

## An Overview of Natural resources and social justice

Mr. Sunil Babulal Uikey

Assistant Professor of Social work

Athawale Collage of Social Work Bhandara

### Summary

The natural contain which fulfill human needs are called natural resources. These resources are considered to be the mercury of human economic life. Natural resources play a vital role in the economic development of a nation and human beings also. The same situation is not found everywhere on the earth's surface with natural resources. In some places it is abundant, in some places it is small and in some places it is not strange. Natural resources are the elements on which human beings depend entirely to meet their needs. All the tools available in nature are natural resources. Natural resources are affected by geographical factors. Every human need is met with the help of natural resources like water, soil, air, minerals and coal. Due to the increasing needs of human beings and the immense use of natural resources to meet them, the reserves of the earth's natural resources are declining day by day. If this continues, there will be a shortage of natural resources in the near future and it is not possible to predict when it will end. Humans have also been affected by the inequality of natural resources found in every country. In the case of this natural resource, humans seem to be competing with nature for justice rather than for natural justice. He who is financially able is seen taking maximum advantage of natural resources and a weak person is seen begging to the government. In this article I have tried to review the unequal social justice in the case of this natural resource.

### Preface

Finding freedom, equality, fraternity and justice in a society of inequality is a difficult task. However, it is equally true that the deprived and the weak will not get justice unless the principle of equality is adopted and the system is challenged. Today our lives are becoming very complex and artificial due to industrialization, urbanization and commercialization. Today's modern culture, which has turned to chauvinism, is using water, land, agricultural windmills, and large-scale deforestation is taking place to expand agricultural settlements and industries. And useful agriculture is being largely transformed into residential. At the same time, windfalls of mineral wealth and human intervention in natural conditions are on the

rise. We are forgetting that the evolution of man and nature are two sides of the same coin. As a result, global climate change, degradation of the environment, deforestation, pollution of rivers and reservoirs, commercialization and privatization of farmland, man-made encroachments on coastal swamps and thorny forests have all threatened natural resources. Similarly, this development process of modernization has deprived the poor and deprived society of social justice. On the one hand, it seems that alternative development is impossible without destruction of the environment and displacement of human beings. Whether it is the law of land acquisition, water policy of the country or the state or the Special Economic Zone (SEZ), Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, Petrochemical and Petroleum Industries, under the cute name of national development, the deprived are deprived of their rights. Adivasis, Dalits, nomads and rural poor are suffering the brunt of the new economic policy. As a result, the country is facing a major social challenge as it seeks to nurture social justice through increasing migration, unemployment, inflation and growing economic inequality. Due to this, the problems of economically backward and landless farmers and agricultural laborers are becoming more and more complicated.

60% of the population in our country is still directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture. It is very important to take care of water, land, forest, minerals, weather, livestock for the survival of such people. We have to think of forcing such people to give up agriculture and bring about a new change in agriculture for their economic development. You feel that there is a contradiction between the conservation of natural resources, the rights of the poor and the deprived to natural resources and the current policies. This requires appropriate change and the creation of new pro-people policies to stop the destruction of the environment and the plunder of nature and to bring justice to the tribal, poor and deprived communities.

### **Objectives of the study**

- To study the policy of depriving the tribal poor and deprived community of their right to natural resources.
- To study the growing economic inequality as the tribals are being deprived of natural resources by the poor and deprived communities.
- To study the impact of government policy on the poor and deprived communities.

**Water Resources and Social Justice:**

We call water is our life. Water is an important source of life for all living things. But today, the culture of poverty is growing in the country. We have been experiencing permanent droughts and floods for years. Water is a basic human need and therefore everyone has the right to water and alternatively every Indian has the right to clean and healthy water. But today, actually 180 talukas in Maharashtra are in the shadow of drought. The poor, deprived and very vulnerable communities in the area have to roam for water. On the one hand, this society is wandering away from natural resources like water and in the same area the industries feel that there is assured water, bottled industries and large farmers have abundant water. However, marginal farmers and landless laborers are struggling day and night for their livelihood for drinking and agricultural water. Inequality in water distribution in urban and rural areas is on the rise today. On the one hand, cities are guaranteed 165 to 200 liters of water per capita and the government does not even guarantee 40 liters of water to the people in rural areas. This is where social justice comes in. From the formation of Maharashtra State till now, many policies, laws, circulars have been issued regarding water and reports of various committees have also been presented. But we are still facing a drought because this decision has not been strictly implemented. This is like denying the right to life to the common man. Therefore, it is necessary to try to reduce the inequality in the water sector only if there is an equitable distribution of water and a system that creates an inseparable relationship between water and man. The livelihood of the coastal people depends on resources like fish and salt pans. But over the past few decades there has been a lot of contract fishing from big trawlers and outsiders. The direct result of this is. The livelihood of the local fishermen is being taken away. At the same time, agri and fish farming are under threat. With increasing industrialization, housing industry and tourism rates, it is time for locals to move out of their own villages. Dombivali, Kalyan, Ulhasnagar, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts on the Konkan coast are witnessing the same scene at present. The huge dams and mines in our country have so far displaced more than 4 crore people who depend on natural resources for their livelihood and have been deprived of their natural rights and these people have migrated in search of employment. The rich have filled their coffers on this land. Depriving such displaced people of their rights is a form of social crime. The Buntra Land Commission Report since 1987 has set out the path of conservation of natural resources, environmental development, human development and sustainable

development to stand on the concept and practical work of sustainable rural development globally. The report contains important suggestions for eradicating poverty and maintaining the rich livelihood of the people. The report says that not only poverty alleviation but also inequality needs to be addressed. In reality, it is the poor, tribals and the underprivileged who are consciously moving away from their economic development in the name of development.

#### **Land, Agriculture and Social Justice:**

The relationship between land, agriculture and man is an important factor to consider in the context of social justice. Today, there are many problems related to agriculture and land, and who suffers the most should be considered not only from the point of view of social justice, but also from the point of view of ownership and use of resources. Today, land prices on national highways, state highways and adjacent highways have been drastically increased by city dwellers and big industrialists. This has created a situation where local farmers cannot even buy agricultural land for agricultural production and livelihood. So the poor man is being thrown away from the farming business. According to the 2011 census, the number of farmers has decreased by 1.5 crore as compared to 1991. Between 1996 and 2007, 1.5 million farmers across the country committed suicide due to agricultural disasters. About 30,000 farmers have committed suicide in our state out of which 70 per cent farmers were from eleven districts of Vidarbha. The highest number of suicides have been reported in Yavatmal district. The reasons for this suggest that barrenness, lack of irrigation facilities, lack of modern technology, huge extortion from moneylenders and increasing debt burden have led to a huge increase in farmer suicides in Vidarbha. Although the Employment Guarantee Scheme has saved the poor and agricultural laborers from drought, there is no one to take care of the plight of landowners. If land struggles are not to be allowed to escalate in the future, the government, civil society and the media will have to stand behind the deprived and the weak. Farmers, insisting on the minimum wage of agricultural laborers, will have to increase it from time to time. Pensions for marginal farmers and farm laborers will also have to be demanded in the near future.

#### **Looting of Natural Resources and Deprived Society:**

The golden triangle of Maharashtra's development is the Mumbai, Pune and Nashik region. This area is seen as a major investment in the industrial sector. The coastal villages of Aurangabad, Nagpur, Kolhapur, Solapur and Konkan are far from industry and development. Today, out of about 1101 SEZs in the country, the highest number of SEZs has been

sanctioned in our state. For this, about 154123 acres of land has been acquired for SEZ from Maharashtra alone. Extremely strategic and fertile lands near the city and providing livelihood to millions of people were acquired for SEZs. In the last decade, nearly one crore hectares of agricultural land has been transferred for non-agricultural purposes. While thousands of hectares of land lie in the Butibori industrial estate, the land in Amravati and Chandrapur has been forcibly acquired. SEZs in Pune and Raigad districts have to be canceled due to the movement of people and movements. No one is willing to invest in the Yavatmal district where thousands of farmers are committing suicide. But lands are being forcibly acquired only where a lot of infrastructure has been or will be built. This means that today's SEZs are creating islands of development that create economic inequality in the society. Fertile lands and biodiversity-rich forests across the country have been largely destroyed due to industrialization and mining. The process of desertification has started in some areas. Only 1% of the forest remains in Marathwada. The forests that remain in Marathwada today. She is also involved in various large projects that have been displaced. There is a strong allegation that the forest and the tribals living in the forest have deforested on a large scale. But the truth is, outsiders have set out to destroy the forests. During the colonial period, the British enacted forest laws and in a way plundered the forests. The forest dwellers were evicted from there. The British began to assert their right to land without considering the livelihood of the tribals in the census and evicted the tribals from the land. Tribals were blamed for deforestation by massive looting of forest resources. In the post-independence period, the government made little effort to return the rightful lands to the tribals who were protecting the collective forest resources, but the tribals are still being bullied to get collective claims and individual claims. In a real sense, the livelihood of the local tribes depends on nature, biodiversity, land, forests and water. Therefore, the degradation of the environment is a kind of injustice to them. Whether it is industrialization or mining, the tribals are being displaced. Among them, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Karnataka and Maharashtra are leading. If we want sustainable development, how can tribals not be considered as enemies of the world and their development will not happen. It is not affordable for the nation to deprive the tribals, the poor and the deprived of their rights every time for national development. So it is important to involve these people in the development process.

**Conclusion :**

If the poor, tribal and deprived communities are to be lifted from the bottom of the current economic inequality, the relationship between nature and man will have to be examined in the light of modernity. Not only economic development but also sustainable economic development with a society dependent on natural resources has to be adopted. This had to be done as a new ritual for the conservation of natural resources. So that these resources will be available for future generations. Social justice cannot be achieved on the basis of double-digit national development alone. New policies need to be formulated to uplift the living standards of the poor, tribals and deprived people, to find happiness in their lives, to meet their basic needs. While realizing that natural resources are limited, we have to make alternatives so that we do not put new strain on the available resources and take care not to start a war on drinking water in the future. As Mahatma Gandhi said, the earth can meet its needs but not greed. So that no deprived section of the society is excluded from the development process and the human rights of the particularly deprived, vulnerable sections of the society are not violated. For this, vigilant society and dutiful governance are equally necessary. This is a very dangerous time for our country. This would be a breach of the principle of diversity. While preserving diversity, modernity and freedom, it is also necessary to increase brotherhood in the society. In order for the concepts of development to come forward from the point of view of the underprivileged, the government needs to run the state in a communicative manner. Only then can our largest democracy in the world become a country of rich, prosperous and happy people.

**References**

1. Jamwal, Nidhi. (2008). Howl of the Hills, New Delhi Down to Earth, Vol. 17, No.8, September 5.
2. Kale, Sampat. (2010). Anti-SEZ movement in India, Pune NCAS P.08.
3. Kale, Sampat. (2013). Maharashtachi Jalniti and Dushkal Mahotsav, Pune Arthapurna P. 14.
4. India, New Delhi Aakar Books.
5. Mahajan, Sulakshana and Dandekar, Hemlata C. (2001).
6. MSRDC and Mumbai-Pune Expressway, Mumbai Economic and Political Weekly, February 17, P.550.
7. Teltumbde, Anand. (2007). Natural Resources Policies of the
8. Maharashtra: An analytical review, Pune NCAS