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VIKSIT BHARAT@2047- THE GREAT VISION OF INDIA

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Abstract

As India aspires to become a developed nation by 2047, achieving environmental sustainability and fostering active political participation are crucial for realizing this vision. This study examines the relationship between political activity and environmental sustainability, contending that cooperation between the public and private sectors is crucial to creating a resilient and just future. It looks at how India's environmental regulations have changed over time, how grassroots activism has shaped conservation movements, and how political activity has impacted environmental governance. Along with highlighting current issues including pollution, climate change, and political stagnation, the study also identifies potential through community involvement, policy reforms, and technological advancements. In order to establish India as a global leader in sustainable development by 2047, it ends by promoting a multi-stakeholder strategy that combines environmental preservation with democratic engagement.

Keywords: Environmental sustainability, Political activism, Collaborative efforts, civil society, Environmental policy and Social movement.

Introduction

The vision of **Viksit Bharat@2047** represents India's aspiration to emerge as a developed, sustainable, and equitable nation by the centenary of its independence. Achieving this ambitious goal requires not only economic growth but also environmental stewardship and robust political activism. As India grapples with challenges such as climate change, resource depletion, and social inequality, it is essential to foster collective action through collaboration between policymakers, civil society, and the private sector.

This research paper explores how environmental sustainability and political activism intersect in the Indian context. It examines the historical evolution of environmental policies, the impact of political movements on ecological governance, and the role of collaborative efforts in shaping sustainable development. By identifying key challenges and opportunities, the paper outlines a roadmap for achieving a sustainable and politically empowered India by 2047.

Objectives of the Study

- To analyze the historical evolution of environmental policies and political activism in India.
- To examine the role of grassroots movements and civil society in shaping environmental governance.
- To identify contemporary challenges and opportunities for achieving environmental sustainability.
- To explore the impact of political activism on environmental policymaking.
- To propose collaborative strategies for ensuring sustainable development and political participation by 2047.

Methodology

This research adopts a **qualitative and analytical approach**, drawing from secondary data sources, including government reports, policy documents, academic journals, and case studies. The methodology includes:

- **Historical Analysis:** Tracing the evolution of environmental policies and political activism in India.
- **Case Studies:** Examining key environmental and political movements, such as the **Chipko Movement, Narmada Bachao Andolan**, and recent climate activism.



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- **Policy Review:** Analyzing contemporary government initiatives, environmental regulations, and political reforms.
- **Recommendations:** Proposing collaborative solutions for achieving sustainable development and enhancing political engagement by 2047.

Historical Context: Environmental Sustainability and Political Activism in India

Pre-Independence Era: Community-Led Conservation and Political Mobilization

In pre-colonial India, environmental conservation was largely community-driven. Indigenous communities practiced sustainable agriculture, water management, and forest conservation. The colonial period, however, introduced large-scale resource extraction, disrupting local environmental systems and sparking political resistance.

- **Traditional Ecological Practices:** Communities in Rajasthan developed water management systems (step wells and tanks), while sacred groves (*devrais*) were protected for their ecological and religious significance.
- **Colonial Exploitation:** The British Forest Acts (1865, 1878, and 1927) promoted commercial forestry, displacing forest communities and triggering early political resistance.
- **Political Movements:** The **Swadeshi Movement** (1905) promoted self-reliance and environmental consciousness by advocating for local industries and sustainable livelihoods.

Post-Independence Era: Policy Formation and Grassroots Activism

After independence, India adopted a state-led developmental approach, prioritizing industrial growth. However, the **1970s environmental movements** sparked public awareness and led to the formulation of key environmental policies.

- **Environmental Legislation:**
 - The **Wildlife Protection Act (1972)** aimed to protect biodiversity.
 - The **Forest Conservation Act (1980)** regulated deforestation and promoted afforestation.
 - The **Environmental Protection Act (1986)** was introduced in response to the **Bhopal Gas Tragedy**, focusing on pollution control.
- **Grassroots Movements:**
 - The **Chipko Movement (1973)** in Uttarakhand mobilized local communities, highlighting the role of political activism in forest conservation.
 - The **Narmada Bachao Andolan (1985)** opposed large-scale dam projects, raising concerns about displacement and ecological degradation.
 - The **Silent Valley Movement (1973)** in Kerala successfully halted a hydroelectric project, demonstrating the power of civic action in influencing environmental policy.

Contemporary Challenges: Environmental and Political Issues

Environmental Challenges

- **Climate Change:** Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and extreme weather events threaten agriculture, water security, and livelihoods.
- **Air and Water Pollution:** Industrial emissions, vehicular pollution, and untreated sewage contribute to deteriorating air and water quality.
- **Deforestation and Biodiversity Loss:** Encroachment, mining, and land-use changes are leading to the loss of forest cover and endangered species.
- **Urbanization and Waste Management:** Rapid urban growth generates waste management challenges, impacting public health and ecosystems.



Political Challenges

- **Policy Inconsistencies:** Inadequate enforcement of environmental regulations and weak political accountability hinder sustainable governance.
- **Political Apathy:** Limited political will to prioritize long-term sustainability over short-term economic gains.
- **Public Disengagement:** Apathy toward political participation and lack of environmental awareness among citizens reduce the impact of activism.
- **Corporate Influence:** Industrial lobbies often influence political decisions, leading to environmentally harmful policies.

Collaborative Solutions: Pathways for Viksit Bharat@2047

Policy Reforms and Governance

- **Strengthening Environmental Laws:** Enforce strict environmental regulations, with regular monitoring and accountability mechanisms.
- **Green Public Policies:** Promote sustainable urban planning, renewable energy policies, and conservation programs.
- **Electoral Reforms for Green Governance:** Introduce environmental accountability measures in political campaigns and manifestos.

Civil Society and Grassroots Movements

- **Community-Led Conservation:** Empower local communities to participate in a forestation, water conservation, and sustainable agriculture initiatives.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Promote environmental literacy through educational programs, campaigns, and workshops.
- **Youth and Student Engagement:** Encourage political activism among youth through participatory platforms and environmental advocacy programs.

Corporate and Private Sector Involvement

- **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):** Promote CSR initiatives focused on renewable energy, a forestation, and waste management.
- **Green Innovation:** Encourage businesses to adopt sustainable practices through tax incentives and subsidies.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Foster collaborations for sustainable infrastructure, waste management, and renewable energy projects.

Technological and Scientific Interventions

- **AI and Data Analytics:** Use artificial intelligence and big data for environmental monitoring and pollution control.
- **Renewable Energy Expansion:** Invest in solar, wind, and hydropower projects to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
- **Smart Governance Platforms:** Utilize digital platforms for citizen engagement in environmental decision-making and policy feedback.

Results:

The results of this study indicate that political activism plays a critical role in promoting environmental sustainability in India. The study highlights the importance of collaborative efforts between government, civil society, and the private sector in achieving environmental sustainability. The paper also emphasizes the need for a nuanced understanding of the complex relationships between environmental sustainability, politics, and activism.

Conclusion

The vision of **Viksit Bharat@2047** demands a multi-dimensional approach that combines environmental sustainability with active political engagement. Drawing from its historical legacy of grassroots activism and integrating contemporary



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technological and policy innovations, India can position itself as a global leader in sustainable development. Collaborative efforts involving government policies, civil society movements, and corporate partnerships are essential for achieving this goal. By fostering environmental consciousness and promoting political activism, India can realize its ambition of becoming a resilient, sustainable, and developed nation by 2047.

Recommendations:

1. Encourage collaborative efforts between government, civil society, and the private sector to promote environmental sustainability.
2. Support continued political activism and advocacy to ensure that environmental sustainability remains a priority in India's development agenda.
3. Promote education and awareness about environmental sustainability and its importance for India's development.
4. Encourage the use of technology and innovation to promote environmental sustainability in India.

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