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## Research Article

### GREEN POLITICS AND IT'S CHALLENGES

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#### ABSTRACT

Environmental issues are harmful effects of human activity on the biophysical environment. Environmental protection is a practice of protecting the natural environment on individual, organizational or governmental levels, for the benefit of both the environment and humans. A country's environmental problem is related to the economy of the country. As to measure the development of a country GDP is taken as a measuring factor and in order to increase the GDP every country works to increase their economy. In order to increase the economy a country puts environment at its sake. In India due to increased population, poverty, urbanisation, industrialisation and many more factors are responsible for the rapid degradation environment. In the 21st Century when much harm has already been done to the environment, now it has become a serious problem hence it cannot be ignored. The main environmental problems in India are air pollution, water pollution, sound pollution and recently in 2018 light pollution has also been seen at an alarming rate.

It is very important to work for the development but development should not be at the sake of environment. In order to protect environment and preserve it for future generation, sustainable development should be followed. To make awareness regarding environment government has introduced environmental education as a separate subject. India is also one of the active members in International Organisation concerning environment under UNEP. The environmental challenges in India are Air Pollution, Groundwater Depletion, Climate Change, Use of Plastics, ozone layer depletion, Garbage Disposal and Sanitation, Loss of Biodiversity There is a need of co-ordination between government policies of development with proper management of environment. Development is the need of an hour but development with the protection of environment should be the goal.

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#### INTRODUCTION

Ecology 'Oikos' meaning home or place to live and 'logos' means study. It means the study of the home of nature. Ecology is defined as a scientific study of the relationship of the living organism with each other and with their environment.\*a Everything that surrounds and affects an organism during its lifetime is known as environment. Environment is not static, it is in constant flux and it keeps changing because it is composed of both biotic and abiotic components. Biotic are the living components and abiotic are the non-living components.

A country's development is seen from the economic perspective. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is considered a measuring scale for the development of a country. The global competition has increased so much that countries are ready to develop at the sake of environment. Recently, a concept was developed by Bhutan of Gross National Happiness (GNH) had

influenced many other countries and they were also willing to follow it.\*b.GNH made us aware that only economic growth should not be the parameter to consider development. Gross National Happiness (GNH) mentions four pillars to consider the development of a country they

- Sustainable and equitable socio-economic development.
- Environmental conservation
- Preservation and promotion of culture
- Good governance \*c

The concept of GNH was much appreciated that United Nations General Assembly in 2011 passed a resolution "Happiness towards a holistic approach of development" it urged nations that they should follow the example of Bhutan. Now the nations are moving towards the concept of GNH instead of GDP. The environment of India is one of the most

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biodiverse ecozones. The Deccan Traps, Gangetic Plains and the Himalayas are the major geographical features. India has three biodiverse hotspots :- Western Ghats, Himalayas and the Indo- Burma region. As India is situated in the North of the equator 8°4' and 37°6' North latitude and 68°7' and 97°25' East longitude. India is the seventh largest country in the world with great biodiversity and blessed with beautiful environment. As India is with the Himalayas, Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean because of its peculiar position there is a great variation in temperature and precipitation in the Indian subcontinent.

The concept of Environmentalism has been introduced which is more of a global movement than an ideology. It is a social movement which will see, protect and conserve the quality of the environment. It is very necessary for the development of humans. But each country is making environment as a means of development. Ecologism says that environment is not only a source of life but is life itself, it is a part of humans and we must establish peace with nature. The concept of Ecologism is that it is nature centric, life centric and biocentric. Nature has its own moral worth and human beings are bound to protect environment.

In the 20th Century both the philosophies i.e. Environmentalism and Ecologism led to environmental politics. In Ancient times Human and Environment were complimentary. But industrialisation has largely affected and deteriorated the environment. Industrialisation has brought economic prosperity but with booming industrial growth and relatively low land mass, environmental sustainability has become a deciding factor in the process of industrial development. Highly polluting industries such as thermal power plant, coal mines, cement, iron and steel industries emit dust, smoke, fumes and toxic gases which has not only become hazardous but also causes irreparable damage to our ecology and environment.

#### **Major Environmental problems in the development of India are**

Pollution is the most challenging aspect that needs to be controlled for the protection of environment. Pollution is defined as an addition or excessive addition of certain materials to the physical environment i.e. land, water and air making it unfit for life. Causes of pollution are:

- a. Rapid Industrialisation
- b. Urbanisation
- c. Uncontrolled exploitation of nature
- d. Forest fires, radioactivity, volcanic eruptions, strong winds etc.

One of the major pollution that has largely affected the biosphere is the Air Pollution. It is the contamination of air by the discharge of harmful substances. Air pollution has aggravated because of increasing traffic, growing cities, rapid economic development and industrialisation. It causes health problems, damages the environment and changing pattern of climate is observed. Major air pollutants are Carbon Monoxide (CO), Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC), Lead, Ozone, Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), smog, tobacco, fly ash. To control air pollution preventive measures need to be taken like modifications in industrial process / equipment to reduce

emissions, selection of suitable manufacturing sites like setting of individuals at a distance of residential areas, use of efficient engines, use of lead free petrol and promotion of CNG, reduce traffic vehicles, promotion of public transports. In India Government initiatives are equally important like Central Pollution Control Plan (CPCB) has been executing a nationwide programme of ambient air quality monitoring known as National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). Recently in 2015 Prime Minister launched National Air Quality Index to disseminate air quality information. India ranks amongst the most polluted countries of the world. We need to harness scientific and socio-scientific expertise to develop and promote eco-friendly technologies in the construction, waste management, industrial production and transport.

Next to air pollution is that water bodies are equally contaminated. Water Pollution is described as an addition of certain substances that degrade the quality of water. It is not confined to the surface water, it has also spread to the ground water, sea and ocean. In rapid industrialisation industries discharge several inorganic and organic pollutants which prove highly toxic to living beings. The power plant uses water as coolant and releases hot water to the original source. Sudden rise in the temperature of water kills fishes and other aquatic animals. The ground water of India gets contaminated due to seepage from industrial and municipal wastes and effluents, sewage channels and agricultural runoff. Oceans are the ultimate sink of all natural and man-made pollutants. The polluted water causes water borne diseases like jaundice, cholera, typhoid. The several ways which can reduce water pollution are:- treatment of sewage water and the industrial effluents should be done before releasing it into water bodies, excessive use of fertilisers and pesticides should be avoided, oil spills in water should be cleaned with the help of bregoli. Along with these Government also took many initiatives to control water pollution like National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystem (NPCA) to undertake various conservation activities. Implementation of National Lake Conservation Plan (NWLP).

Air and water pollution together affects the soil and it causes Soil Pollution, it is defined as any addition that adversely affects the physical, chemical and biological properties of soil and reduces its productivity. A soil pollutant deteriorates the quality, texture and mineral content of the soil of which disturbs the biological balance of the organism in the soil. Major causes of soil pollution are indiscriminate use of fertilisers, pesticides, insecticides and herbicides. Dumping of large quantities of solid waste. Deforestation and soil erosion. Pollution due to urbanisation. There are three types of soil pollution

- a. Agricultural soil pollution
- b. Pollution due to industrial and soil wastes
- c. Pollution due to urban activities

Deteriorating Effects of soil pollution are that it reduces the soil fertility, it reduces nitrogen in the soil, it increases salinity, releases pollutant gases, it causes ecological imbalance, imbalance in the fauna and flora. Control measures that can be taken to prevent soil pollution are use of biopesticides and biofertilizer, organic farming should be promoted, four R's

should adopted i.e. Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. If these measure are taken properly then the fertility of the soil can be maintained.

The only pollution that is caused by humans intentionally i.e. Noise Pollution, it is an unpleasant noise created by people or machines that can be annoying, distracting and physically painful. An increase of about 10 dB double the increase in loudness. The World Health Organisation recommends that the sound level indoors should be less than 30dB. The Government of India on March 2011 launched a Real Time Ambient Noise Monitoring Network under this network Remote Noise Monitoring Terminals have been installed in all the major cities\*d. Impacts of noise pollution are annoyance, loss of hearing, sleeplessness, it has physiological effects also. It is the only pollution that causes damage to buildings because of exposure to infrasonic and ultrasonic waves. Noise pollution can be controlled by reducing the noise levels from the domestic sectors, automobiles should be maintained, prohibition on usage of loudspeakers. Documentation of noise measurements, continuous monitoring and awareness are the need of the hour.

India wanting to become one of the nuclear country started testing nuclear weapons which has extremely harmed the environment and has caused Radioactive Pollution. It is spontaneous emissions of proton, electron and gamma rays. The nuclear arms produce radioactive particles that are thrown up into air as huge clouds. Nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons are the major causes of radioactive pollution. One of the biggest harm done by radioactive pollution is that it has reduced the span of life to half which is a major drawback for the development of our country. Recently in 2018 light pollution has also been in notice. Light pollution is excessive and inappropriate use of artificial light. It is a serious environmental concern that wastes money and resources while jeopardising wildlife, environment health and human heritage. In the 21st century the concept of E-waste was also propagated. The discarded and end-of electronic products ranging from computers, equipment used in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) are know as electronic waste (E-waste). E-waste is not hazardous if it is stocked in a safe storage or recycled by scientific methods. The E-waste can be considered hazardous for the environment if not recycled by primitive methods. A holistic approach is needed to address the challenges faced by India in e- waste management. A suitable mechanism needs to be evolved to include small units in unorganised sector and large units in organised sector into a single value chain.

Plastics have been a wonderful invention in the 20th century but it has become a major challenge as it harming the environment to a great extent. Plastics are widely used as packing and carry bags because of cost and convenience. But it has largely damaged the environment as it is non biodegradable. Burning of Plastics especially PVC releases dioxin and also furan in the atmosphere. Plastic bags chokes drains, blocks the porosity of the soil and causes groundwater pollution. Designing eco-friendly biodegradable Plastics are the need the hour.

These are the many kinds of deterioration that have been faced by the environment. Industrialisation has severely affected our

environment. To cope over the increasing deterioration of environment there are three approaches :-

- a. Apocalyptic Approach
- b. Emancipatory Approach
- c. Earth - Friendly Approach

Apocalyptic Approach, is a pessimistic approach, this approach conveys about the future. This approach is pessimistic because they fear from Industrialisation. Rachel Carson in his book *Silent Spring*, highlighted that humans ever increasing demand cannot be fulfilled by the environment. Paul R. Ehrlich in his book *Population Bomb*, Denis Meadow in his book *Blueprint for Survival*. All the above thinkers have explained that the demands of humans are endless and they cannot be fulfilled by the environment.

Emancipatory Approach, is an optimistic approach. This approach has focused on pollution, waste management and they have emphasised on the alternative source of energy and alternative model of development to save environment.

Earth - Friendly Approach, thinkers like Barry Carmel, Ernest Schumacher focused on this approach and they have highlighted on the renewable sources of energy. They gave the concept of decentralised production for environment friendly development. They propagated "Think globally but act locally". If these approaches are studied carefully and are followed then the deterioration of the environment can be controlled.

Developing countries like India where industrialisation is dominated they take environment as a means and their development is similar to the shallow ecology. Shallow ecology uses ecology for human needs and it takes environment as materials and as means of development. Ecologism believes that all humans have natural capacity and natural limits. Human exist in a web of natural resources and it is the duty of humans to preserve the natural resources.

Measures

### ***Measures that can be Taken for the Protection of Environment in the Process of Development***

#### ***Education***

It is the very first measure that need to be taken. Education plays a vital role in developing the minds of the individuals. Government has also introduced Environmental Education at school and college level to make awareness among youths because future of tomorrow depends on the youths of today. As in India vast population is uneducated and women are not given equal right to study. It is very important for the development that education is should be provided to all.

#### ***Media***

It plays an important role as in the 21st century. Media can convey things to majority of the people in fraction of seconds. Majority of the citizens in India are uneducated for them audio-visual media can be a source of information to them. The development of media should be used as a boom for protecting the environment.

### **Electoral Concepts**

Political parties should be made for the protection of environment. Political parties should be based only on the ideology of environmentalism. Parties like Environment party, Green party which should focus only on the preservation and conservation of environment. Citizens should equally promote these parties as it is the responsibility of every citizen to work for the preservation of environment.

### **Public Awareness**

Increase of public awareness is a big measure that can bring a drastic change, as it is humans who have harmed the environment and if they are made aware of the harm that they have done to the environment then majority of the deterioration done can be controlled. Public awareness will be the best way to protect the environment.

If every citizen acts in a responsible manner for the protection of environment and every citizen protects the environment then a lot of challenge that we are facing for the development can be controlled.

### **Major Challenges that India is Facing Because of which Environment is Degrading are**

#### **Growing Population**

Large population puts considerable pressure on the natural resources and reduces the gain of development. To provide basic amenities to a large people with limited natural resources unwillingly harms the environment. Population should be controlled which will automatically lead to environment friendly development.

#### **Poverty**

India is often described as a rich land with poor people. The poverty and environmental degradation have nexus between them. 40% of Indian are still below poverty line. Environment degradation has adversely affected the poor. Poor who are mainly dependent on the natural resources of their immediate surroundings. The challenge of poverty and the challenge of environment degradation are the two facts of the same challenge.

#### **Agricultural Growth**

The people must be acquainted with the methods to sustain and increase agricultural growth without damaging environment. High yielding varieties have caused soil salinity and damage to the physical structure of the soil.

#### **Development and Forest**

Large irrigation projects have been made. Dams on the river Narmada and Bhagirathi and many other dams have become areas of political debate. Forests have been continuously shrinking. Tribal communities have great respect for flora and fauna. We must appreciate their role in restoring and conserving forests. Nearly 27% Indians live in Urban areas. Urbanisation and Industrialisation had given birth to a great number of environment problems that need an urgent attention. Coping with rapid urbanisation is a major challenge.

Nearly all the countries are struggling hard to protect and promote environment. First environment conference 'The Stockholm Conference' it is also called the magna carta of

environmental rights. Rio Declaration (1992) it was on environment and development. Agenda 21 was for sustainable development. Rio+5 was for increasing globalisation, widening inequalities and continued deterioration of the global environment. Johannesburg summit was for full implementation of sustainable development. Each year World Environment day is celebrated on 5th June and the theme adopted at a particular year each country tries to follow it in the best possible manner. Implementation of policy programmes, enactment of environment - centric acts and policies are not enough. The effective implementation and careful observation will make a difference to environmental conservation efforts. Development is very necessary but development should be complimentary with the environment. In the 21st Century various environment policies that supports development are :

- a. Renewable resources should be used instead of non-renewable. Maximum solar energy should be used as it is renewable source of energy and equally does not harm environment rather it supports the life of plants.
- b. Population should be managed. Women and education should be promoted as they play major role in the development.
- c. We should all make global ideology.
- d. Urbanisation and deforestation should be stopped.

A proper balance is to be made between society and environment. Humans should learn to live in peace with the environment. The concept of sustainable development should be followed. Sustainable development include in rise of per capita income world wide, rational usage of resources, check on pollution and population, dependency on renewable sources of energy. If the concept of sustainable development is implemented effectively then the resources could be utilised by the future generations too otherwise if we use it in the same way as we are using it now then it will all become perishable. Environment should not be considered an obstacle to development, natural assets should be preserved and it should be used in such a way that it compliments the development. Gandhi "Earth has enough for everybody's need but not for everyone's greed"

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