

Concept of Sustainable Development, Environment Change and Population Problem

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Abstract

In geographical studies, there is a very close relationship between the environments and resources. Over exploitation or mismanagement of resources is likely to lead to environmental problems and catastrophe. Resources have been studied in terms of population, misuse of land, soil, water, mineral etc. by the ever increasing population had been responsible for developing methods and technologies for monitoring the resources. In fact, evaluation and mapping of environment and resources have been complementary to each other.

Keywords: *Organic, Climate, Biochemical cycles, Environmental monitoring.*

Introduction

The development of geography has been associated with dualism, which became the basis for the division of the discipline. Some of these are as follows:

Human versus natural factors,
Organic versus inorganic,
Systematic versus Regional etc.

Environmental history records that civilisation has already created a wide range of potent instruments of environmental change. All resources derive from the environment and all society exists as a result of resources manipulation. Also, the environment and development are not separate challenges. They are inexorably linked. They are linked in a complex system of cause and effect.

The Concept: Sustainable Development

This concept provides a framework for the integration of environment policies and development strategies, the term development being used here in its broadest sense. The word is often taken to refer to the processes of economic and social change in the third world. But the integration of environment and development is required in all countries, rich and poor. In the other senses, "Human beings are at the centre of concern for sustainable development. A term perhaps first used at the time of Cocoyoc declaration in 1970 and gained popular currency through World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) report 1987

"Our Common Future". The philosophy and concept of sustainable development are based on social justice. This concept is still imprecise. One popular definition of it is that "Sustainable Development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their needs" In 1990's sustainable development became the global thrust and development became an important global issue. The sustainable development cannot be a static concept and hence cannot be defined once for all. It is a dynamic process and will be applied by different countries in tune with their cultural, political and economic perspectives.

Environment Change

Environment change is a continual process that has been in operation since the earth came into existence. There are two agents of environment change which are shaping the earth surface in the current interlogical period, Climate, Homo Sapiens. Even in the absence of man, the natural environment undergoes extreme change. Then with the domestication of animals and the introduction of agriculture, the affects of his actions became more widespread. Man's increasing 'control' of his environment often creates conflicts between human goals and natural processes. In order to achievement greater yields or for other purposes, man deflects the natural flows of energy, by passes natural processes, severs food chains, simplifies ecosystems and uses large subsidies to maintain delicate artificial equilibrium. Perceptions about environmental impacts can be rather different in different countries. Where poverty is widespread and large number of people does not have adequate food, shelter, health care, education, old age security and the lack of development may constitute a greater aggregate degradation to quality of life than do the environmental impact of development. The relationship between the environment and the population (particularly urban population) demand special attention. There are atleast five critical areas in which population and the environment of the large cities to developing countries intersect. These are shown in the following figure:

Water	Air	Land	Wastes	Transport
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At the local level, the environmental issues are generally associated with technology. They are mostly man-made hazards and effective for a short duration. In an urban environment, a hazard could be created by: i) Load-shedding; (ii) Traffic Jam; (iii) Water logging; (iv) Gas leakage; (v) Pollution etc. Technological hazards are replacing natural hazards, particularly in urban areas.

Environmental Sustainability

Its aim at ensuring the protection, conservation and better management of earth's natural resources. The idea is not to debar people from using these resources. It rather aim at such a pattern of use, that resources, particularly those which are so vital for human survival, are neither exhausted nor polluted or destroyed. This would require a change in our attitude towards nature as also towards what we call economic development. The last dimension of environmental sustainability brings us to environmental planning. Its aim is four fold;

- (i) Environmental protection;
- (ii) Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded ecosystem;
- (iii) Augmentation of the carrying capacity of both natural and human-managed ecosystem; and
- (iv) Creation, expansion and development of new ecosystem both minor and major.

The physical and social scientists are also increasingly interested in the importance of identifying, measuring and managing environmental threats. Thus our environmental management practices have focused largely upon after-the-fact repair of damage: reforestation, reclaiming desert lands, rebuilding urban environment, restoring natural habitats and rehabilitating wild lands. Environmental threats are taken to be the potential or actual disruption of the expected functioning of the natural or technological worlds. The Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) was established by the International Council of Scientific Union (ICSU) in 1969 to advance knowledge of the influence of the human race upon its environment as well as the affects of those alternations upon human health and welfare. It serves as a non-government; inter disciplinary and international council of scientists and as a source of advice for governments and inter-governmental agencies with respect to environmental problems. Scientific

Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) seeks to synthesize environmental information from diverse scientific fields, identifying knowledge gaps and disseminating the results. During the last several years the main emphasis has been given on the following topics:

- 1- Biochemical cycles;
- 2- Dynamic changes and evolution of ecosystem;
- 3- Environmental aspects of human settlement;
- 4- Ecotoxicology;
- 5- Simulation modeling of environmental systems;
- 6- Environmental monitoring;
- 7- Communication of environment information and societal assessment and response.

Conclusion and Suggestions

Considering some of the above aspect, sustainable development at the conceptual level can be assumed to maximize three goals: Biophysical, Economic and Social. And in the countries of Third World, the quest for sustainable development is the quest for development itself. National Association of Geographers, India (NAGI) has constituted a commission on sustainable development. It was decided that one of the activities of the commission will be to highlight the various issues involved in this matters from a multi-disciplinary angle with a view to create a knowledge base. Humanity has no choice but to move towards a secure future and that it has to keep not of the imperative as well as the potentials of sustainable environment. In order to achieve some goals, we propose or suggest to put forward "The Three Environment Concept". Human life is governed by three inter connected and inter related environments:

- 1- The physical-biological environment. It is further classified into micro, macro and global;
- 2- The socio-economic environment and
- 3- Cultural environment.

The existence of these three elements can be easily conceived.

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