
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

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Abstract

Our villagers live and work with close relationships with nature. Intensification of resource use and diversification of occupation pose serious challenges to balancing India's economic development. Modern development in urban areas has resulted in stress and strain, rural distress, and a drain of resources. Hands we need through analysis of the strengths, weakness, threats and opportunities for economic development now and in the future.

This will create much awareness for prioritization of economic activities in the country to make the best use of relatively limited natural resources keeping in mind the above factors the present study tries to draw the attention of academicians, policymakers, rural people, and their urban brethren towards 1. Sustainable methods of environmental management 2. A holistic approach with multi-display and multilocal environmental environment and 3. To make the practice of SWOT analysis an inbuilt mechanism in resource management for sustainable development.

Keywords: Sustainable Development, Environment; Human Health; Multidisciplinary Interrelationship And Social Work.

INTRODUCTION:

Sustainable development recognises that growth must be both inclusive and environmentally sound to reduce poverty and build shared prosperity for people today and for future generations. At the same time, growth patterns have left hundreds of millions of people behind: 1.2 billion lack access to electricity, 870 million are malnourished, and at least 748 million are without access to clean, safe drinking water. While efforts to expand access to safe drinking water are on track to achieve this target in most regions, 2.5 billion people still lack access to improved sanitation. The land is still being degraded, forests lost, and species endangered as carbon emissions continue to change the environment, we live in. With World Bank group support, more countries are approaching the relationship among land, forests, water, and food security in a more holistic, sustainable way.

Sustainable environment and natural resources management are at the heart of the world banks' efforts to end poverty and boost shared prosperity. Biodiversity and natural resources constitute the social safety net of the poor, representing a food bank and often their only source of livelihood. For example, wild-capture fisheries constitute 40 per cent of the total animal protein intake for countries in West Africa and sustain more than 3 million people. The World Bank has completed \$33 billion in funding for the environment and natural resources management over the first decade, with IDA contributing \$ 7.7 billion for environmental sustainability in the poorest countries.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES FACED BY INDIA:

The need for sustainable development is a key to the future of mankind. Continuing problems of pollution, solid waste disposal, degradation of the environment, issues like economic productivity and national security, global warming, the depletion of the ozone layer and loss of biodiversity have made everyone aware of environmental issues. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development Health in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development at Johannesburg in 2002 have drawn the attention of people around the globe to the deteriorating condition of our environment. Everyone should be involved in solving environmental problems. Environmental management has captured the attention of healthcare managers, and managing environmental hazards has become very important.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES FACED BY INDIA:

India faces several environmental challenges that impact its ecosystems, public health, and overall well-being. These challenges arise from a combination of rapid industrialization, population growth, urbanization, and inadequate infrastructure. Some of the prominent environmental challenges faced by India include:

1. **Growing Population:** India's population is expanding at an unsustainable rate every year, and is expected to surpass 1.5 billion people by 2030 and 2 billion people by 2050. India is expected to experience the fastest population growth rate in the world, putting pressure on the resources and services it needs and leading to environmental degradation, poverty and economic inequality.
2. **Air Pollution:** All major cities in India are often plagued by severe air pollution on a daily basis, mainly due to vehicular emissions, industrial activities, construction dust and agricultural burning. Poor air also leads to respiratory diseases and other health problems for many people in the country.
3. **Water Pollution:** Pollution of rivers, lakes and groundwater is a significant concern in India. Increased industrial use results in waste, wastewater discharge, and the country's need to rely heavily on the agricultural sector. Agricultural use of pesticides and fertilizers pollutes water resources, affecting drinking water quality and aquatic ecosystems. It is estimated that humanity is on the brink of danger.
4. **Climate Change:** India is vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including seasonal changes in climate and rising temperatures, extreme weather events and changing precipitation patterns. These changes affect agriculture, water resources, and coastal areas. Because of these natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes and tsunamis occur every year.
5. **Deforestation:** Deforestation to accommodate a growing population, driven by urban sprawl, logging and agricultural expansion, threatens India's biodiversity and contributes to climate change. Loss of forest cover leads to soil erosion and reduced water retention capacity. Due to deforestation, people will have to face many problems in the coming days due to the lack of rain, so social workers should create awareness among the people and explain the losses caused by this.
6. **Plastic Pollution:** India generates around 3.4 million tonnes (MT) of plastic waste, a report said on Wednesday noting that only 30 per cent of it is recycled. Nowadays India and other countries of the world are facing many problems due to the use of plastic. The Indian government intends to make all cities, towns and villages in India plastic-free zones, as widespread use of plastic and poor waste disposal infrastructure contribute to environmental pollution. Therefore, governments and social workers should make aware people of the dangers of using plastic.
7. **Waste Management:** Inadequate waste management and the improper disposal of solid waste contribute to environmental degradation and health hazards. Many urban areas struggle to handle the increasing volumes of waste generated daily.

ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKER IN ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT

Social workers can play a vital role in environmental management by focusing on environmental issues and their social issues. Their involvement helps create more sustainable and equitable solutions. Here are several ways in which social workers contribute to environmental management.

CONCLUSION

Environmental awareness means making people conscious about the physical social and aesthetic aspects of the environment. Environmental awareness is a handy tool to fight and phase the environment and crisis it changes and modifies men's attitude towards nature. "The environment belongs to all" and every individual matters when it comes to the conservation and protection of the environment. Therefore, all sections of society should be made aware of the conservation and protection of the environment in the following ways.

1. Environmental awareness among the public can be propagated through mass media like newspapers, radio, television, cinema, Street plays, stories etc.
2. Environmental orientation and training programs should be organised for planners and decision-makers
3. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) can also help in spreading environmental awareness among the masses.

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