

THE KILLER OF NATURE – ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

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Abstract- The Presented summary paper target is to draw the attention of the public to the benefits of Environment and how we are connected to the Environment. To show that if there's any change in the Environmental conditions, then how the conditions change in human beings lives.

Living Being, whether a Human Being or Animals or plants, are all directly or indirectly dependent on the Environment for their Survival. When asked truly it can be said that none of the living being can survive without the presence of Environment. It is difficult to find absolutely natural environments, and it is common that the naturalness varies in a continuum, from ideally 100% natural in one extreme to 0% natural in the other. More precisely, we can consider the different aspects or components of an environment, and see that their degree of naturalness is not uniform.

There is a very strong and huge relationship between the Environment and the Living Beings. But now-a-days due to the fast increasing pollution and degradation the strong bond between the Environment and Human Beings is getting affected and due to this the eco-logical system is getting disturbed.

I. INTRODUCTION

Environmental degradation is the deterioration of the environment through depletion of resources such as air, water and soil; the destruction of ecosystems and the extinction of wildlife. It is defined as any change or disturbance to the environment perceived to be deleterious or undesirable. As indicated by the equation, environmental impact or degradation is caused by the combination of an already very large and increasing human population, continually increasing economic growth or per capita affluence, and the application of resource depleting and polluting technology.

Environmental degradation is one of the Ten Threats officially cautioned by the High Level Threat Panel of the United Nations. The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction defines environmental degradation as "The reduction of the capacity of the environment to meet social and ecological objectives, and needs". Environmental degradation is of many types. When natural habitats are destroyed or natural resources are depleted, the environment is degraded. Efforts to counteract this problem include environmental protection and environmental resources management.

Environmental Degradation has added new problems more particularly in the developing countries. India which is a developing country is facing environmental degradation problems because of the negative effects of a developing economy and condition of poverty as well as underdevelopment. Development can take place at the cost of environment only. Uttarakhand tragedy is one of the best examples of a manmade disaster before all of us. In fact development without concern for environment can only be a short-term development. In the long-run, it can only be an anti-development and can go only at the cost of enormous human suffering, increased poverty and oppression.

Each day more and more wood is removed from our Forests, thousands of tons of toxic effluents are poured into rivers and lakes, millions of vehicles, emit pollutants into the atmosphere and the increase in the population pressure is continuing, all resulting in the deterioration of environment in India and pushing it further to the verge of total collapse.

Objectives

(1) To study factors responsible for Environmental degradation in India.

(2) To study the role played by the Indian Government adopting the policy for the protection of environmental crisis.

II. FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION IN INDIA

Environmental degradation is a worldwide social Problem. Undue pressure of human activities upon nature and its resources disturbs the ecosystem. It gives rise to the problem of environmental degradation. The main reasons and the factors which are responsible for environmental degradation in India is

- (1) Poverty
- (2) Unplanned Urbanization
- (3) Over Industrialization
- (4) Deforestation and
- (5) Population Growth.

III. LEGAL MEASURES IN RESPECT OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION IN INDIA

India is plagued by the growing monster of pollution which is dangerously spreading its wings. Due to air and

water gets contaminated the total environment on the earth gets degraded. Forest cover has been degraded. Unregulated and unrestricted developmental activities gets environment deteriorated on large scale. Human Right to healthy environment is being tortured, twisted bent and annulled. The environmental law in India contains various measures to protect and improve the environment. There is a constitutional pointer in the Constitution of India directed to the States as well as citizens of India with respect to protection and improvement of the environment as well as safeguarding forests and wild life of the country. The Indian Judiciary has demonstrated exemplary activism and treated right to healthy environment as a part of Fundamental Right to life guaranteed under Art 21 of the Constitution.

Undoubtedly, Indian environmental jurisprudence is expanding in order to prevent, control and abate various forms of environmental pollution. However, legislative measures to implement the Constitutional mandate to protect and improve the environment are yet in the stage of infancy and need to be further developed. There are various inadequacies, shortcomings and loopholes in the environmental legislations enacted in India. Even the fundamental principles of international environmental law are not enforced through legislative measures. The Judiciary in India has demonstrated exemplary activism in plugging the legislative gaps in the environmental legislations in India.

The combinations of judicial and scientific needs require the amendments in the environmental statutes. The Supreme Court urged the Government of India to bring about appropriate amendments in the environmental statutes.

Recently, the Supreme Court of India has imposed a fine of Rupees one crore upon the State of Himachal Pradesh for Violating the environmental law.

A. *Judicial Activism*

The Judicial activism is the initiative steps taken by a judge to impart Justice. Though there is no specific mention of environmental Fundamental Right in the Constitution, it is judicial activism, which has held the right to a pollution free environment as a Fundamental Right implicit in Art. 21 of Indian Constitution. Our Indian Judiciary has successfully struck a balance between economic development and environment. Through Judicial Activism, our judiciary has assumed the role of protector of the environment.

In *M. C. Mehta V. Union of India* (1983) 1 SCC 471, it has been held that under Art. 51 (A) (g) it is a duty of the Central Government to introduce compulsory lessons for at least one hour in week on protection of environment in all education institutions. Thus, it can be said that our Constitution puts emphasis on environment protection. Importance of environment protection must be given in Constitution under Fundamental Right, Directive Principle of State Policy as well as Fundamental Duties. As regards the Indian Constitution, it is submitted that there was no need to

incorporate a separate chapter on Fundamental Duties because limitations on the Fundamental Rights and the provisions of detailed Directive Principle are sufficient in this direction. Art. 51 A (g) uses the words, 'Natural Environment'. But in the modern industrialized civilization such a concept is misnomer. Today the polluted environment has taken the place of natural environment which has become a part of life. Through the various judicial pronouncements, it has become clear that the right to a pollution free environment comes within the ambit of the right to life under Art. 21 guaranteed under Indian Constitution.

IV. CONCLUSION

Environmental Degradation problem in India is increased day by day which is hazardous to the upcoming generation growth as well as creates on eminent danger to the human being and also to the other living creatures. Human being itself is responsible for environment crisis. Due to the development of new technologies and certain resources for the mankind like use of nuclear weapons which are dangerous to the human being creates the problem of environmental degradation. Global Warming has taking new era for the disturbing directly affecting human life. In the present scenario new problems are creating through radiations reflected from Mobile Towers which has a large effects on environment and injurious to the human health. Due to the progress and industrialization India is going to be treated as Mahashakti. But in other side water, air, noise pollution is totally at the last stage and now the time has come that one of the day this universe will be no more. The Tsunami, earthquakes high temperature recording certain diseases and certain unknown diseases are instances of environmental disturbances i.e. ecosystem which directly effects human life. Use of vehicles on large scale, cutting of forests, hunting of wild animals is also one of major issues of environmental degradation in India. The environmental crises are also developed as there is no proper cultivation and there is a total degradation of agricultural area i.e. cutting of trees, Deforestation is the major branch of this picture. The Role of Supreme Court in regard to environment protection is much more important and its judgment is treated as a rule of law and sharpened aged weapon for maintaining the goods of environment. Lastly it has been concluded that, continued degradation of environment in India is the result of the modern living, technological advancement, industrialization and urbanization. Contemporary scientific and technological revolution has significantly transformed the relationship between man and nature. It has been rightly said that man is nature's best promise and worst enemy.

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