

“Sustainable Development culture of Indian Economy and its impact on Environment”.

Dr. Ajay Kumar Kushvaha

Research Scholar

Deptt. of Commerce

Patna University, Patna

Email:-drajaykushvaha@gmail.com

Mob: - 8709528143

ABSTRACT

The world economies have unified in their efforts to achieve the goals of sustainable development. This is in sheer contrast to the earlier approaches where governments pursued goals for the growth and development of their respective economies. The struggle for growth and excellence has created imbalance in the economic development among countries, it depleted some of the **natural resources** and has thus **altered the ecological balance**. The impact of this is being experienced in the form of **global warming** and **climate change**. Since this threatens the very existence of human life on earth, a course of action that would ensure a safe environment for future generations has become the need of the hour. There is direct relationship between environment and economy. Sustainable development means, **“Meeting the needs of present generation without compromising with the needs of future generations”**.

One of the key environmental problems facing India is that of particle pollution from the combustion of fossil fuels. This has serious health consequences and with the rapid growth in the economy these impacts are increasing. At the same time, economic growth is an imperative and policy makers are concerned about the possibility that pollution reduction measures could reduce growth significantly.

Key Words: Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), ecological balance, global warming and Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable Development has become the buzz word of the international community. The struggle for growth and excellence has created imbalance in the economic development among countries, depleted some of the natural resources and has thus altered the ecological balance. Since this threatens the very existence of human life on earth, a course of action that would ensure a safe environment for future generations has become the need of the hour. Sustainable development is a term coined to ensure that development takes place in such a way that natural resources are sustained and passed on to the future generations unimpaired. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aimed to build a more prosperous, more equal, and more secure world by the year 2030 have been developed. India is a signatory to this summit and is strongly committed to the 2030 agenda.

At this juncture this paper makes an attempt to understand the challenges encountered by India in achieving the Sustainable development goals and its impact on Environment. The paper also makes an attempt to suggest measures to overcome the challenges.

Sustainable Development Goals

- End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
- Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

LITERATURE REVIEW: FOR WRITING THIS PAPER A LARGE NUMBER OF SOCIO ECONOMIC RELATED PAPER, BOOKS AND JOURNALS HAVE BEEN SEEN & REFERENCES HAVE BEEN CONSULTED ON SEVERAL FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC REPORT & JOURNAL ETC.

Measures taken for implementing SDGs in India

NITI Aayog the Government of India's has been entrusted with the task of coordinating the SDGs. States have also been advised to undertake a similar mapping of their schemes, including centrally sponsored schemes.

In addition, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is engaged in the process of developing national indicators for the SDGs.

. Many of the Government's flagship programmes such as Swachh Bharat, Make in India, Skill India, and Digital India are at the core of the SDGs. State and local governments play a pivotal role in many of these programmes. State governments are paying keen attention to visioning, planning, budgeting, and developing implementation and monitoring systems for the SDGs.

- **UN Support for SDG initiatives in India**

The United Nations in India supports the participation of civil society organisations, and the Indian media in discussions and side sessions at the International Conference on Financing for Development at Addis Ababa and during the General Assembly in New York.

The UN Country Team in India supports NITI Aayog in its efforts to address the goals, to ensure that no one is left behind and to advocate for adequate financing to achieve the SDGs. In close collaboration with NITI Aayog and partners, the UN has supported

thematic consultations on the SDGs to bring together various state governments, central ministries, civil society organizations and academia to deliberate on specific SDGs.

- **Support to State Governments**

The UN in India currently supports five State governments (Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, and Odisha) in localising the SDGs to address key development challenges at the state level.

Challenges in attaining SDGs in India

Four areas have been identified as areas of concern for India in Achieving SDGs . They are discussed below

- **Defining Indicators**

One of the major challenges for India is devising suitable indicators to effectively monitor the progress of SDGs. India's past records reveal that it has not been very successful in setting relevant indicators to measure outcomes. The definition for "safe" drinking water has been misconstrued with the availability of hand pumps and tube wells and the official data suggested that 86% of Indians had access to safe drinking water and therefore were "on track" for the MDG goal on drinking water .But the number of waterborne diseases and deaths due to diarrhea are quite high in India.

- **Financing SDGs:**

Despite India's best efforts to reduce poverty it has the highest number of people living below international poverty line. As per the World Bank report 2013, 30 per cent of its population was under the \$1.90-a- day poverty measure. According to the United Nations MDG 2014 report, despite high economic growth, in 2010, one-third of the world's 1.2 billion extreme poor lived in India alone. At today's level of investment – public and private in SDG related sectors in developing countries, an average annual funding shortfall over 2015-2030 of some \$2.5 trillion remains. This gap can be bridged only through increased private sector investments, especially in infrastructure, food security and climate change mitigation sectors.

- **Monitoring and Ownership:**

A third significant challenge in implementing SDGs would be with respect to ownership. Though NITI Aayog is expected to play the lead role in tracking the progress of SDGs, its members have expressed reservations on being able to take on this mammoth task.

- **Measuring Progress:**

The last challenge is how to measure the progress or achievement of SDGs. The Indian government has admitted that non-availability of data (particularly in respect to sub-national levels), periodicity issues and incomplete coverage of administrative data, have made accurate measuring progress of even MDGs virtually impossible.

Measures to overcome Challenges

The challenges discussed above can be overcome by developing an exclusive model for implementing, monitoring, measuring and reporting SDG related course of action. Though India has well established organizations such as the CSO to provide statistical data many times they are general and do not match specific requirements. Even in case of MDGs,

India was not able to measure its achievement accurately because of lack of data. Therefore developing suitable indicators to assess the progress of SDGs and also simultaneously developing a system that can support this exercise by supplying the required data is of paramount importance.

The Responsibility of Implementing SDGs

With NITI Aayog expressing its doubt as to how far it would succeed in this laborious task it is high time the Indian Government decentralizes this task and while doing so it must be borne in mind that SDGs aim at conserving and passing on the natural resources to the next generation. This cannot be done without involvement of the society. But a society so knowledgeable to use its natural resources in a perfectly ecologically sound manner is nearly impossibility. Changing social, political, cultural, technological and ecological conditions will exert new pressures on the natural resource base and the possibility of its misuse or overuse always remains. Therefore a political order in which decision making will be done by those who would suffer the consequences of those decisions would be ideal. A new system that would ensure participation from groups that are directly connected to the problem needs to be evolved.

ENVIRONMENT-ECONOMY LINKAGES:

All economic activities either affect or are affected by natural and environmental resources. Activities such as extraction, processing, manufacture, transport, consumption and disposal change the stock of natural resources add stress to the environmental systems and introduce Wastes to environmental media. Moreover, economic activities today affect the stock of natural resources available for the welfare of the future. From this perspective, the productivity of an economic system depends in part on the supply and quality of natural and environmental resources.

MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

A country's environmental problems vary with its stage of development; structure of its economy, production technologies in use and its environmental policies. While some problems may be associated with the lack of economic development, others are exacerbated by the growth of economic activity; Poverty presents special problems for a densely populated country with limited resources.

Some of the major Environmental concerns are as follows:

1. Soil Degradation
2. Deforestation
3. Biodiversity
4. Pollution

- **Soil Degradation:**

In India out of the total geographical areas of 329 million hectares, 175 million hectares are considered degraded. Erosion by water and wind is the most important factor to soil erosion with other factors like water logging, salivation etc., adding to the degradation. While soil erosion by rain and river in hill areas causes landslides and floods, deforestation, overgrazing, traditional agricultural practices, mining and incorrect setting of development projects in forest areas have resulted in opening up of these areas to heavy soil erosion.

- **Deforestation:**

Forest is renewable resource and contributes substantially to the economic development by providing goods and services to forest dwellers, people at large and forest based industries, besides generating substantial volume of employment. Forests are playing main role in enhancing the quality of environment by influencing the ecological balance and life support system.

- **Biodiversity:**

Biodiversity is one of the major environmental concerns in India, now India is in the tenth position in the world and fourth in Asia in plant diversity. The biodiversity in forests, non-irrigated lands, irrigated lands and hill areas deserts and marines ecosystems is subject to many pressures. One of the major causes of the loss of biological diversity has been the depletion of vegetative cover in order to expand agriculture..

- **Pollution:**

The main factors contributing to urban air quality deterioration are growing industrialization and increasing vehicular pollution. It has been aggravated by developments that typically occur as countries industrialize, growing cities, increasing traffic, rapid economic development and industrial growth, all of which are closely associated with higher energy consumption. Industrial pollution is concentrated in industries like petroleum refineries, textiles, pulp and paper, industrial chemicals, iron and steel and nonmetallic mineral products. In the power sector, thermal power, which constitutes bulk of the installed capacity for electricity generation, is an important source of air pollution.

Vehicle traffic is the most important source of pollution in all the mega cities. The number of vehicles in these cities has increased manifold. This increase has been characterized by a boom in private transport. Other reasons for high vehicular pollution are two stroke engines, aged vehicles, congested traffic, poor roads and outdated automotive technologies and traffic management system.

An important impact of climate change and global warming may be the rise in sea level. The primary effect of sea level rise will be increased coastal flooding, erosion, storm surges and wave activity. Poverty is also one of the reasons for environmental degradation in India. The circular link between poverty and environment is an extremely complex phenomenon. Inequality may foster unsustainability because the poor, who rely on natural resources more than the rich, deplete natural resources faster as they have no real prospects of gaining access to other type of resources.

Few examples of environmental issues of global significance are:

- **Ozone layer depletion**
- **Global warming**
- **Loss of biodiversity**

IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION ON SOCIETY:

Environmental degradation is the result of the dynamic interplay of socioeconomic, institutional and technological activities. Environmental changes may be driven by many factors including economic growth, population growth, urbanization, intensification of agriculture, rising energy use and transportation. Poverty still remains a problem at the root of several environmental problems.

CONCLUSION & SUGGESTIONS:

India is a country with the second largest population in the world. The steps taken by India for the achievement of SDGs matter a lot to the world. If India succeeds in attaining the SDGs it would mean a larger section of the world has achieved it. Therefore it is imperative for India to develop effective methods for implementing, monitoring and measuring the progress of SDGs. The biggest challenge for India seems to be the development of suitable indicators. Rapid environmental degradation that has been taking place all over the world in recent decades has alarmed economists and environmentalists alike. Fostering sustainable development requires the effective management of naturally human and physical capital. Improved coordination across the countries to share the global resources, technology and also scarce resources has become the need of the hour. Global level generosity in promoting and protecting democracy, exchange of technology, maintaining stability of prices in the various economies, judicious use of all environmental material throughout to enhance human development and sustainable development. Sustainable development can be achieved only if the environment is conserved and improved.

REFERENCES:

1. Kabeer N. "Leaving No One Behind": The Challenge of Intersecting Inequalities. ISSC, IDS and UNESCO.
2. Anita N. India's progress toward achieving the Millennium development goal.
3. Rakesh Kumar Maurya .National Implementation of the SDG Monitoring India
4. Government Flagship Programs: Make In India And Digital India.
5. Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development