

Environmental Sustainability

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Abstract

A growing number of companies globally are now identifying the significance of sustaining the natural environment. The implementation of environment interventions is a mixed bag of achievements, slow progress and a lack of progress. Whereas, the progress on the policy and legal fronts is at the acceptable level, the environmental conditions in the country have not changed much to the better. The importance of environmental sustainability to development was captured in MDG 7. Despite some progress towards meeting this goal, there is still substantial unfinished business and new global and local challenges endanger the development and environmental gains achieved so far. To implement this agenda, a wide range of policies and policy reforms will be needed to promote inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth and improve the well-being of all. The Ministry of Environment would focus on and support its implementation. The policy and legal framework are adequate. Now there would be more attention to action to enhance environmental sustainability. The Ministry of Environment with support of the Planning and Development Division and involvement of its departments and agencies would take a lead and play a stronger role for effective coordination, catalytic action, support and monitoring for ensuring environmental sustainability.

Keywords: Environmental Awareness, Environmental Pollution, Environmental Sustainability, Environmental Practices

Introduction:

The notion of environment is as old as the concept of the nature itself. It is a composite term stating to situations in which organisms containing of air, water, food, sunlight etc., succeed and turn out to be living sources of life for entirely the living and non-living beings as well as plant life. It also comprises atmospheric temperature, wind and its velocity.

The prime objective of environmental policies and strategies is to recover environmental

consequences as well as maintains the protection of human environment and the prevention of hazardous to human beings for the proper functioning of sustainable growth. It aims to accomplish their purposes by improving the opportunity costs of pollution in addition environmental impairment, shortening polluting behaviour, supporting investment strategies and encouraging revolution in less ecologically detrimental technologies and so forth.

Environmental sustainability comprises decisions making and taking fruitful action that are in the welfares of all spheres for protecting the natural world, with specific importance on conserving the competence of the environment to provision the human life. Environment Protection Act, 1986 is an Act of the Parliament of India, which was passed in March 1986 and came into force on 19th November 1986. The Government of India passed the Environment Protection Act, 1986 under Article (253) of the Constitution. The main purpose of this act is to protect and upgrading the human environment as well as prevention of hazards to human beings, other living creatures, plants and property etc, i.e., to be related with human environments.

Environmental Protection Strategy is completely built on the principles of sustainable development. The rising phases of population and the environmental worsening face the challenging aspect of sustainable growth. It has been revealed the unsafe picture of future environment. Hence, everyone should attentive about the environmental problems and challenges for their related consequences. Therefore, a proper implementation strategy to be taken for the numerous environmental problems and their associated inferences is of interest part of the decision makers.

Changing Forms of Environment

The changing patterns of environment are directly and indirectly affected with the different phases of environmental factors. It can be classified into two parts:

a)Natural Environment

b) Man- made Environment

The natural environment comprises the biotic element and abiotic element. Biotic elements consist of Plant Kingdom; Micro kingdom, and Animal kingdom. Whereas abiotic elements contain lithosphere, atmosphere, and hydrosphere.

The manmade environment consists of religious, spiritual, philosophical environment and political environment. Environment and mankind are associated to each other, without existing environment there is no presence of mankind.

Environmental awareness

Environmental awareness is very necessary for the proper functioning of resource utilization, conservation and preservation of the ecological stability. The meaning of environmental awareness are as follows-

a) To comprehend the natural resources and its basic importance for protecting the community as a whole.

b) Physical environment, vegetation, wild animals and human's interrelationships is to be developed and understood for dependence.

c) To develop the societal culture and economical values as well as the human materials, places, time and resources under environmental practices.

d) To maintain proper extents of an environmental resources and its effective practices to develop and increase the social, economic and cultural values for maintenance of sustainable development.

Causes of Environmental Pollution

The problem of environmental pollution is a multifaceted consequence of forces connected with several correlating factors. However, the following reasons could be pointed out as the generally primary aspects.

1) Population growth

Population growth is the root cause for numerous problems and it necessitates abnormal exploitation of natural resources to provide day-to-day necessary requirements of life. Its outcomes in migration of people and development of urban zones, thus inviting new complications of health, ecology,

environmental degradation as well as human sustenance.

2) Nature of Modern Technology

The nature of productive and upgraded technology in recent years is closely associated to the environmental factors. This aspect has been mostly accountable for the generation of synthetic and non-biodegradable materials such as plastics, chemical nitrogen fertilizers, synthetic detergents, synthetic fibres, big cars, petrochemical etc, and other ecologically detrimental the industries and disposable culture.

3) Deforestation

The main reasons of deforestation at international and regional levels are conversion of forest land into agricultural land, shifting cultivation, lumbering, multipurpose river projects, transformation of forests into pastures, overgrazing, forest fires etc. Hence, deforestation cause a chain effects of natural resources which unfavourably affect the natural environment.

4) Agricultural Development

Agricultural development means expansion of agricultural land, upsurge in agricultural output as well as net agricultural production. The agricultural growth damages the environment in a number of ways, for *e.g.* (i) the application of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides, (ii) increase in irrigational facilities (iii) by making variations in environmental communities etc. It seems that the root cause of all these environmental factors arising out of the agricultural development, which leads to increase of human population at an alarming rate.

5) Industrial Development

The opposing effects of industrialization has also created different fold of environmental problems and it may transform the entire atmosphere of natural system as well as the chain effects occasionally turn out to be miserable for the human society. Industrialization lead to rapid proportion of exploitation of natural resources and improved industrial productivity.

6)Urbanization

Migration of population from rural areas to urban segments, development of new urban areas and industrial growth are responsible for

rapid percentage of exploitation of natural resources and numerous forms of environmental degradation in the developed as well as developing nations.

7) Poverty

It is factual that poor cause harm to the environment. Due to poverty the poor people exploit unreasonably the natural resources of the nation for meeting their basic necessities (i.e., food, fuel, shelter, employment fodder etc for their cattle). Therefore, requisite steps should be taken to bring the vulnerable people within the mainstream of the above poverty line.

Environmental Practices:

It is, therefore, essential to preserve and protect our environment. Following practices or important action point to be taken for protecting the environment which are as follows-

- a) Reprocess carry bags.
- b) Start a compost heap or usage of compost bin because this can be used for biodegradable materials as well as other recycle waste food.
- c) Avoid unnecessary or uneconomical packaging of products.
- d) For the betterment of environmental practices, dispose the waste after separating them into biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste material.
- e) Plantation of trees are very useful for the better environmental practices because they will help to absorb excess carbon dioxide.
- f) Don't burn any waste, particularly plastics, for the smoke may contain polluting gases.
- g) Evade fast starts and abrupt braking of vehicles.
- h) Intensive cropping, proper use of fertilizers, appropriate drainage system and irrigation facilities are the best usage for environmental practices.
- i) Rotation of crops, Treatment of sewage, Harvesting of rain water, National parks and conservation of forests etc.

Conclusion

The sources for environmental problems are many. The diversity of causes makes it problematic to evidently outline the reasons and consequences of environmental degradation, which are very harmful for the environmental components. Population growth, economic development, change of technology,

urbanization and industrial development are the common factors which is very responsible for the main causes of environmental degradation. The intervening influence of adverse demographic pressure, poverty and underdevelopment led to ultimately falls on resources as well as our ecosystems. Likewise, the change of technology is also responsible for the generation of more and more wastes which in turn to be environmentally harmful.

It is true that everyone does a best effort for the betterment of environmental practices can bring a major positive transformation in the direction of our environment. We should produce and develop science and technologies for the betterment of our standard of livings but it will be certain that it would not destruct our environment in future perspectives and maintain the ecological balance. Hence, it is a foremost global problem which should be resolved by the constant hard work of every person. Therefore, conscious effort should be taken by the government and various stakeholders to organize a campaign, social sites for developing environmental awareness, active participation in world environment day, provide internet facilities particularly in rural regions etc, for the better accomplishments of environmental practices.

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