

Environment and Sustainable Economic Development: Approach to Environmental Problems

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Abstract: The concept of “environment” has evolved as a global issue in the early 1970s. At first, it was a kind of global recognition that the Earth’s ecosystems are in fact fragile, and that human beings have been contributing much to its degeneration. When countries started to join efforts to strike a balance between improving the quality of human life and protecting the environment for the sake of future generations, a new awareness materialized. The social and economic welfare of human beings is closely linked to their environment. Any change in the socioeconomic fields will have an impact on the earth’s environment and vice versa, whether positively or negatively, immediately or eventually. And in many cases, negative results are irreversible. Environmental resources are those that have intrinsic value of their own or are of value for the longer term sustainability and use by humans.

Introduction

One of the major global problems is that the present rate of global resources utilization. Increasing population raises the demand for sufficient resources to meet the demands for future generation. Some resources are capable of natural regeneration into useful products within a reasonable time. These have the potential to renew themselves and be indefinitely available as long as their capacity to regenerate is not interrupted by the nature. For example, clean water, clean air, soil, flora and fauna. On the other way some resources are available only in finite amounts are slow that they are regarded as available on in fixed quantities. For example, ground water, minerals, etc. Some resources are available and with the possible exception of solar energy, the receipt of which could be affected by atmospheric pollution, cannot be degraded even with gross mismanagement. Extrinsis resources are prone to breakdown or degradation, yet are available continuously if managed properly for example, human skill, institutions “management abilities, etc. Environmental Indicators Although the social, economic and environmental indicators are inter-linked to much an extent. Some specific environmental indicators through which we can measure the level of development of a country, such as:-

1. Number of clean air days.
2. Minimum level of waste.
3. Nature-based environmental designs.
4. Percentage of population using potable water.
5. Percentage of population using sewers.
6. Percentage of population using public transport or carpooling.
7. Percentage of prime agriculture land.
8. Percentage of households participating in recycling programmes.
9. Tons of hazardous waste generated annually.
10. Tones of per capita of solid waste generated annually.
11. Tons of toxic release annually.
12. Number of institutions dealing with environmental issues.
13. Number of environmental education classes in public and private academic institutions.
14. Legal environmental structure.
15. Awareness among the people about collective benefits of clean environment.
16. People sensitivity to pollutions.
17. Nature of waste management system.
18. Budgetary allocation for environmental projects.
19. Volume of the use of chemicals and chemical fertilizers.
20. Level of health hazards.

Environment and Sustainable Development

There is close link between environment and sustainable development which is used in the broad perspective and the overall development of human beings without any distinction.

Sustainable development has many dimensions, such as Social Dimension are

- * Workers' health and safety.
- * Impact on local communities, quality of life.
- * Benefits to disadvantaged groups, for example, the disabled.

Economic Dimension

- Creation of new markets and opportunities for sales growth.
- Cost reduction through efficiency improvements and
- reduced energy and raw material inputs.
- Use of renewable raw materials.
- Elimination of toxic substances.

The development has different nature which deals with the welfare of human being and its ultimate goal is his amelioration. There are certain mandatory conditions and requirements to achieve the objectives of sustainable development. The Environmentalists all over the world has emphasized the need for maintaining environmental quality through sustainable use of resources. All human activities designed and implemented for the economic growth of a country and the social needs would have directly or indirectly impact on environment. The qualitative and in some cases quantitative change in water, land and other resources have the same effect across the world. Unlike social and economic sectors, environmental concerns are similar in both developed and developing countries as the citizens of all countries must have access to clean water, air, safe drinking water and sufficient supplies of clean renewable energy.

Suppose a model of two identical countries, both with same inputs and outputs, and with the same endowments, technologies and preferences. The two countries engaged in free trade in unregulated and competitive markets. The countries differ only in the pattern of ownership of an environmental resources used an input to production. First, the country with ill-defined property rights observe the environment as an input to production and these ill-defined property rights by themselves create a motive for trade between two otherwise identical countries. Second, for the country with poorly defined property rights, trade with a country with well-defined property rights increases the overuse of resources and makes the miscalculation worse, transmitting it to the entire world economy. As the income and consumption levels of the poor increase there is likely to be net increase in environmental destruction. Meeting increasing consumption demand while keeping environmental degradation at a minimum is an uphill task. As the poor countries desire more economic growth they will use more available natural resources resulting in environmental degradation. Economic growth is vital for giving more options to poor societies, but their models of development must become less energy intensive and more environmentally sound. For industrial countries, too, stopping growth or even seriously slowing it is not much of an option for protecting the global environment. Their slower growth would imperil growth in the poor nations, which are dependent on the markets of the rich nations.

Annual average loss due to deforestation in South and East Asia is 1.2 percent, higher than any other tropical region. Sustainable development model focus on the people as their primary concern, incorporate new environmentally safe technologies into all investment planning and seek ways to reflect the scarcity value of environmental resources in decision-making. The primary objective must be to protect human life and human options. Every environmental measure must be tested against how much it adds to the human welfare of the majority of the world's population. Increasing environmental regulations and heavy labour cost resulted in shifting such industries to less developed countries. According to an estimate, about 365 deaths, One daily, is reported every year during ship-breaking.

Chemical Wastes dumpings

A US Company "Stroller Chemical Co (SSC) had 1000 tons of wastes classified as hazardous under US law due to high level of lead and cadmium. The SSC illegally mixed this waste into fertilizers and without notifying the government, illegally exported it to Bangladesh recently. According to Medical experts, the chemicals like lead and cadmium are said to cause brain damage and affect growth among children. Chemical wastes endanger the health of human beings and wealth of natural resources. The electronic industry is the fastest growing manufacturing industry in the world and it undergoes rapid product obsolescence. Frequent electronic items are discarded (called E-waste) which has become a fastest growing waste stream in the industrialized world. The growing quantity of Ewaste is beginning to reach disastrous proportions and industrialized countries all over the world are just now beginning to grapple with the problem.

Stopping the shifting of dirty industries and dangerous chemicals to underdeveloped countries. At regional level the countries must coordinate their efforts through institutional arrangements to prevent earthquakes, oceanic disasters, climatic changes, floods and emissions. They should evolve and implement legal framework to prevent the dumping of wastes or toxics materials as well as dangerous chemicals from developed countries. They must ban the import of such chemicals and electronic waste materials. At national level a

suitable legal framework must support the implemental of waste management strategy to ensure standardized system. People must be educated and informed about the proper disposal of wastes and its far-reaching harmful effects. The hospitals wastes must be documented and weighted and it should be disposed of under the supervision of local Environmental Committees. Private sector must be involved in the waste management process and it can help to make the optimal use of scarce resources. An effective Environmental Management System (EMS) is necessary to identify the causes of environmental problems and then eliminating them. The key to effective (EMS) is the use of systematic approach to planning, controlling, measuring and improving an organizations' environmental performance. Well-coordinated efforts at international, regional and national levels are imperative to check depletion of environmental and economic resources, their over-consumption by the rich countries and consequential environmental effects on human beings, plants and animals rather than bearing huge financial costs in their restoration, which is to some extent is impossible.

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