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ETHICS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN INDIAN CONTEXT

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ABSTRACT: The sustainable development is deeply embedded in both national and International scenario, it is a big global problem; therefor India has also keen concern on the protection of environment, development and sustainable development. The depletion of natural sources, industrialization, and urbanization, development of science and technology and also tremendous growth of population are major threat to human survival. Ecology is common heritage for all human being the need of society increase day by day and its effect on the natural sources and environment, natural sources and limited and irrecoverable. Therefore it is a pious, moral and legal obligation and duty on government, judiciary and citizens of India to protect, conserved and preserved the natural resources and environment with sustainable development. The Indian judiciary and Government have emerged as most important tool for promoting sustainable development with protection of environment and natural sources.

KEYWORDS: Development, environment, natural resources, and sustainable development.

INTRODUCTION:

Sustainable Development is a multidimensional concept. Ethics can be simply described as an individual's morals and their sense of right and wrong.

Sustainable Development was defined as "development that meets the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs"(WCED1987).

Ethics in sustainability is a crucial piece of sustainable development. A goal of ethical sustainability is to think of how humans ought to live while also considering their connections with other humans, the natural world and future generations. The idea of providing a better future for the generations to come revolves around conserving the natural areas that we have today and protecting areas for the future. This relates to the welfare of nature which includes many factors that makes life possible ranging from clean water and air to biodiversity and species health.

In simple words, it is conservation of environment and development together. Both economically and ecologically sustained development is Sustainable Development. This indicates systematic way of planning of development.



The doctrine of ‘Sustainable Development’ had come to be known in 1972 in the Stockholm Declaration. It states that: “Man has the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being and he bears a solemn responsibility to protect and improve the environment for present and future generation-”.

But the concept was given a definite shape in a report by World Commission on environment, which was known as ‘our common future’ in 1987.

“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs”.

In 1992, Rio Declaration on Environment which is regarded a significant and a mile stone that states the participation of citizens in environmental issues at the national level. The Rio conference in 2012 set the objectives of universal goals.

Ethics is applied to the three pillars of sustainability: Social, economic and environmental. Here, we focus on the Environmental ethics and Sustainability. This shows the interconnections between nature and human beings. Wellbeing of individuals is linked to the wellbeing of nature.

Development comes through industrialization, urbanization, science and technology which in turn is the main factor behind the degradation of environment. To resolve the issue, the experts worldwide have come up with a doctrine called ‘Sustainable Development’, there must be balance between development and ecology. Thus, Sustainable Development maintains a balance between development and the environment. It promotes inter-generational equity, i.e, better quality of life for present and future generations. The benefit from development ought to be equated with the impact on the environment for such development.

Important measure for sustainable development are: Technology, the 3- R Approach (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle), promoting Environmental education and awareness, Resource utilization as per carrying capacity.

India has a rich tradition of Environmental Ethics since Vedic Era since 5000 years ago. Also conservation of natural resources is reflected in our history, culture, religion and philosophy. India thoughtful about environment protection before the World woke up to the alarming environmental issues.



Indian Constitution envisages specific provisions for the protection of our environment through Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles of State Policy.

Fundamental Rights: Article 21 is the heart of fundamental rights. It is the protection of life and personal liberty.

Fundamental Duties: Article 51 A(g) refers to the fundamental duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment.

Article 51A(j) further provided that it shall be the duty of every citizens of India to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective everything so that the nation constantly rises to a higher level of endeavor and achievement.

Directive Principles of State Policy: Article 47- It is the duty of the state to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and improve public health.

Article 48A- The State shall endeavor to protect and improve environment and safeguarding of forest and wildlife.

Indian Parliament also passed various laws effecting and regulating the environmental issues. Legislative enactments were always with the principles of economic, social security and sustainable development.

Role of Indian Judiciary: Right to enforce the fundamental rights by moving the Supreme Court under Article 32 and High Courts under Article 226 of the constitution. Under these provisions, the Supreme Courts and the High Courts has the power to issue any direction on orders including writs whichever is appropriate.

Public Interest Litigation: PIL is an important tool in the hands of the people to approach to the Court for enforcement of their rights and it has played an important role in developing and providing impetus to environmental jurisprudence with human rights approach. It is the most popular approach because it is relatively speedy, economic and provide a direct approach to the higher judiciary thereby reducing the chances of further appeals.

Government Initiative for Sustainable Development includes Swachh Bharat Mission-Goal of achieving 'neat and tidy India'.

Namami Ganga Mission - It is a key policy priority towards achieving the SDG 6 was launched as a priority program. Major components include sewage project management, urban and rural



sanitation, tackling industrial pollution, water use efficiency and quality improvement, ecosystem conservation and clean Ganga river.

National clean air programme(2019): The increasing air pollution has affected the growth of the country, thus Government of India has launched this program nation- wide for preservation and control and abatement of air pollution besides augmenting the air quality monitoring network across the country.

The sustainable development goals were born at the United Nation conference at Rio de Janeiro in 2012 that set the objectives of universal goals that made the urgent environmental, political and economic challenges facing our World. The 17 sustainable development goals of the 2030 agenda were adopted on 1st January, 2016.

Conclusion:

Sustainable development is the path way to the future. It orders a framework to generate economic growth, achieve social justice and exercise environmental stewardship and strengthen governance.

Recently, the law on sustainable development is gaining momentum at local, national, regional and international levels but the dream of achieving it can be possible by involving maximum participation of its citizens in the country.

Our Indian Constitution has also played a vital role in sustainable development, it has made several provisions for the preservation and conservation of forests in human life from any kind of pollution or harmful substance. It is obligatory(morally) on the part of citizens to protect and preserve the forest.

It is the need of every country to achieve the 17 goals for 2030 and each and every one has to join hands to achieve this. This can make our present and also future generations to lead a happy and peaceful life.

Environment and development are two sides of the same coin and any one of these cannot be sacrificed for the other. On the contrary, both are equally important for a better future.

To quote the famous saying of Mahatma Gandhiji -
“Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s needs, but not every man’s greed”. “LIVE AND LET LIVE”.



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