REVIEW OF RESEARCH
ISSN: 2249-894X
IMPACT FACTOR : 5.7631(UIF)
VOLUME - 11 | ISSUE - 7 | APRIL - 2022

DEVELOPMENT V/S ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

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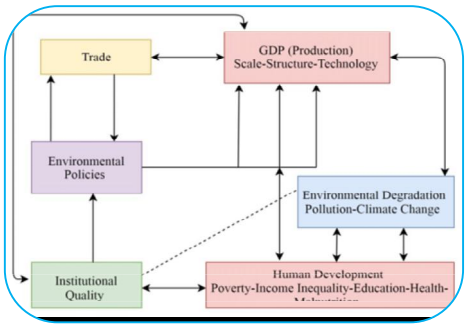
ABSTRACT:



Environmental degradation occurs when a potentially renewable resource one of the biotic or abiotic factors, humans need and use such as soil, grassland or flora and fauna, is extracted at a rate faster than the resource can be replaced, and thus becomes depleted. If the rate of use of the resource remains high, the resource can become nonrenewable on a human time scale or even become nonexistent. Environmental degradation is an important aspect of development. Biologists agree that species are becoming extinct at an alarming rate. Biodiversity is also being lost at the ecosystem level due to environmental degradation. Tropical forests are recognized as the most diverse ecosystems on Earth and are experiencing the highest rate of ecosystem loss, but temperate habitats are also suffering degradation.

KEY WORDS: *Environmental degradation , grassland , nonexistent.*

FACTORS AFFECTING ENVIRONMENT

Ecological corruption is an aftereffect of the unique interaction of financial, institutional and mechanical exercises. Ecological changes might be driven by many variables including monetary development, populace development, urbanization, strengthening of agribusiness, rising energy use and transportation. Neediness actually stays an issue at the foundation of a few natural issues produced because of visually impaired race for advancement in the current situation. Subsequently, it is seen that turn of events and natural corruption the two runs equal. Every one of the exercises which are finished improvement straightforwardly influence the climate. A portion of the variables answerable for ecological corruption are as per the following:-

SOCIAL FACTORS

A. Population- Who is responsible for degrading the environment? We all are. Ordinary human activity from even the most responsible individuals inevitably pollutes and degrades the environment to some extent. We degrade the environment directly when we consume resources (for example, burning wood in a fireplace), and indirectly when we extract resources and transform them into products we need or want.

In 1999, the number of people on Earth exceeded 6 billion. The population of the world increased fourfold in the twentieth century. This rapid increase in population was accompanied by an even more rapid increase in the use of resources to support the growing population and to raise living

standards. During the twentieth century, global energy use increased by a factor of 20. Following World War II, the world became even more dependent on extractive industries, such as mining and oil exploration, to supply the various minerals and fossil fuels required to support a higher standard of living. Energy shortages have an even greater impact on developing nations that are heavily dependent on subsidized fuel supplies to maintain food production.

Populace is a significant wellspring of advancement, yet it is a significant wellspring of ecological debasement when it surpasses the edge furthest reaches of the emotionally supportive networks. Except if the connection between the duplicating populace and the existence emotionally supportive network can be settled, advancement program, howsoever, inventive are not prone to yield wanted results. Populace influences on the climate basically using normal assets and creation of squanders and are related with natural burdens like loss of biodiversity, air and water contamination and expanded strain on arable land.

India upholds 17% of the total populace on 2.4 percent of world land region. Its ongoing pace of populace development at 1.85 percent keeps on representing a tenacious populace challenge. Taking into account the linkages among populace and climate, a fiery drive for populace control needs scarcely be overemphasized.

B. Destitution Poverty is supposed to be both circumstances and logical results of ecological debasement. The roundabout connection among neediness and climate is a very intricate peculiarity. Disparity might encourage unevenness on account of poor people, who depend on normal assets more than the rich, drain regular assets quicker as they have no genuine possibilities of accessing different sorts of assets. In addition, the debased climate can speed up the course of impoverishment, again on the grounds that the poor rely straightforwardly upon regular resources. In spite of the fact that there has been a critical drop in the neediness proportion in the country from 55% in 1973 to 36 percent in 1993-94, without a doubt the quantity of poor have, nonetheless, stayed consistent at around 320 million throughout the long term. Speed increase in neediness easing is basic to break this connection among destitution and the climate.

C. Urbanization-Lack of chances for beneficial work in towns and the environmental anxieties is prompting a steadily expanding development of unfortunate families to towns. Megacities are arising and metropolitan ghettos are growing. There has been an eightfold expansion in metropolitan populace more than 1901-1991. During the beyond twenty years of 1971-91, India's metropolitan populace has multiplied from 109 million to 218 million and is assessed to arrive at 300 million by 2000 AD . Such quick and spontaneous development of urban communities has brought about debasement of the metropolitan climate. It has augmented the hole among request and supply of infrastructural administrations, for example, energy, lodging, transport, correspondence, training, water supply and sewerage and sporting conveniences, in this manner exhausting the valuable ecological asset base of the urban areas. The outcome is the developing pattern in weakening of air and water quality, age of squanders, the expansion of ghettos and unfortunate land use changes, all of which add to metropolitan destitution

ECONOMIC FACTORS

A. Agriculture- During the twentieth century, agriculturally productive land has been extensively modified to make it even more productive. This includes the widespread use during the twentieth century of chemical fertilizers (often produced from oil) pesticides and extensive irrigation. To supply the needs of extensive irrigation, surface water has been diverted and many wells have been drilled seeking ever more subsurface water. At the same time that industrial agriculture was growing, agriculturally productive land was being lost to urban development and industry. In the twenty-first century, competition for remaining land and water resources is expected to continue to increase.

Modern agriculture has been able to produce an enormous amount of food. Intensive agriculture is able to produce more food per hectare but increases the need for fresh water and chemicals for pesticides and fertilizer. Much of the rise in the food supply since 1950 has been due to greatly expanded irrigation and the use of pesticides and fertilizers. However, reservoirs will eventually

silt up and aquifers (subsurface water supplies) will be depleted. Irrigation with surface or subsurface water can also cause salt to accumulate in the soil. As the irrigation water soaks into the soil and evaporates, it leaves the minerals behind. Eventually, these minerals, including sodium chloride and other salts can build up to the point that the soil is rendered unsuitable for growing anything. This has already happened in much of the central valley of California. In addition, the simple ecosystems used by modern industrial agriculture are much less resilient than the complex ecosystems they replace. High-yield crops in monocultures are more susceptible to insect infestations and disease than traditionally farmed crops. High-yield agricultural practices can also lead to soil erosion, and thus a further loss of topsoil.

Direct effects of rural advancement on the climate emerge from cultivating exercises which add to soil disintegration, land salination and loss of supplements. The spread of green insurgency has been joined by overexploitation of land and water assets, and utilization of composts and pesticides have expanded a lot of crease. Moving development has additionally been a significant reason for land corruption. Filtering from broad utilization of pesticides and composts is a significant wellspring of defilement of water bodies. Concentrated horticulture and water system add to land corruption especially salination, alkalization and water logging.

B. Industry- The level and pattern of economic development also affect the nature of environmental problems. India's development objectives have consistently emphasized the promotion of policies and programmers for economic growth and social welfare. Between 1994-95 and 1997-98, the Indian economy has grown a little over 7 percent per annum: the growth of industrial production and manufacturing averaging higher at 8.4 percent and 8.9 percent respectively during these years. The manufacturing technology adopted by most of the industries has placed a heavy load on the environment, especially through intensive resource and energy use, as is evident in natural resource depletion (fossil fuel, minerals, and timber), water, air and land contamination, health hazards and degradation of natural ecosystems. With high proportion fossil fuel as the main source of industrial energy and major air polluting industries such as iron and steel, fertilizers and cement growing, industrial sources have contributed to a relatively high share in air pollution. Large quantities of industrial and hazardous wastes brought about by expansion of chemical based industry have compounded the wastes management problem with serious environmental health implications.

C. Transport-Transport activities have a wide variety of effects on the environment such as air pollution, noise from road traffic and oil spills from marine shipping. Transport infrastructure in India has expanded considerably in terms of network and services. Thus, road transport accounts for a major share of air pollution load in cities such as Delhi. Port and harbor projects mainly impact on sensitive coastal ecosystems. Their construction affects hydrology, surface water quality, fisheries, coral reefs and mangroves to varying degrees.

D. Poor Market- To a large extent, environmental degradation is the result of market failure, that is, the nonexistent or poorly functioning markets for environmental goods and services. In this context, environmental degradation is a particular case of consumption or production externalities reflected by the divergence between private and social costs (or benefits). Lack of well-defined property rights may be one of the reasons for such market failure. On the other hand, Market distortions created by price controls and subsidies may aggravate the achievement of environmental objectives.

INSTITUTIONAL FACTORS

The weakness of the existing system lies in the enforcement capabilities of environmental institutions, both at the center and the state. There is ineffectual coordination amongst various Ministries regarding integration of ecological concerns at the initiation/preparation stage of the project. Current policies are also fragmented across several Government agencies with differing policy

mandates. Lack of skilled workforce and ample database delay many projects. Most of the State Government institutions are relatively small suffering from inadequacy of technical staff and resources.

SOME MEASURES TAKEN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Although overall quality of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies and the effective implementation of the EIA process have improved over the years, institutional strengthening measures such as training of key professionals and staffing with proper technical persons are needed to make the EIA procedure a more effective instrument for environmental protection and sustainable development.

There are several Government and Non Government societies or organization working for protection of environment. Some of them are as follows:-

- The Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOEF) in the Government is responsible for protection, conservation and development of environment. The Ministry works in close collaboration with other Ministries, State Governments, Pollution Control Boards and a number of scientific and technical institutions, universities, non-Governmental organizations etc.
- Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is the key legislation governing environment management.
- Other important legislation in the area includes the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 are also working to protect the wildlife and to maintain the biodiversity.

CONCUSSION

Over the last 50 years, environment has been degraded more than ever in human history. This has certain direct and indirect effects on human well-being. Environmental degradation affects everyone. International environmental concerns frequently focus on large-scale problems such as desertification or global warming. However, vulnerable groups, such as impoverished people living in marginal areas, are more concerned with local issues. They may worry about the loss of rangeland, soil erosion, or the need for more intensive farming. These and similar issues affect poor people because they are directly related to the household food supply and food security. Environmental degradation results in decreased production and lowered income. As the land is more intensively farmed, soil fertility decreases and crop yields are reduced. Unfortunately, rural poor people have few choices other than to overusing the limited resources available. The resulting environmental degradation can trigger a downward spiral in which the intensive use of resources results in high environmental degradation, which requires even more intensive use of resources.

Hence, It is proved by the study that a definite relationship is found between environmental degradation and development. They same to develop with similar pattern, so whether they are directly proportional to each other or follow different trend. Globally, the well-being of present and future human population depends on ecologically and environmentally sustainable development.

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