

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITH ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY-A NEED FOR THE DECADE

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Abstract: With the passage of time, it was observed that there was environmental degradation on a large scale and thereby, quality of life was adversely affected. Rapid industrialization, development of science, technology & communication resulted in high rate of economic growth, higher production of output in industries, agriculture and territory sectors. But such development adversely affected the environment. That is, it resulted in the poisoning of earth's resources. The process of economic development caused atmospheric pollution which was reflected in the form of Global warming.

As a result, the environment has become polluted and it has a severe damaging effect on the human life, plant life and wild life. This would not only result in the poor quality of life of the present generation but also a threat for the future generation to thrive.

It is stated that economic growth and environmental balance do not go together. They both oppose each other. To achieve a higher rate of growth, resources have to be exploited and environment has to be harmed. Environmental balance can only be maintained, if resources are not exploited & pollution is not formed. This leads to low rate of economic growth. But the fact remains that both of them are needed for the economy. The only solution is controlling the scale of pollution & optimal use of the resources.

Keywords: Economic Development, Economic Growth, Environment, Pollution.

Introduction: Environment and economic development have always been the topics for discussion. The existing pattern of interaction between society and environment in the name of development has turned to be a threat to human survival.

After the independence, India launched a series of economic plans for rapid expansion in agriculture, industry, transport and other infrastructure with a view to increase production and employment, to reduce poverty and inequality of incomes and to establish socialistic society based on equality and justice. But because of mindless and ruthless exploitation of natural resources, we have degraded our physical environment. By environment, we meant the whole complex of climatic, soil, water and biotic factors on which we all subsist, and on which our entire agricultural & industrial development depends. Rapid economic development is turning India into a vast wasteland. Poverty in pre-independence India was the result of under utilization of resources, there is every possibility that poverty, unemployment and inequality would continue to persist due to destruction of environment.

However, the **Objective** of the paper is not to unlock the whole story, but to focus on the following:

1. To study how the indiscriminate pursuit of economic development resulted in the environmental degradation.
2. To study the measures that can foster development with environmental protection.

Methodology: The study has made use of secondary data compiled from various sources.

Earth in Danger: Need Intensive Care: In 1992 scientists gave an alarm warning about the hazardous future of our earth. Man is endangering his own living environment in the name of 'development' but the entire life system in the planet is collapsing. Ozone depletion, air and water pollution, deforestation, destruction of oceanic wealth, these threats faced by flora and fauna, deterioration in the productivity and fertility of soil, global warming etc...are some of the accounted topics hinted by the scientists gave the "second choice" that these challenges made reach us in a fire gauge, within the short period of 25 years the temperature on earth surface has increased. 5°C and Carbon expulsion on atmosphere increased for 62% per year. Lifeless oceanic parts are increasing flora and fauna are disappearing from earth.

Now our capital city Delhi is recognized as one among the 10 cities in the world; where the situation is evaluated as "dangerous living condition". New roads, new pipelines, new power plants; even all election promises are in constructional and developmental strata's. But no one takes the initiative to talk about sustainable development considering the environmental outputs. Industries are considerably less in Delhi, but for road tax system government gave permission to the business of second hand cars. This policy boomeranged on the government itself.

Now! Delhi has the most number of cars in India (21.67 lakhs). About 30% vehicles are older than 20 years. These old Vehicles pollute air 5 times more to that of a new vehicle. Pollution monitor board revealed the fact that an increase in the number of Diesel vehicles has also added to the hazard of air pollution in Delhi. The quantity of pollution which a diesel vehicle spit out is equal to that of 24 petrol vehicle!!

Ground level ozone presence is increasing in Delhi per each year. Life span of a person is reduced for 9 years, Because of the harmful presence of Carbon monoxide and Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. It also creates genetic problems and habitual defects and mental physic diseases in persons. Researchers reveal the fact that almost family problems like divorces and diseases like hypertension are inseparably linked with their polluted atmospheric conditions. Atmospheric pollution also influences us in our character and behavior and such people who live in poor and polluted conditions exhibits more propensity of crimes. Delhi is the only place where more people wear air filter masks other than Siangtan (China) in the world and also Delhi has most number of crimes and criminals in India.

Now days the flight passengers were given smog masks so that they could be equipped to take on the toxicity that awaited them on the arrival. Many flights were suspended to polluted Delhi which as "Under Public Health Emergency" due to extremely poor air quality issues of water are not far behind. The pollution of so many of India's rivers aquifers affect everybody. Urban floods and rural droughts have cascading effects on the whole population. When nature starts to retreats the result is effected by the whole vulnerable society.

But perturbation and suffocation of Delhi is not a recent case. The atmosphere of Delhi started to deteriorate from 2012 itself. But this year (2017) air pollution crossed all the boundaries prefixed and reflected on public life as a great hazard. Authorities in the city Scrambled to tackle this extra ordinary situation as hospitals recorded surge in the no of patients complaining of respiratory problems..a reminiscent of 1952 'Great smog of London'. Accidents were common in rural and urban areas of the city because of low visibility vehicles crushes people to death. Victims are dying in such calamities and our future hope about bright tomorrow perish in pit falls.

Now, the National Green tribunal banned construction & industrial activity and entry of trucks, rapping the Delhi government and civic bodies for the situation. Scientists point out that the precaution to resist the awaiting havoc is to maintain the natural wealth ordinarily and to develop a culture of eco friendly technology.

Earth is the only planet so far known to have an environment that can sustain life. It stated that economic growth and environment balance do not go together. They oppose each other. There is a

controversy between the environmentalists and economists. The economists contended that if all eggs are used for omelets, it will cater to needs of the citizens. On the other hand the environmentalists opine that there will be no eggs to lay chicks. However, we need both eggs and chicks so that the needs of the present and future generations can be fulfilled. So there is no point in having a very high rate of growth when the people are suffering due to poor environmental standards.

Environment Sustainability Issues in India: India makes up 2.4% of the world's land, supporting 16% of the world population. Now India experiencing rapid environmental degradation at alarming rates. Tremendous pressure is placed upon the country's land and natural resources to support the massive overpopulation. Overuse and mismanagement of India's once abundant forests has resulted in contamination, dissertation and soil depletion throughout the sub continent.

Thus, the desired rate of growth is the rate of growth that achieves optimal use of the resources and no exploitation. In this context, the role of government is highlighted. The government through various tools like tax, expenditure, fee, fine, subsidy etc..Can control the flow of investment and help save environment.

In order to have desired rate of growth along with better environmental quality; we should go for sustainable development which is the only answer to the survival of the earth and societies.

The following measures may be taken up with a view to ensuring sustainable development.

- The countries should limit rates of development without harming our environment.
- Afforestation on a large scale should be undertaken.
- Non-biodegradable wastes should be recycled and reused.
- Necessary steps should be taken up to control wastes through new technology.
- The government should be highly vigilant and careful to take every possible step to maintain better environment.
- The individuals should be made aware of better environmental quality which is essential for the good quality of life.

Conclusion: However, it may conclude that, environment is an important determinant in developmental process. The fact remains that environmental legislation has not been very effective and vested interest have obviated the rules, thereby endangering human life. Thus, it is high time that our planners review the entire position of development and environment crisis and evolve a new process of balanced sustainable development. All the countries of the world should have the objective of a rate of development along with better environmental quality which will be a key to the survival of the earth and the persistence of the livelihood.

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