case, challenges such as wasteful aspects, debasement, and delays in execution ruin their viability. This segment investigates existing approaches, challenges in usage, case ponders of fruitful intercessions, and approach proposals to make strides in reasonableness.

Existing Arrangements to Advance Reasonableness

➤ **Vitality Segment:**

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM):⁶

Propelled in 2019, this plot points to advanced sun-oriented vitality utilized among agriculturists. It gives appropriations for setting up sun-based pumps and decentralized sun-oriented control plants.

The conspire diminishes dependence on costly diesel pumps and sporadic lattice control, guaranteeing a more steady and cost-effective vitality source for ranchers.

➤ **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY):**

This conspire gives free LPG associations to BPL families.

It replaces perilous conventional powers like kindling and lamp fuel with clean vitality arrangements.

The plot leads to strides in well-being results by lessening indoor discuss contamination and

⁶ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), *PM-KUSUM Scheme*, Government of India. (ITUWTS, 2024) <<https://pmkusum.mnre.gov.in/#/landing>> [Accessed 28, February 2025].

bringing down carbon emanations.

➤ **PM SURYA GHAR YOJNA-MUFT BIJLI YOJNA:**

The union cabinet approved the Rs 75,000 crore PM Surya Ghar—Muft Bijli Yojana to benefit 1 crore families in February 2024.⁷

The draft guidelines have been issued under the renewable energy services company (RESCO) model and utility-led asset (ULA) model of the rooftop solar scheme—PM Surya Ghar—Muft Bijli Yojana'.⁸

Renewable Energy Services Company (RESCO) Model: RESCO develops and owns the rooftop solar system installed on the consumer's rooftop for at least five years.⁹

The RESCO also makes all the operational expenditures required for the maintenance of the plant, as needed.¹⁰

Customers pay the RESCO for the electricity generated and receive net metering benefits on their electricity bill.¹¹

The RESCO may enter into an arrangement with a distribution company (discom) for the sale of generated power to the grid under a power purchase agreement.¹²

Utility-led Asset (ULA) Model: Under it, a state discom owns the rooftop solar systems for the project period of at least five years, after which the ownership is transferred to the household.¹³

➤ **PM Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojana:**

It is a central scheme to promote the adoption of solar rooftop systems by providing substantial financial subsidies and ensuring ease of installation.¹⁴

It aims to provide free electricity to one crore households in India, who opt to install rooftop solar electricity units, the households will be able to get 300 units of electricity free every month.¹⁵

Nourishment Security

⁷ Drishti IAS, *PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana*, Drishti IAS, 2024. < <https://www.drishtiiias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/pm-surya-ghar-muft-bijli-yojana>> [Accessed 28 February 2025].

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ CrackitToday,, *PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana*, CrackitToday Affairs,(2024). <<https://crackittoday.com/current-affairs/pm-surya-ghar-muft-bijli-yojana/>> [Accessed 28 February 2025].

¹⁵*Id.*

➤ **National Nourishment Security Act (NFSA), 2013:**

Guarantees subsidized nourishment grains to roughly two-thirds of India's populace.

Progresses nourishment security and decreases the lack of healthy sustenance among powerless areas of society.

The act enables the destitute by guaranteeing reasonable and nutritious nourishment.

➤ **Mid-Day Feast Conspire:**

Gives free dinners to schoolchildren, empowering school participation and maintenance.

Makes strides in sustenance levels among children, which improves cognitive advancement and by and large well-being.

It could be a basic step in tending to both starvation and instruction incongruities.

Lodging

➤ **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY):**

Propelled in 2015, this conspire gives reasonable and economical lodging to financially weaker areas.

Energizes eco-friendly development procedures to guarantee negligible natural effects.

The conspire improves living conditions and offers monetary help to people battling to bear lodging.

Squander Administration

➤ **Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM):**

Centers on sanitation, squander transfer, and cleanliness to advance feasible squander administration hones.

Driven to far-reaching development of toilets and energized squander isolation at the source.

The mission points to disposing of open defecation and moving forward with the general cleanliness of urban and country regions.

Challenges in Execution

In spite of well-intentioned arrangements, a few issues ruin their compelling usage:

➤ **Approach Crevices and Wasteful Aspects:**

Numerous arrangements fall flat to account for territorial varieties in request and framework.

For illustration, PM-KUSUM requires noteworthy arrival for sun-powered board establishment, which may not be doable for little landholders.

A need for appropriate checking components moreover leads to underutilization of stores.

➤ **Debasement and Delays in Finance Conveyance:**

Bureaucratic ruddy tape, favoritism, and misallocation of reserves delay benefits from coming to expecting recipients.

Reports recommend that a few PMAY recipients have confronted troubles in getting to guaranteed appropriations due to authoritative obstacles.

Spillages within the framework avoid the proficient execution of these arrangements.

➤ **Need for Mindfulness and Openness:**

Numerous BPL families are ignorant of their qualifications for government plans.

Procedural troubles and intemperate documentation prerequisites debilitate recipients from profiting from these benefits.

➤ **Framework Lacks:**

Destitute last-mile networks, the need for power frameworks, and lacking coordinations regularly confine the viability of vitality and lodging plans.

In a few rustic ranges, reserves apportioned for lodging and sanitation stay unused due to a need for an execution framework.

Case Ponders of Effective Mediations

➤ **Sun-based Charge in Provincial India:**

The Sun-powered Urja Light (SoUL) program, propelled by IIT Bombay, effectively gives solar-powered lights to schoolchildren in provincial ranges.

This mediation improved instructive results by permitting children to ponder after nightfall.

It too diminished reliance on perilous and costly lamp fuel lights.

➤ **Natural Cultivating Appropriations and Cooperatives:**

The Sikkim Natural Mission effectively transitioned the complete state to natural farming.

The activity gives monetary back and approach consistency, making natural cultivating a reasonable choice for little agriculturists.

The move advanced more advantageous nourishment generation and decreased natural debasement.

Arrangement Suggestions to Improve Reasonableness

To form feasible living reasonable for BPL customers, the government ought to consider the following suggestions:

➤ **Fortifying Coordinate Advantage Exchanges (DBT):**

Guaranteeing endowments to reach the recipients without middle people will minimize debasement and support misallocation.

The utilization of advanced stages for support exchanges can improve straightforwardness.

➤ **Upgrading Public-Private Organizations (PPPs):**

Collaborating with private substances can move forward productivity and mechanical development in maintainable activities.

Private firms can bring skill in executing large-scale maintainability ventures.

➤ **Localizing Arrangement Usage:**

Fitting arrangements to territorial needs will make them more compelling.

For this case, advancing wind vitality in coastal zones and sun-powered vitality in bone-dry districts will guarantee ideal asset utilization.

➤ **Expanding Mindfulness and Availability:**

Government organizations should conduct mindfulness campaigns through media and nearby administration bodies.

V. Role of the Private Sector and Innovation

The private sector is crucial in enhancing maintainability through development and significant endeavors. ". Firms can create and manage eco-friendly contracts, making them more accessible to low-income buyers. Hence, the private division has the potential to bridge the gap between natural duty and financial possibility by utilizing unproductive advances in conjunction with feasible hones.

➤ **Cost reduction through innovation:** rural development is an influential aspect of development. Despite existing challenges like poverty and inequality in rural areas, it is essential to address and achieve sustainability, by the intervention of the private sector.

Innovation helps create new and better ideas than the existing ones, mass production of renewable products like solar panels, energy-efficient appliances, and biodegradable materials reduces per unit cost and makes it affordable for people below the poverty line.

Innovative research on low-cost sustainable alternatives can offer sustainable solutions at lower prices to low-income families. For example, low-cost solar home systems, bamboo-based packaging, and recyclable materials.

➤ **Microfinance:** It is financial help to low-income communities to adopt a sustainable way of living.

Self-help groups (SHGs), pay a significant amount of money to support small-scale

sustainable business initiatives. Women-led SHGs have successfully promoted handicrafts using recycled materials, organic farming, waste-to-wealth model, generating livelihood while supporting sustainability.

- **Corporate Social Responsibility (CRS) and Public-Private Partnership:** In the CRS program, many corporations have taken the initiative to provide affordable solar energy, water filtration, and waste management in marginalized communities.

Private-Public Partnerships (PPPs) can collaboratively provide a sustainable solution through joint initiatives like low-cost electric buses, decentralized solar grids, and sustainable housing projects.

VI. The Way Forward: Making Sustainability Affordable

- **Policy recommendation:** To make affordable sustainability more accessible, preferably targeted subsidies and incentives are crucial. Policymakers must focus on endowments and encouragement for sustainable items. The government can grant direct subsidies for solar energy like PM Surya Ghar; Muft Bijli Yojna, which render rooftop solar power to low-income families. Additionally, as inspired by Norway a widespread encouragement, an initiative for tax exemption on electric vehicles (EVs) must be encouraged and implemented.

Schemes like India's Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) a government program offers financial aid to increase production and sales. PLI solar module manufacturing has significantly reduced dependence on costly imports. Improved supply chain and local production can reduce costs and create employment. Furthermore encouraging bamboo-based packaging over plastic can promote sustainability by reducing waste.

Sustainability is made possible by affordable financing options such as micro-loans and pay-as-you-go systems. Moreover, M-KOPA Solar in Kenya distributes clean energy to the most impoverished households through small daily payments. Promoting zero-interest green loans for farmers expanding sustainable agriculture enabling drip irrigation systems and buying organic fertilizers.

- **Community-led sustainability efforts:** Community-driven initiatives are crucial to maintaining long-term sustainability. In Bengaluru *Hasiru Dala* is a waste recycling program that empowers waste pickers to recreate plastic waste into usable products, creating livelihood and reducing waste.

Similarly, in Kerela, *kudumbashree women's self-help groups (SHGs)* practice organic farming, supplying affordable, chemical-free food while earning a steady income. Such cooperative organic farming can boost food security and sustainability. Such models can

reduce costs, cut down middlemen, and promote local consumption, making sustainability more inclusive.

- **Role of education and awareness program:** promotion of cost-effective sustainable solutions are crucial. Government programs like *Unnat Jyoti*, aim at educating rural households to save electricity and lower costs through energy-efficient LED bulbs. Educating communities on economic and health benefits ensures active participation in sustainability. Delhi's odd-even traffic rule is one of the best examples as it has reduced 32% of pollution and has encouraged eco-friendly transport. Therefore such campaigns encourage long-term benefits of green choice, making sustainability a practical reality.

VII. Conclusion

An economical way of life ought not to be a benefit constrained to the affluent but a crucial right open to all, counting Underneath Destitution Line (BPL) shoppers. Whereas financial boundaries, tall costs, and constrained mindfulness ruin economical living for low-income communities, focused on government arrangements, private division developments, and community-driven activities can bridge this crevice. Endowments for renewable vitality, microfinance alternatives, and nearby generation of eco-friendly options can make maintainability more reasonable. By advancing mindfulness and guaranteeing availability, able to make an comprehensive framework where financial restrictions don't anticipate individuals from making ecologically capable choices. A genuinely maintainable future is one that benefits everybody, notwithstanding of their budgetary status.