

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIALLY NEED FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA**

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### **Abstract**

India is booming and sustainable development becomes increasingly more important. According to a United Nations report, India's population currently encompasses about 1.2 billion people and is expected to grow by another 300 million people within next couple of decades. With cities generating two thirds of countries economic output, an increasing number of Indians are leaving rural areas to seek employment in cities. To meet the challenges of continuing growth, without destroying environment and social harmony, city planning for sustainable development is crucial.

Since from the beginning, the phenomenon of globalization has captured world attention in various ways. Hence the concept of sustainable development has gained importance. The central purpose of it is to create an enabling environment in which all human beings lead secure and creative lives.

So to make the development truly sustainable, the village population and the city's poor population has to be provided with decent standard of living. The environment has to be protected. The women and other weaker sections of the society have to be empowered. In other words, the development has to be inclusive and also environmentally and socially sustainable. This paper focuses on the adverse effect of globalization on environment, and the need for socially sustainable development in India.

**Keywords:** Globalization, Sustainable development, Environmental Degradation, Biomass, Globalization, Epidemiology, Intellectual Property Rights, Economic Heterogeneity, Women empowerment.

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## INTRODUCTION

In 1972, the then Prime Minister of India, Mrs. Indira Gandhi emphasized, at the UN Conference on Environment at Stockholm, that the removal of poverty is an integral part of goal of an environmental strategy for the world. The concepts of interrelatedness, of a shared planet, of global citizenship and of spaceship earth cannot be restricted to environmental issues alone. They apply equally to shared and interlinked responsibilities of environment protection and human development

The world today is economically richer and environmentally poorer than ever,” -Lester R. Brown  
Foreign trade is an engine of growth and innovation. It tends to optimize the use of world resources with every country specializing in the production of the commodity for which it is best suited according to natural and human resource endowment. International trade leads to an increase in productivity and competitiveness and reduction of costs and thereby growth of nations. But the economic expansion in the last century and half had alarming consequences for the global environment.

The new economic policies and the structural adjustment programme often predict environmental impact without accuracy because of the complex interplay of various economic, social, political and ecological factors. These are put into effect in an effort to meet India’s severe balance of payments crisis (BOP), and to propel its economy into quicker growth and global integration<sup>1</sup>. This led to depletion of ozone layer, air pollution, loss of forests and biodiversity, extinction of animal and plant species, loss of marine life, soil and water pollution at an alarming rate. On realizing the importance of the environmental variations, problems created by them and its impact on human settlement the concept of ecology acquired prominence during the 1980’s.

Hence the concept of sustainable development originated for the first time, with the objective of taking actions in the present to improve the human condition and the earth system in which we live, to be long lasting and benefit future generations, which leads to Sustainable human development.

## **CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT-MEANING AND ORIGIN**

The concept of sustainable development originated with the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), Our Common Future (the Brundtland Report) of 1987 which defined sustainable development as "development which meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." The concept of sustainable development was first given prominence at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) (the "Earth Summit") in Rio in 1992, following which the notion of sustainable development rapidly gained wide currency and encouraged a greater awareness of the major environmental problems and disparities in the world. It marked a decisive stage by recognizing the existence of challenges and problems that were common to the entire planet and all humankind, and by seeking to identify cases where joint responsibility could be established.

It thereby considerably widened the scope of global problems to include such matters as the environment, health, trade and poverty. It also highlighted the links between globalization, planet-wide risks and shared responsibilities that created a need for concerted action by the international community.

## **OBJECTIVES OF CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Sustainable development combines the two terms, 'sustainability' and 'development' to indicate a pattern of growth which strengthens both the national capabilities to care for their people in relation to their total relationship with the resources of earth. It focuses upon a relationship between humans and their environment and indicates a warning that human being can not push development which is against nature. Sustainable development has some forward looking and broad based objectives which transcend class, caste, language and regional barriers.

To maintain the standards of living of the largest number

- People with equity and justice, the consideration of trans-boundary and cumulative impact in decision making has to be realized. to conserve and protect earth's natural resources from
- Misuse and wasteful consumption. to innovate new technology and scientific techniques
- Which work in unison with laws of nature and not opposed to it, respect diversity and involve local and indigenous

- Communities for a more grass roots oriented and relevant development policies. To plan international institutions which recognize the
- Requirements of poor nations and support them to achieve their growth targets without destroying their natural wealth and environment to seek peaceful co- existence of all nations of the
- World; this demands honoring of treaties and international agreements.

### **ROTEPCTING AND CONSERVING NATURAL RESOURCE BASE OF ECONOMICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

The integration of agriculture with land and water management and with ecosystem conservation is essential for both environmental sustainability and agricultural production. An environmental protection perspective must guide the evaluation of all developmental projects, recognizing the role of natural resources in local livelihoods. The recognition must be informed by a comprehensive understanding of the perception and opinion of the local people about their stakes in resources base. To ensure the sustainability of natural resources base, the recognition of all stake-holders in it and their roles in its protection and management is essential. The indigenous communities, women and people living below poverty line are generally weaker and do not enjoy same power as their opposite counterparts. There is a need to establish well defined and enforceable social rights and to ensure equal access to land, water and other natural and biological resources for these disadvantaged groups. The traditional approaches to natural resource management such as protection of sacred mangroves, ponds, water harvesting systems etc. should be revived to recapture the ecological wisdom.

### **EFFECTS OF GLOBALISATION ON ENVIRONMENT**

Economic development means very often an increase of pressure on the environment. Starting with the impact on the environment; there is one point of view that since globalization stimulates economic growth, trade, investments etc., will consequently lead to more pollution and environmental degradation. In this point of view, most of the environmental damage is a by-product of the process of socioeconomic development. The impact of globalization on environment needs to be continuously addressed in Indian context which profoundly remains in the transition. In spite of the potential of globalization to economic convergence it paved for an

increase in inequality resulting in increased environmental impacts such as climate change, protection of the ozone layer, biodiversity and desertification. But these international trade arrangements and environmental agreements contain very few provision for harmonizing trade and environment trade and development. Society is taking. Traditionally seen as an economic phenomenon linked with the appearance, development and consolidation of the global market, it has become connected with areas previously regarded as bearing little relevance to economic development. However, a new body of international economic law is emerging relating to trade and investment, whose impact on environment and human rights is highly questionable. Much recent writings and analysis has focused on the environmental impacts of the World Trade Organization (WTO). This body, along with other objectives aims to imbibe sustainable development of the environment among the member nations.

## **POPULATION**

The official realization that population is not merely about numbers but about health and quality of life of people in general and a woman in particular is a welcome sign. Our 1220 millions of people are more of a liability and we look towards aid and subsidies to support them. Most of them are illiterate and hence are dependent on the society and other donor nations. Give them education and see the changes. Some people will become performing assests. Similarly our middle class people should be encouraged to support the poor people of our country particularly; responsibility for educating their children can be undertaken by them. If this type of attitude comes to our rich and middle class, things will change swiftly in our society. The society at large should respect the rights of the women over their bodies and reproductive system. This recognition must permeate society in general, religious, judicial and law enforcement institutions in particular, through continual campaigning and dialogue.

## **NATIONAL LEVEL**

Sustainable development is achieved through optimal gains from several variables rather maximizing those from single one. This requires government departments, by convention sectorally organized, to work together or in some cases as a single multidisciplinary authority. The richness of skills available in society must be harnessed through partnership, involving

institutions, in civil society such as NGOs, Corporate bodies, academic and research institution, trade unions etc. which must be made an integral part of planning and implementation for sustainable development.

### **INTERNATIONAL LEVEL**

There is both a need and scope for regional and global cooperation in sustainable development. Some of the areas of common concerns are marine and riparian issues, transboundary environmental impacts and management of bio resources, technology sharing and sharing of sustainable development experiences. Efforts must be made especially by developing countries, to work towards synergizing experiences and raising shared regional concerns as a strong united front in international forums. Mechanisms must be put in place to facilitate such international exchange of domestic and global experiences in sustainable development.

### **CONCLUSION**

To conclude, although industrialization is seen as a solution to providing economic growth and increasing economic levels, all inevitably produce discharges and wastes that are capable of polluting. Where high population and economic growth demands resources and discharges in the form of pollutants, not many industries have arrived at suitable suggestions on sustainable measures, thus putting pressure on the environment. The phenomenon of globalization has led governments and individuals to realize the international and trans-boundary dimensions of environmental issues, which later led to recognize the concept of sustainable development. The WTO, which is considered as an apex institution in matters of international trade also aims to protect the environment while encouraging the international trade. The Rio Declaration brought together some concepts like polluters pay principle; inter generational equity, etc., to reserve and preserve the environment for future generation with sustainable growth of the industries. But self awareness of protection of environment and preserving it for future generation is the need for the hour.

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