



Sustainable Development & Environment

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Abstract

Sustainable development and environment play a crucial role in our social and economic life. However, sustainable development encourages individuals to leverage their unique strength, in turn allowing them to function out of performance orientation for all over the world. A more significant set of challenges emerge from the new issues that face the economic development with respect to environmental movement in the developed countries. This chapter emphasizes the necessity of sustainable development and protection of environment for the maintenance of peace in world. While discussing the content and ethical aspects of development and environment, the paper is also attempting to study how sustainable development affects the environment.

Keywords: Environmental Regulations, Sustainable Development, Green Growth, Market Environmentalism, Public Private Partnership, Eco Socialism

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1. CONCEPT OF DEVELOPMENT

Development is a concept that denotes the significant rise of the production of an increasing range of goods and services that substantially improved quality of human life. These were labour saving machinery, money, medicines with greater ability to fight killer diseases and healthcare systems that enables increasing life expectancy. These were all the change in the ownership and use of capital, the consequent changes in the structures of societies, and the changes in the pattern, extent and direction of the use of natural resources for the use of human beings.

1.1 Sustainable Development

In the spectrum of the environmental critiques of development, the one that lies in between the extreme positions has been that of sustainable development. In fact, it borrows from and is able to host different kinds of ideas, which might even look as if they are going off in opposite directions. This is why it is very difficult to define exactly, but also possibly why it has become dominant in the discourse of environment in recent times. As with most ideas discussed here, this, too, has grown out of the two levels at which arguments are made, that of the civil society and the state.

In the classic sense, civil society is the realm of a large number of non-state actors, which nevertheless play very important political roles-like that of organizations/ associations of ordinary people, of the circle of competitive entrepreneurs that comprise economic activity, of social movements focused on specific issues and any other sporadic campaigns and activities that may take place from time to time. This space is characterized by competition amongst these elements for power to dominate the priorities and focus of its concern, by continuously intervening and articulating this position in it. Since their power is uneven, their capacity to intervene and articulate will naturally be uneven as well.

On the other hand, the state comprises the formal institutions of government and the non-formal sources of power as in different political groups and so, is also arena of competition. The competition is between the different elements that make up the government and those powers form the civil society that seek to continuously influence it to make policy and take decisions that would be in their favour. These would include international policy and political institutions as well. From both of these sources, two trends can be identified (i) Certain patterns of conceptualization and (ii) certain instruments of policy and action.

1.2 Green growth to sustain development

The economic base provided by the environment is being undermined in India. Land has been eroded, fisheries depleted, forest and coastal degraded and, air and water polluted. While a forestation and reforestation have slowed the loss of forest cover, natural forests are in decline, driving the rapid global decline in biodiversity. The costs of water shortages are evident in industry and agriculture, the biggest users of water at 20 percent and 90 percent respectively. India's industrial water use, for example, is expected to almost quadruple by 2050 (India, 2004), but water shortages could slow industrial activities, as parts of India have already experienced. Air and water pollution impose enormous costs on human health and environment. Asia has seven out to ten of the world's most polluted cities.

The most severe impacts of climate change will be in the Asian and Pacific region, with poor countries likely to suffer earliest and the most. Greenhouse gas emissions and climate change will

have significant impacts on the region. More than 90 percent of the resources harvested from nature are wasted in producing food, machines, vehicles and infrastructure. A priority is finding economic growth strategies that support and reinforce environmental sustainability. The efficient use of natural resources is often pro-poor because the poor, particularly in rural areas, are the most affected by shortage of water, losses of land, forests of fishers, and other forms of environmental degradation.

2. FIVE TRACKS TO GREEN GROWTH

Conventional environment management has focused on improving environmental performance by controlling and regulating pollution and effluents from production processes. Environmental regulation remains a part of green growth, particularly to reduce pollution. But a broader array of policies, economic instruments and management practices are required to fundamentally change consumption and production patterns.

i. Introducing green taxation and budget reform

Many tax and subsidy policies indirectly promote environmentally damaging activities. Moreover, the price of natural resources does not typically capture the full social and environment cost of their use, an incentive for waste and inefficiency. Green taxation and budget reform is a first track to be chosen by the Governments.

ii. Developing sustainable infrastructure

Governments need to plan for environmentally friendly infrastructure that fosters efficient use of resources and minimized pollution as cities grow, highways lengthen and water, energy and sanitation services expand. But failing to recognize the environmental realities of rapid urbanization in infrastructure decisions creates unnecessary costs related to air and water quality, waste management, transportations and congestion. Infrastructure projects rarely consider long term ecological impacts.

iii. Promoting sustainable consumption and production

Governments throughout the region are promoting cleaner production. The projects range from waste management to alternative energy sources. The annual economic benefits to the pilot projects alone were 5-7 times the value of the initial investment. More needs to be done to promote cleaner consumption. The users report higher incomes, better children's education and higher quality of daily activities.

iv. Promoting green business

Corporations and small and medium enterprises across the region are becoming the agents of change for environmental sustainability. They have turned protection the environment into business opportunities by enhancing the eco-efficiency of their production systems. Less use of resources, less energy-intensive production, more use of non-conventional and renewable energy sources and re-use of production waste products for new production processes have proven cost effective and profitable. Eco-efficient and less material intensive production may also sharpen the competitive edge of countries in the region in global niche markets for environmentally conscious consumers in industrial countries.

v. Monitoring progress through eco-efficiency indicators

To enable countries in the region to move towards green growth strategies, eco-efficiency indicators are needed, particularly if environmental considerations are to be

incorporated in national economic development planning. These indicators can assess a country's patterns of economic growth, monitor policy outcomes that promote eco-efficiency and allow comparisons of eco-efficiency measures across countries. Such a tool will help countries in their efforts to decouple economic growth, its negative environmental impacts. These indicators will also provide a powerful advocacy tool to influence consumption and production patterns.

Major policies and action for climate change mitigation and adoption out across sectors and areas of the economy. The initiatives in some of the major areas are Energy efficiency, Power Plants, Renewable energy, Nuclear energy, Transport Agriculture and forestry, Marine and coastal environment, Initiatives for enhancing knowledge and scientific finding as well as Enhancing adoptive capacity.

The Messy concept of sustainable development is to best understood in terms of their major strands of thought and action the reformist and the radical strands at two ends, and one in the mean position in the statistical sense of the term. Adams identifies the reformist view to include theoretical dimensions of market environmentalism, ecological modernization and environmental populism. This constitutes the mainstream of the sustainable development discourse. The radial strand that identifies includes eco-socialism, eco-anarchism, deep ecology and eco-feminism (Adams W.M. 2001), and these he finds clearly located on the periphery, that is, on the margins of the discourse. The one in the mean position is a critique that genuinely lies between these two and could be called the ecology equity critique.

Market environmentalism, expectedly, presents the market as the most important mechanism for mediating between people and regulating their interaction with the environment. It follows the conventional logic that market prices rise as resources become scare, automatically leading people to innovate to finding cheaper sources or ways of using resources more efficiently. At the same time, it believes that open access resources are liable to over exploitation, while private resources are more efficiently used, thereby, justifying the privatization of resources. Thus, they argue that further the market exchange penetrates into the environment the greater the efficiency of environmental management. However, it does not advantage and unregulated dependence on the market. This calls for accommodating some state control, and making for another concept.

Ecological modernization is a manifestation of the economic growth in a capitalist economy, working within the constraints of ecological sustainability. It involves working towards improved and more rational planning, management, regulation and utilization of human use of the environment. This could be achieved by applying better science to solve human problems because the environmental degradation associated with industrialization is a design fault, a failure of rational environmental management. Thus, institutions can change and actors within them can learn. Thus, the very same participants in the path of modernization can now restructure their relationship to make possible. The states and citizens can plan and work together, the public and private enterprise can collaborate, and while the state reduces its burden on the front of regulation, industry can focus on self-regulation. The last has led to the very important new idea of corporate social responsibility, which is being picked up by corporate in both the developed and the developing world. At the same time, responsible citizenship can help to create the green consumer, who by refusing to buy products that destroy the environment irrationally can make them unprofitable to produce. This would eventually operate as a regulatory force in the market.

Environmental populism is the political faced of the mainstream thinking on sustainable development. It is so in the sense that it seems to pick up certain ideas that directly affect dimensions of power structures in society and link them with the environment. Thus, it directly adopted the idea of basic needs that were the hallmark of the debated on development in the Second Decade of the Globalization, emphasizing on the morality of development outcomes. It also called for participation by people from the grassroots and making them active in decision making for development. This last would enable the poor to focus on what they considered to be their needs, rather than those that did not understand their context, but sat in positions of power to do it for them. And most interestingly, it adopted the idea of appropriate and intermediate technology, accepting thereby that the approach of the big industry, based on capital intensive technology was not the ideal for many poor parts of the world.

Public, private partnership (PPP) is too far away three main problems of India economy namely, population and politics. Each of these ideas would appeal to the popular imagination, giving the impression that government of powers that can see reality from the point of view of the poor at last. Thus, unless politics, even more so than policy, targets it, the strangleholds would continue. Finally, appropriate technology for all its great value and contribution makes for the belief that alternative technologies are not a possibility. That is means of better production can only be based on modern scientific knowledge structures and no other knowledge has produced anything like it in the past, nor can it legitimately produce any such thing in the future. Together, Adams views these as a neo populist vision of world being allied with a call for more technically sophisticated environmental management.

Eco-socialism draws upon the critiques and debated of socialism. Some analysis seems to see to incompatibility between socialist and environment movements (between red and green alternatives) on grounds of their social vision, who they identify as enemy, method of analysis, organization and ideology, among other things (Friberg and Hettne 1985). And others, like Pepper, argue that eccentric thought is inherently anti-capitalist (quoted in Adams 2001). Adams points out, very well thought, the several points at which environmentalism and socialism come very close to each other and indeed sometimes converge in their itself, by its greed for natural resources and that land runs parallel to the environmentalist focus on the alienation of people from nature, the commoditization of human labour is parallel to the commoditization of nature.

Eco-anarchism refers to the body of critical thinking on the environment that is influenced by anarchist thought. Anarchism is the name given to a principle of theory of live and conduct under which society is conceived without government. Harmony in such a society is obtained not by submission to law or by obedience to any authority, but by free agreements concluded between the various groups, territorial and professional, freely constituted for the sake of production and consumption, as also for the satisfaction of the infinite variety of needs and aspirations of a civilized being.

Deep Ecology is a perspective that contacts with all the above described perspectives, in as much that it seeks to place a value on nature for its own sake, over and above its value for human beings. Thus, deep ecology ideas would be described as biometric, while the latter, anthropocentric. The concept is drawn from the writings of the Norwegian philosopher Arne Naess, who in turn derived his ideas from Spinoza and Gandhi. He argued that protecting the

environment for the interests, of human meant an innate separation from environment. Further, if this approach was to be followed, it would actually never place human beings and all other parts of nature at par, as also leading to making differences, between which human beings should be better protected or taken care of.

Eco-feminism seeks to take the gender critique of environmentalism forwarded by combining it with deep ecological perspectives. Two strands may be identified with this perspective. One is what is described as essentialist eco-feminism and the other as social eco feminism and the other as social eco-feminism (Martinez-Alier 1998). The two famous proponents of each are Shiva (1988) and Agarwal (1994) respectively. Shiva argues in her work *Staying Alive* that women and nature were similarly subjugating and destroying women and nature. Beginning from the position that women were carries of the values and characteristics of nature, that is, nurturing, caring and recreating, she believes that the only lasting way of protecting the environment is to combine the principles of feminism and ecology. The specific image of women that Shiva believes in, is one that embodies the feminine principle of nature, unconfined to context of Culture of Time. It has been widely criticized on mainly two grounds, first, that it bases itself within gender analysis, but clearly outside the frame of feminism, and second that is bases itself on a universalistic understanding of both women and environment. The Ecology-Equity means evaluating the exact impact of development policies that include the social, economic and political-on different kinds of eco-systems and the people that live in it. The most important aspect of that framework is a new set of categories to locate and analyze the relationship of different social groups, to specifically reflect the relationship between people and nature.

3. POLITICAL ECOLOGY:

A perspective that brings political economy and environmentalism together, it has many proponents worldwide. But instead of trying to summaries their position, we have to learn the lessons from our experiences of reflective thinkers and participants in the environmental movement in India over the years. The challenge that such an exploration throws up is not merely a change in lifestyles, but a revolution in state and society; not just the right to be human, but in defending and enlarging human rights. This is the heart and the brain and the muscle of political ecology-that we hauntingly wage war against all oppression and exploitation, against all injustice and violence, against war itself.

This is true of all environments and development discussed here is by no means exhaustive and the list can include many more stands and can be differently as well. What is important to note at the end of the day, however, is that all these stands of thought offer a series of sources of reflection, helping us to understand one of the most important concerns of our time. We conclude with a reference to a very strong critique of the concept of sustainable development. Sachs (1999) argues that sustainability provides a way out of criticizing the fundamentals of development, by offering a better mode of development. But the ideology of developmentalism that underlines it, he believes is irreconcilable with the needs of a balanced environment and the future of the planet.

Reaffirming the centrality of development in the international discussion on the environment surely helps to secure the collaboration of the dominating actors in government, economy and science but it prevents the rupture required to head-off the multifaceted dangers to the future of

humankind. It locks the perception of the ecological predicament that stimulates the pernicious dynamics, and hands the action over to those social forces-governments, agencies and corporations-that have largely been responsible for the present state of affairs. This may turn out to be self defeating. After all, the development discourse is deeply imbued with certainties like progress, growth, market integration, consumption and universal needs, all notions that are part of the problem, not of the solution. They cannot but distract attention from the urgency of public debate on our relationship with nature, for they preclude the search for societies that live graciously within their means, and for social changes that take ideas from indigenous ideas of the good proper life.

The warming climate will place the world under enormous strain, forcing mass migration, especially in Asia and increasing the risk of violent conflict. It forecasts that climate change will reduce median yields by up to 2 percent per decade for the rest of the 21st century-against a backdrop of rising demand of food grains by 14 percent per decade until 2050. It predicts impact of climate change on yields of major crops such as wheat, rice and maize in different climatic-zones as also tropical regions of India.

The temperature increase of 2.5 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels may aggregate huge economic losses. It will indirectly increase the risk of violent conflict in the form of civil war or violent protests. The report, in its different sections, highlights how global warming will impact human health, freshwater resources and food security. The finding of the report will consider issues such as the vulnerability and exposure of human and natural systems, the observed impact and future risks of climate change and the potential for and limits to adaptation (Times of India, 2014). It find that climate change will reduce renewable surface water and groundwater resources significantly in most dry subtropical regions, exacerbating the competition for water. Terrestrial and freshwater species will also face an increased risk of extinction under the projected climate change during and beyond the 21st century.

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