

Resource Utilization: Social Stability

SIAWUCH AMINI*

**University of Kassel, Institute for Socio-cultural Studies - ISOS*

Abstract

This paper focuses on the conceptual framework of sustainability in terms of social stability. Three different levels can be recognized in international discussion of resource utilization: **1.** The general debate on contradictions between the dominant world economy and ecology. **2.** The debate on stability of resources, stability of environment and social stability. **3.** The debate on possible solutions and corresponding strategies. The social stability seems to be one the most difficult aspects to be achieved. The paper tries to examine the social imbalances in terms of global energy utilization worldwide and discuss generally the allocation of resources in close connection to energy consumption. The conflicts occur mainly in form of social unrests not only within certain societies, but especially between developing and industrialized countries. The social stability refers mainly to a minimum adequate living standard which is necessary to avoid social injustice and make an “equitable development” possible.

Currently, about one billion people use less than 1000 kWh energy which is under the minimum of energy usage for existence. China, with a fifth of the world population uses 6000 kWh/capita which is only 15 % of the European energy consumption...

An equitable development can be achieved by justified distribution of resources and goods. The current situation of resources utilization is quite unsatisfactory. The strategies of increasing of resource utilization in developing countries may lead to a collapse of the world social order and the strategy of sufficiency in industrial countries is hardly achievable.

The paper discusses theoretically possible strategies which may lead to social justice and people's participation.

Keywords: Energy consumption, people's participation, social justice, social stability, social sustainability, social unrest