A two day national symposium on ‘Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development’ was organised by Department of Studies and Research in Social Work, Davangere University Karnataka on 19-20 March,2012. The Symposium drew researchers, practitioners, scientists and technocrats from different parts of India. They exchanged scientific analysis of the forms of energy technologies and the impact on sustainable development. The themes of symposium were Solar energy technology, Wind energy technology, Bio-gas technology, Biomass technology, Gasifier technology, Bio-diesel technology, Energy audit, Energy economics, Management of natural resources, Decentralization (off-grid) of renewable energy technologies, State support for renewable energy technologies, and Sustainable development.

[caption id="attachment_1430" align="aligncenter" width="581" caption="Jitender Verma delivering his lecture on Sustainable Development Models"]
from Centre for Sustainable Development presented a paper on Sustainable Development Models. He discussed how our changing lifestyle has increased our per capita energy consumption from 2Kcal to 200 Kcal putting huge pressure on our natural resources. Greenhouse gases like CO2 are clogging up our atmosphere and making it warmer. The rate of warming is increasing dramatically and unless we reduce our emissions significantly it will continue to heat up. Climate change is already impacting ecosystems and communities around the world. The impacts that we will see in the future put everybody at risk. The more climate change advances and accelerates, the closer we come to serious, irreversible changes and large-scale alterations to our climate system. He suggested developing decentralized development models suiting local conditions with the local communities as major stakeholders. We need to think at habitat level and every habitat has to be self sufficient in terms of energy and resource requirement. He said we need to revive conventional wisdom and supplement it with latest technology to keep earth habitable for human beings. We need to be more efficient in the way we use energy.

The national symposium served the academic, research, collaboration and extension domains of the higher education. Interdisciplinary domain of knowledge and disciplines ensure meaning to university education. The symposium for the students delivered – • Exposure to emerging interdisciplinary knowledge • Dissemination of renewable energy technologies • Collaboration and network of the agencies advancing renewable energy technologies • University - Industry interaction • Advancing renewable energy technologies to rural mass • University – Community engagement • New vistas of Solid Waste Management

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