

Green Economy In India With Special Reference To West Bengal An Approach To Sustainable Development.

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Abstract:

The purpose of this study is to determine the way of sustainable development of the State of West Bengal through adoption of Green Economy. This study also focuses on unemployment issue of the State of West Bengal and showcase the ways to overcome it in an environment friendly and sustainable way.

Index Terms: *Green Economy, Economic Growth, Sustainable development, Strong communities, Cost Benefit, Social development, Goods & Services & Ecosystem Resilience.*

INTRODUCTION

The green economy is defined by the United Nations Environment Program as one that results in, “Improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing the environmental risks and ecological scarcities or low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive economy”.

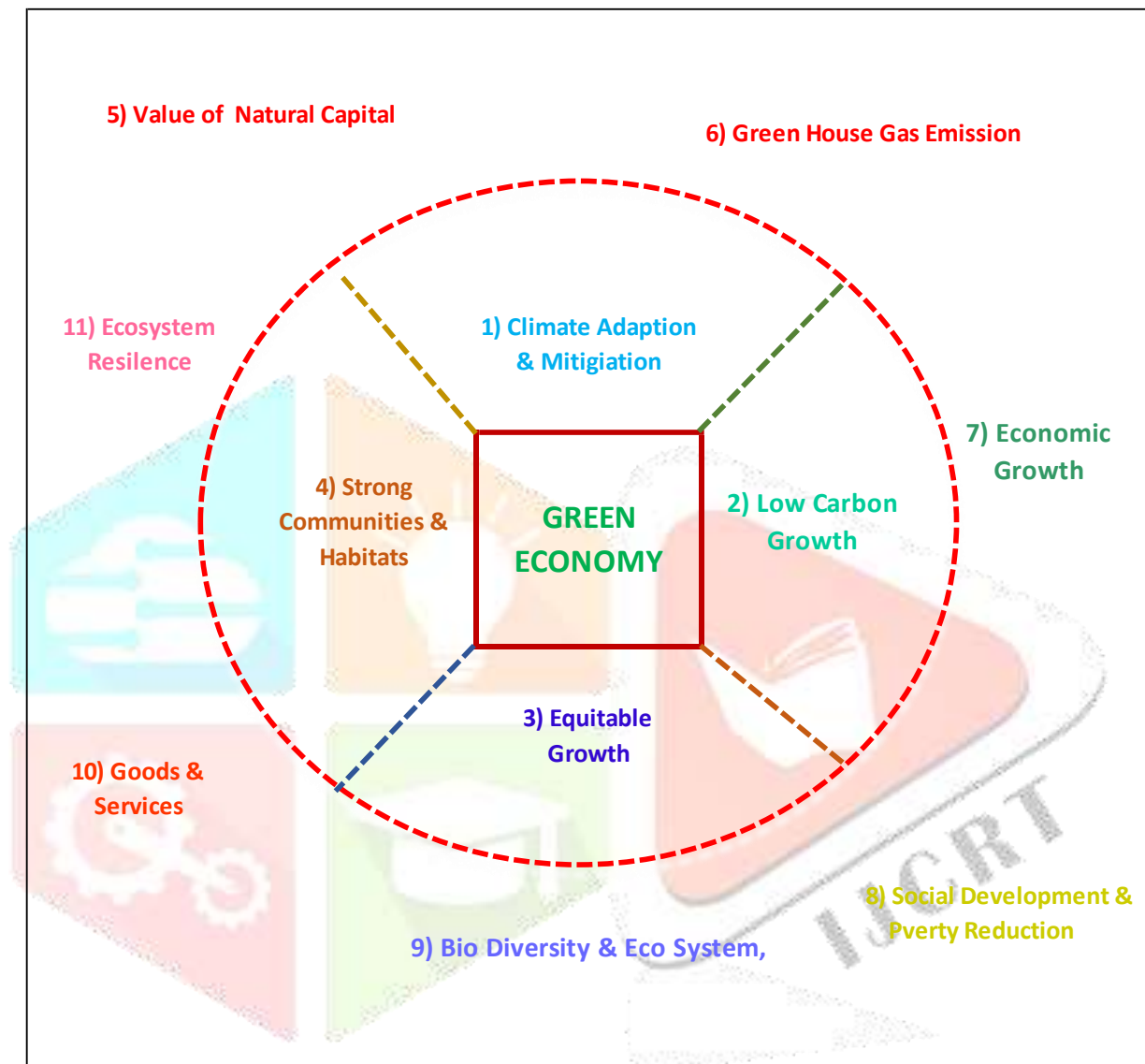
The term “Green Economy” in India has come into sharper focus just at the beginning of global financial crisis, a reduction in domestic financial growth and the dawn of a recession almost in all parts of the earth. India faces acute impacts from climate change in the business as a normal phenomenon and require to move quickly. Even if we do not care about the existence of climate change it makes sense for India to shift to less carbon emission, hence striving for sustainability. It is because of (a) The lack of proper ways to harness energy (b) issues of the environment such as air pollution (c) the economies of rising prices brought about by the environmentally friendly practices.

At present India has large number of unemployed qualified youth, as well as a large number of its population is sub-employed, as a result she will face an additional huge accretion to her workforce over the next years.

Globalization and liberalization has also turned the world economy stagnant. So corporate world should bring into attention the environmental responsibility considering carbon as resource, disposing products in the market as “low carbon” and “eco – friendly” which rows the risk of green wasting, but still this is a great concern when it comes to controlled emission of carbon. The most powerful countries and economies of the world have committed to slow down on carbon emission. Regardless of different projects on sustainable development, the world faces varieties of natural calamities. Therefore, weightage on green economics is to be put with the objective to take the challenges for creation of more jobs, mitigation of carbon emissions and to build up high level public private relations by transferring green renewable technology, cannot be overestimated.

Mitigation of carbon emission and pollution will increase energy and mobilize resource efficiently. This is possible only if public private investment is launched effectively and efficiently, resulting in growth of income, employment and consequently reducing the damages of biodiversity and protection of ecosystem.

TRANSITION TOWARDS GREEN ECONOMY



$$GE = LCG + RE + S.I = S.D$$

GE = Green Economy

LCG = Low Carbon Growth

Re = Resource Efficiently

S.I = Social Inclusivity

S.D = Sustainable Development

Green Economy & the Communities:

Actually, the story of performance (success or failure) of green economy depends on the administration of managing it. Proper mechanism for conservation and sustainable use, handing over the rights and sharing benefit with the communities tied to those who are actively engaged in conserving is the main catechize.

The benefits of green economy should be given to such communities at the outset. Exclusion of Communities from potential of green profits will bring further degradation in ecological balance, which goes without saying there is an urgent need to find out how the public and private sector can invest in a green economy while ensuring strong and healthy green governance. Basically, while the green economy is welcome as the economy of the future, this eagerness is not coordinated by an implementation of the theory of green governance. The following steps are to be taken to ensure green governance considering the multilateral environmental agreement based on the key rights of the communities:

KEY RIGHTS

- Genetic Resources
- Genetic Resources based on knowledge
- Self-Governance on the basis of customary laws & community protocols.
- Advantages from the use of traditional knowledge & genetic resources

UTILISATION OF GREEN RESOURCES:

The green economy observes nature as a natural Capital and its utilization as the monetary value of bio diversity. Therefore, green economy must be take into account as goods & services that nature provides i.e. clean air, water, rainfall, food, medicines etc.

When one avoids the access of natural benefits and services from the ecosystem and transforms it into other land use for short term economic gain, the Community related with such ecosystems have to pay a huge economic cost both directly and indirectly under such circumstance we must consider the following:

- a) Provisioning services
- b) The regulatory services
- c) The habitat and supporting services
- d) Cultural services:

The above services should be treated as the gross ecosystem services to estimates the economics of an ecosystem.

The green economy basically depends on the various types of service the ecosystems are supplying: provisional services consist of rendering food, raw materials, carbon segregation and storage, waste water treatment, erosion prevention, maintenance of soil fertility, pollination and bio logical control.

Habitator supporting services consist of habitats for species and maintenance of genetic diversity cultural services include recreation, mental and physical health, tourism, aesthetic appreciation and inspiration for culture, art and design and spiritual experience.

Future of Green Economy:

It is considered that green economy in terms of sustainable development and removal of poverty is one of the most meaningful and significant weapons available for attaining sustainable development, identifying

that it could provide alternatives for policy formulation with a set of flexible rules. The green economy should work to reduce poverty, nourish economic growth, enhance social inclusion, develop human welfare, opening the avenue employment opportunities and suitable job for all, while managing and preserving the healthy functioning of earth's ecosystem.

GREEN ECONOMY & INDIA: Development & Environment Dichotomy

Some regions of India have a great political control and make use of the green economy. In case of north east of India, the entire region has a huge quantity of natural capital flow, rich bio-diversity and a large pool of rich, diverse, ethnic, tribal section. Each and every ethnic section pull out different ecological profits for its distinct crafts, but they rarely take out the potential benefit. They require financial and technical help with access to credit and markets. There is a huge scope to turn this region into a sustainable eco-tourism destination. The green economy is essential to a modern global community and a set of strong and healthy green governance principle to set up a social-ecological system to natural capital flow, so that the poorest and the marginalized classes have the opportunity to the potential economic and ecological facilities. The green economy will help co-opt the most marginalized classes of society into the mainstream; it is a fundamental change in approach for the development versus environment conflict.

Presently "Green Economy in India" has laid more emphasis to facilitate rapid progress financially and environmentally for stable economic development, creation of jobs, spreading education etc. Effective measures have been introduced to solve the problem for laborers, students, entrepreneurs, businessmen etc.

If India is to become a developed nation and super power then we should not be blind on the practices of what the other developed and industrialized nations are doing because India is a unique country whose culture, community, financial strength and climate are completely different from others.

The key will be entrepreneurs are shifting economic sustainability to its people in-keeping with India's traditional culture. So green economy of India will take its unique shape in its own way.

WEST BENGAL: THE ROLE OF GREEN ECONOMY:

West Bengal is the sixth largest economy in India with 10.49 lakh crore GDP and is primarily dependent on agriculture and medium sized industries, although services and heavy industries play a dominant role in the economy of the state. After independence, W.B was dependent on the Central Government for meeting its demand for food. Food production remained stagnant and the green revolution by-passed the state for few years. However, there has been a notable increase in production of food from 1980 onwards and recently West Bengal is one of the few Indian states with a surplus in food production: producing nearly 20% of rice, 33% of the potato yield when only 7.5% of the population of India living in the state.

INDUSTRY

Kolkata is the industrial hub as the state industries are concentrated in and around Kolkata, which is well connected with the mineral rich Western highlands and Haldia port. Recently the Govt. of W.B has opened a single window agency in the name of "Shilpa Sathi" with the objectives to extend help and co-operation in establishing and running industrial units as well as to provide financial help to ten thousand registered factories. Above all there are Jute industries, numerous steel plants and Natural resource like tea. W.B is a major potential Centre for tea & Jute industries. In respect of leather processing and leather goods, at present 22-25% of India's tanning activity is undertaken in Kolkata & its suburbs.

The service sector has grown at rate higher than that of the national level. As of 2011, the state has 22 formally approved special economic zones, of these 17 are related to information technology (IT) or IT enabled service.

Infrastructure:

Condition of W.B with respect to green economy on the following (a) Power and energy (b) Communication & Transportation (c) Railways (d) Posts (e) Inland water ways (f) Telecommunication (g) Aviation (h) Industry.

In almost all sectors W.B is progressing very rapidly due to strong power generating capacity Govt of West Bengal requires positive outlook so that industrialists may open their avenues, which will bring employment opportunities in front of the large number of young qualified, skilled and unskilled man power. Directly or indirectly it will establish improved human wellbeing, social equity and increase in domestic financial growth.

Cost benefit analysis: A study on the community of Sundarban region

The conventional economist estimates the mangroves at Sunderban region is unprofitable since it assists minimum monetary benefits per year based on the wood for fuel extracted by the community. It suggests transforming the mangrove ecosystem into shrimp farm with much higher direct profits per hectare, per year but the green economy estimates don't only include the potential economic profit but also considers the Govt. subsidies for rehabilitation due to salination and leaching of Chemicals, apart from considering the ecological cost of degradation of the fragile economic balance of the domain

The approach also considers the monetary value of benefit of the mangrove forest to the local communities in the form of ecosystem services such as wood, fish and coastal protection against storms and cyclones. After evaluating the gross economic and ecological values in terms of its monetary benefits, it is far better than shrimp farming not just in terms of the market value of shrimp but also in terms of costs of the ecosystem services it provides. It clearly reveals that the shrimp farm makes a significant net loss compared to the blanket of balance provided by the mangrove forest.

The poorest of the poor and the marginalized are the most affected community due to massive destruction of the ecosystem and its biodiversity. The Asian Development Bank has observed the rapid increase of shrimp farms in the Sunderbans as the greatest threat to its environment. Though thousands of women and children collect wild tiger prawn egg for sale to shrimp farms, recently the catch of these tiger prawn spawn has been decreasing alarmingly. As a result, concurrent decrease in other fish species. This decline could lead in loss of livelihood for thousands of families dependent on fishing. The diverse vegetation of Sunderban include about 36 mangrove species that provide a unique mix of wildlife habitats, thus there is an urgent need to conserve the environment. The main importance is to be laid to develop sustainable livelihood for the residents of this region. Here, 56% of about four million people are landless, 35% are literate, and large number are without electricity, access to proper sanitation and safe drinking water as well as a fragile and limited natural resource base has contributed to a low-level development.

CONCLUSION

A Transition to green economy can contribute to remove poverty by across a range of key sectors including agriculture, foresting, fishing and water management. These sectors basically are the agriculture sectors and are particularly important for the poor in developing countries like India, Bangladesh, Malaysia etc. because

they depend on these sectors for a major part of their Income. This is especially critical for subsistent farming because almost 65% people depend upon it for their livelihood.

Investing in greening agriculture benefit the poor in terms of secure livelihoods. The investment in the natural capital and eco system services will increase the poor's income opportunities through increased yields and creation of new green jobs especially in rural areas of W.B and different parts of India.

Recommendations:

The Govt. needs to set up "Research and Development" department in every State of India that will only specialize in inviting new technologies that are more environment friendly and sustainable. The Govt. will need to play a vital role in strengthening the law and policy to promote green economy as well as strengthening the domestics policies specially dismantling lopsided subsidies to fossil fuels implementing taxes and policies that promote renewable energies enhancing environmental legislation, promoting integrated management of fresh water, establishing policies, for proper land use for urban agricultural areas, monitoring and accounting of eco system services.

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