

“Environment Protection and Sustainable Development Need of Hours”

Dr. Muthe P. R.

Associate Professor & Head, P. G. Department of Economics & Research Centre,
Yeshwant Mahavidyalaya, Nanded (M.S.)

ajaymeco82@gmail.com

DOI-

Abstract:

Environment and sustainable development are closely related with each other. Therefore, the environment protection is required for sustainable development. The Industrial pollution, degradation of forests, depletion of ozone layer, the greenhouse gases results in global warming and climate change which will have an adverse impact on environment. There is a need for conservation of biodiversity, protection of wetlands and prevention of environmental pollution, promotion of ecological balance which enables sustainable development. This present research paper examines the concept of sustainable development, causes of environment degradation, effects of environment degradation and initiatives taken towards sustainable development.

Key Words: Biodiversity, Ozone Depletion, Green Tribunal, Sustainable Development, Climate Change, Agrarian Economy, Environmental Pollution, Biological Resources.

Introduction:

Indian economy is not only the fifth largest in the world, but one of the fastest growing economy and third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases on the planet, and faces many environmental challenges and opportunities driven by rapid urbanization, electrification, and manufacturing growth. India being a growing economy has seen extensive industrialisation and development in recent past, which resulted in hostile impact on the environment. In this concern quote of Gandhiji is more perfect that is "Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed." Human should not exploit the natural resources for their greediness. While economic development should not be allowed to take place at the cost of ecology, hence the necessity must to preserve ecology. On the other hand environment should not hamper economic developments. Hence, importance has been given both to development and environment and the expedition is to maintain a fine balance between environment and economic development. In this concern Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) will play an vital role for sure.

Objectives Of The Study:

- 1) To Understand the concept of Sustainable Development
- 2) To study the Environmental issues.
- 3) To state the measures to protect environment and Sustainable Development.

Research Methodology:

This present research is basically analytical and descriptive in nature, in this present research an attempt has been made to examine the issues related to environment, to understand the concept of sustainable development and state few measures to protect environment and Sustainable Development. This present study is completely based on secondary

data sources, i.e. reference books, research journals, magazines, research papers, reports and websites etc.

Concept Of Sustainable Development:

The principle of Sustainable Development has most commonly been defined as development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains two key concepts: Although the concept of 'Sustainable Development' was discussed in the Stockholm Declaration of 1972, more focus was given for Sustainable Development in 'Brundtland Commission Report (1987)' wherein an effort was made to link economic development and environment protection. In 1992, Rio Declaration on Environment and Development codified the principle of Sustainable Development. Environmental sustainability implies meeting our current needs without jeopardizing the right and the ability of future generations to meet theirs. The concept of Sustainable Development was emphasised by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), which defined it as: 'Development that meets the need of the present generation without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own needs'. Sustainable Development tries to maintain a balance between development and the environment. The key features of sustainable development include increase in per capita income, wise use of natural resources, preserving the resources for future generations; it promotes inter-generational equity, i.e. better quality of life for present as well as future generations.

Meaning Environment:

The term 'environment' refers to the natural setting in which we live, which is imparted to us by our ancestors. It incorporates the interaction between biotic (the living components, including plants,

animals, birds, etc.) and abiotic components (land, air, water, etc.) that co-exist to form this natural-setting.

Environmental Issues In India:

However, the developmental activities in India have resulted in pressure on its scarce natural resources, besides creating impacts on human health and well-being. Environmental or ecological issues are issues created by human activities that harm the environment or nature. Air pollution, water contamination, soil erosion, deforestation and wildlife extinction are some of the most pressing environmental concerns of India. The significance issues identified are land degradation, biodiversity loss, air pollution, management of fresh water and solid waste management. In India, factors like rapid growth of population, urbanization, industrialization, and poverty, among others are responsible for harming the environment. Some of the severe environmental issues prevalent in India are.

Global warming & Growing Water Scarcity:

Global warming is a gradual increase in the average temperature of the earth's lower atmosphere as a result of the increase in greenhouse gases, burning of coal and petroleum products (sources of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone); deforestation use of fossil fuels. During the past century, the atmospheric temperature has risen by 1.1°F (0.6°C) and sea level has risen several inches resulting in coastal flooding; extinction of species as ecological positions disappear; more frequent tropical storms; and an increased incidence of tropical diseases. Due to global warming, the monsoon pattern is changing and causing floods and drought.

Ozone Depletion:

Ozone depletion refers to the phenomenon of reductions in the amount of ozone in the stratosphere. As a result of depletion of the ozone layer, more ultraviolet (UV) radiation comes to Earth and causes damage to living organisms. UV radiation seems responsible for skin cancer in humans; it also lowers production of phytoplankton and thus affects other aquatic organisms.

Depletion of Resources (land, air, water)

Usage of Non-renewable resources such as fossil fuel and petroleum cause most environmental problems in both ways pollution and resource depletion. The rapid decline of groundwater especially in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. Aquifer which is accumulated over a thousand of the year is flattened in a few decades. Diversion of river water causing irreversible damage to the ecology. Topsoil built-in thousands of years are destroyed due to erosion. Biodiversity habitats

such as forests, grassland, wetlands are rapidly depleting leads to biodiversity losses.

Pollution:

Air pollution is a major problem in urban areas causing respiratory, illness, and death. Major sources of air pollutions are industries, automobiles, domestic use of woods, and coal. As per the Health Ministry report, indoor pollutions are causing approx 6 lakh death in India. Water and soil pollution also increasing due to domestic sewage, runoff from farms, and usage of synthetic fertilizer and pesticides.

Genetically Modified organism:

The new technology of gene splicing allows science to import genes from one species to another. For example, GM seeds of cotton are resistant to Bollworm as a major pest. There is little known of long terms effects of GM on the environment.

MEASURES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) :

As an affirmative action towards tackling the global environmental crisis that involves global warming, climate change, and ozone layer depletion, the United Nations adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and 169 targets as part of the United Nations 2030 Agenda. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to transform our world are:

SDG 1: No Poverty - End poverty in all its forms, everywhere.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all.

SDG 4: Quality Education - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all.

SDG 5: Gender Equality - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation - protecting and restoring freshwater ecosystems.

SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy - improving energy efficiency and increasing the use of renewables in their countries and cities

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth - decoupling economic growth from resource depletion and environmental degradation

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure - Build robust infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.

SDG 10: Reduced Inequality - supporting the development of low-emission, resilient, resource-efficient urban areas

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production - supporting the switch to resource-efficient, non-polluting production and consumption

SDG 13: Climate Action - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

SDG 14: Life Below Water - supporting the move to sustainable blue economies and combating marine pollution in all its forms

SDG 15: Life on Land - protecting and restoring the world's wildlife and ecosystems, and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources

SDG 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions-enabling countries and communities to develop and enforce effective laws to combat environmental crimes

SDG 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Low Carbon Cities :

Supported four leading Chinese cities to advance low carbon initiatives, reduce GHG emissions and offer plans to peak them in advance of China's national commitment. Strengthened local leaders' ability to implement practical, proven low carbon development activities, including GHG inventory management systems and early peaking roadmaps. Online monitoring of industrial pollution through 24x7 Continuous Emission/ Effluent has been established in over 2300 industries of 17 categories. Coastal Zone Management has been made transparent and free from subjectivity. Pollution prevention and control is on top of the Ministry's agenda.

Use of Non-conventional Sources of Energy:

India, as you know, is hugely dependent on thermal and hydro power plants to meet its power needs. Both of these have adverse environmental impacts. Thermal power plants emit large quantities of carbon dioxide and also produces fly ash can cause pollution of water bodies, land and other components of the environment. Hydroelectric projects inundate forests and interfere with the natural flow of water in catchment areas and the river basins. Wind power and solar rays are good examples of conventional.

LPG, Gobar Gas in Rural Areas:

Households in rural areas generally use wood, dung cake or other biomass as fuel. This practice has several adverse implications like deforestation, reduction in green cover, wastage of cattle dung and air pollution. To rectify the situation, subsidised LPG is being provided. In addition, gobar gas plants are being provided through easy loans and subsidy. That helps to reduces household pollution and will minimised energy wastage.

CNG in Urban Areas:

In Delhi, the use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as fuel in public transport system has significantly lowered air pollution and the air has become cleaner. In the last few years many other Indian cities also began to use CNG.

Wind Power:

In areas where speed of wind is usually high, wind mills can provide electricity without any adverse impact on the environment. Wind turbines move with the wind and electricity is generated. In mountainous regions a large percentage of such streams are persistent. Mini-hydel plants use the energy of such streams to generate electricity which can be used locally.

Solar Power through Photovoltaic Cells:

India is naturally endowed with a large quantity of solar energy in the form of sunlight. With the help of photovoltaic cells, solar energy can be converted into electricity. This technique is also totally free from pollution. In recent years India is taking efforts to increase the power generation through solar.

Combating Climate Change :

Climate change is a global phenomenon, which transcends national boundaries. Emissions anywhere affect people everywhere and hence it's a global issue, which requires global solution. International cooperation between all nations is required to help developing nations become green or low-carbon economies. The rich nations, such as USA (one of the most polluting nations, having the largest per capita carbon emission) must help developing nations in moving towards low-carbon economies and by way of exporting technical know-how to developing nations.. In order to address climate change, countries adopted the Paris Agreement at Conference of the Parties (COP 21) held in Paris on 12 Dec. 2015. In the agreement, all countries have agreed to work to limit the global rise in temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius pre-industrial levels, and moreover, strive to lower it to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The Paris Agreement was adopted by 185 nations. In order to maintain a balance between development and environment, the principle of Sustainable Development which encompasses the 'Precautionary Principle' must be followed while envisaging a project. With new

business tools, new materials, and new approaches, it is expected to innovate methods to reduce waste.

Embedding sustainability in government

The government's 2011 vision for sustainable development set an ambition to 'mainstream' sustainable development into all aspects of government activity including policies and policymaking, procurement, and estates management. Since 2015 (when the United Nations, along with other countries, adopted the SDGs) the Indian government has launched several flagship programs that are at the heart of SDGs. Some of these include Swachh Bharat mission, Digital India, etc. Green Skill Development Programme, Namami Gange Programme, National Mission for Green India, the Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ) etc. these all have favourable changes reading Conservation of Natural Resources & Eco-systems. As per reports of Forest Survey of India (FSI), there has been considerable increase in forest cover in last four year. An increase of 7,843 km² of forest and tree cover is recorded as per the FSI report of 2017 compared to that of 2015. Accordingly, the forest and tree cover in the country has reached 24.39% of geographic area.

Conclusion:

The environment is at the core of each one of the Sustainable Development Goals. Economic development, which aimed at increasing the production of goods and services to meet the needs of a rising population, puts greater pressure on the environment. Sustainable development aims at promoting the kind of development that minimises environmental problems and meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own needs. Yet the solutions to pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss - critical to achieving the goals, are entirely in our hands. In order to maintain a balance between development and environment, the principle of Sustainable Development which encompasses the 'Precautionary Principle' must be followed while envisaging a project. While leaving no one behind, we must increase financing, scale up proven solutions and invest in innovation.

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