

## **Vinyl 2010 Essay Competition Submission**

**ID number: 872**

### **Summary:**

---

Nowadays, our society is facing a food and energy crisis. The main reason for this is high prices. For food crisis, society can improve the living standards of the population, by discovering a process of “feeding smarter”. For being energy independent and meeting immediate energy requirements, society should promote the development of renewable and pollution free energy forms, “green energy” and a green transportation system. Thus, society has to establish the notion of worth-living development, with main elements the reduction of competitiveness and desire of maximum profiteering in the areas of food and energy production.

---

### **Essay:**

---

Much discussion is underway these days regarding the increasing attention devoted to the consumption of large amounts of resources in developing and developed countries. In general, we can distinguish food and energy resources and the relevant crises that accompanied them.

It is argued that human population growth is linked with today food crisis. According to Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 75 millions more of people suffer because of hunger, compared to 2007. Thus, 923 million people globally have feed problems, especially in Africa and Asia and 25 thousands die everyday because of hunger. However, when we talk about food crisis, we mean no shortage of food, but the problem of food being in the wrong place and at a price the poorest cannot afford. As example, the price of wheat reached an increase of 187%, when the price of rice, since January of 2008 reached an increase of 141%. In this way, a large part of the world’s population, and especially in countries whose populations spend a large part of their income on food and where there is already food insecurity, is hungry daily. Consequently, the “human right” to food access is systematically being violated.

Simultaneously, our planet faces an energy crisis, including petroleum crisis and energy shortage. Nobody can deny the continuous price rise in the supply of energy resources to an economy. Specifically, the price of a barrel of crude oil was

generally under \$25/barrel, but during 2003, the price raised \$30, reached \$60 by August of 2005 and rose above \$147 in June 2008. A series of factors may have led to price increase, such as the decline in petroleum reserves and peak oil and the maximum peaking of world hydrocarbon production. Additionally, a possible explanation given is over-consumption, since oil production is still outpacing population growth to meet demand. Specifically, there are several situations where per capita consumption is extremely high more in rich, than in poor countries and therefore, sustainability is not possible. For example, United States and its population of 300 million people consuming more oil than China with its population of 1.3 billion people.

Consequently, one of the vital questions that has to be answered is how society can improve the living standards of the world's growing population in a sustainable way, simultaneously with the above mentioned food and energy crisis. Before trying to give some recommended ways, it is also vital to give a clear definition of sustainable development. According to the World Commission on Environment and Development (W.C.E.D): *“Sustainable development is the development path that meets the needs of people today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own goals; a development path that focuses on long-lasting and integrated economic growth, environmental stewardship and social responsibility”*.

However, society should have in mind that sustainability should not be based only on the notion of integration, but also has to capture the worth-living development, together with the notion of growth with equity. Answering also, whose concern is sustainable development and which are those factors that define the needs of each generation, culture and society, with which criteria and how. Thus, society has to establish a common code, with main elements the reduction of competitiveness and desire of maximum profiteering in the areas of food and energy production, education and technology. Moreover, technology used by society for improving the living standards of the world's growing population in a sustainable way, has to be compatible with local, social and economical circumstances or identity of the particular society. Moreover, local stock in hand and energy resources should be used properly, together with processes and techniques that can be preserved, improved and regulated by each society. So, for not experiencing as G. Hardin said, “the tragedy of nations”, several actions must be taken, with sustainability being our over-arching principle.

Specifically for food crisis, society can improve the living standards of the population, by discovering a process of “feeding smarter”. In other words, the aim should not be just eliminating hunger at the moment, but attacking the causes of hunger at their roots. Central is the export of food supplies that must be kept in high levels, for not having accumulation of food, increase of prices in the “food stock market”

and consequently the lack of food in the poor nations. Another solution economically related is to buy locally, achieving in this way, low costs of transport and storage. So, the development of a link that connects farmers to markets is vital. Moreover, the galvanization of agricultural sector of economy should not be neglected in developed countries. Agricultural sector should be modernised in the way that will be a mode of food supply and demand. However, all this raises the dilemma of unfair competition from the side of the illogical restriction of the free market. Then, the best solution should be the minimisation of market speculation and the unique point of balance between offer-demand and profit.

Concerning energy crisis and the recent gas crisis across Europe and since cheap oil is at the end, many initiatives should be taken as well. Firstly, we have to underline that is a major political mistake for one country to depend only on one energy-supplier country, or one form of energy. So, for being energy independent and meeting immediate energy requirements, society should promote the development of renewable and pollution free energy forms, the popular “green energy”, such as wind, solar and geothermal energy. Iceland is an excellent case of imitation, where all the buildings are heated by geothermal water and springs. Moreover, countries should begin investing and planning a greener transportation system. The Dutch society can be our model-to-follow, with the wide usage of bicycle and the well-structured system of bicycle-roads.

At last, we can follow as individuals the words of writer N. Kazantzakis: *“Love Responsibility. Say: It is my duty and mine alone, to save the earth. If it is not saved, then I alone am to blame”*.

---