



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN RELATION TO ENVIRONMENT AND POVERTY

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## Abstract:

The interrelationship between poverty and environmental degradation is complex one and is heavily influenced by a range of social, economical, cultural, physical & behavioural factors. Environmental degradation due to pervasive poverty is the society's concerned in matter. The interaction of poverty and environmental degradation sets off a downward spiral of ecological deterioration that threatens the physical security, economical well being and health of the region's people as well as unsustainable development of the ecological nation.

**Key words:** Environmental degradation, poverty, sustainable development.

## Introduction:

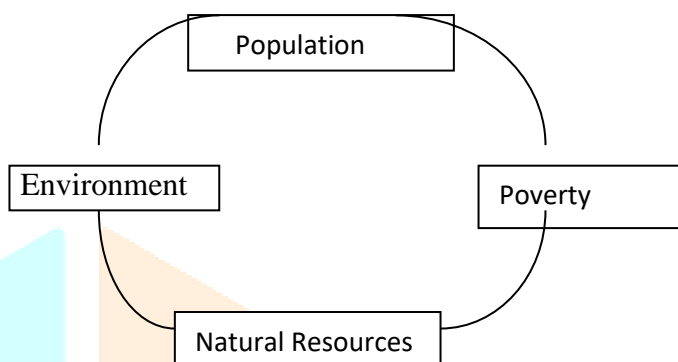
There are threefold connection in between the environment, human society and economic development. The economic development of societies in developing countries is closely linked with the use of environmental resources and so it is given more importance in sustainability of the resources which aims in improving the economic growth through meeting the basic needs qualities and standard of the people.

The relationship between poverty, environment and development is quite complex and not amenable to easy generalisation. Millions of poor people in developing countries largely depend on forest (environment) resources for their livelihood. Increased population is widely considered as an important contributor to shrinkage and depletion of environmental resources. Poverty leads to deforestation through inappropriate uses of wood and other resources for cooking, heating essential

goods and accelerating both the downward spiral of poverty and environmental degradation. That is why it is even said that ‘poverty is the greatest polluter.’

### Importance of the relationship:

The poor are more vulnerable to environmental degradation; poverty often confines poor people in rural areas to marginal lands, thus contributing to an acceleration of erosion, increased ecological vulnerability landslides etc. Thus poverty impacts environment negatively. The relation among these population, environment, poverty and natural resources is shown below:



The poor people, in order to find livelihood, usually go to the forest and cut down the trees indiscriminately to get fire wood timber etc. Such indiscriminately cutting of trees results in destruction of forest. Such deforestation results in the change in climate pattern a rainfall which causes a serious impact upon the environment. Again, wildlife animals which are a reduction and crisis in the fish population and destruction of these environment resources have resulted in serious effect on the environment.

The linkage between poverty and environment is mutually downward spiral. Because poverty leads environment degradation and environment degradation also leads poverty. Deforestation and environment degradation can impact heavily on small communities especially rural poor people who are dependent on forest as a source of emergency income and food. Thus environment degradation hurt the poor people in the society than richer section of that for ex shortage of drinking water or fuel wood affects the poor more than rich people. Again land degradation results in the reduction of productivity of land which ultimately affect on poor. The destruction of forest will mean that the poor people find less and less collecting wood timbers for livelihood. Climate change leads to irregular rainfall causing the cultivation of crops adversely and adding to the number of poor people. Thus it can be said that environment degradation mostly affects the poor people.

The main source of environment degradation is such as- air pollution, water pollution, deforestation, noise pollution, climate change, acid rain, ozone layer depletion, decline biodiversity results global warming or ‘Green house effect’ etc. The main cause of the current global warming trend is human expansion the green house gas effect. Insufficient access to education and to information

makes it difficult for poor people to manage available natural resources in a sustainable and sound manner, thus creating less of livelihood opportunities and of biological diversity.

On the one hand for poverty alleviation and other hand for forest conservation there should be sustainable development of the environment forest resources. Because sustainable development is a balance between development and environment that satisfy the needs without sacrifices of the quality environment for the future generations to come. It is the organizing principle for sustaining finite resources necessary to provide for the needs of future generations of life on the planet. One of the best known definition of sustainability given by Brundtland Report that, 'S.D is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs.' S.D emphasis the creation of sustainable improvement in the quality of life of all people through increase the real per capita income improvement in education, health and general quality of life and improvement quality of environmental resources. Thus sustainable development is closely linked to economic development of the societies.

On 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015 world leaders adopted the '2030 Agenda for sustainable development' which includes a set of 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and their 169 target is the commitment to ending poverty is that, 'Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development which notes the Agency's preamble.

S.D is a means for considering the relationship of among things in order to propose viable solution. As the Brundtland Report puts it, 'Sustainable development is not a fixed state of harming but rather a process of change.' It is a way of forcing to look at factors rather ignoring in favour of short term benefit as in industrialisation. S.D involves co-operation on a global scale. It is about integration; develops way which benefits the widest possible range of sectors in societies even between generations. In other words, our decisions should take into consideration potential impact on society, the environment and the economy keeping in mind that our actions will have impacts elsewhere will have an impact on the future. If forest depletion is poorly managed in the interest of immediate profit, then overall result is actually a substantial loss: loss of income over the large term, loss of biodiversity, loss of capacity to absorb carbon dioxide, among other things.

As an honest approach of sustainable development the idea that resources, whether economic, environmental or social should be utilised and distributed fairly in sustained matter across generation. The core of S.D is the need to consider the three pillars together: viz. society, the economy and environment. That is these three are interrelated & interdependent. We can never agree that without environment human existence is possible. If we damage or destroy the environment to provide the services, we must face some completely unprepared dangerous consequences. Along with this, the long term stability and success of societies rely on a healthy and productive population. A society which

faces unrest, unhealthy poverty and disease will not develop in the long term, social economy well being feed off each other and the whole game depends on a healthy biosphere in which to exist.

Brice Lalonde, former Minister of the Environment in France, defines S.D as 'To me, it refers to how the economy should enable us to live better lives while improving our environmental and our societies, from now on within a globalised world.' In his view, sustainable development states the possibilities for improve the economy as a vehicle which helps or ensure us reach the overall, collective goal of improving quality of life globally putting all the three pillars on the progressive trajectory or path success comes gradually.

It is very essential to take the advent of sustainable development as it changes significantly the activities perceived by people and government, their roles and responsibilities, their emphasis a material wealth to a more complex interconnected model of the human development process.

Sustainable Development is therefore,

- It is a Conceptual Framework – A way of changing the predominant world view that is more holistic and balanced.
- S.D is a Process - A way of applying the principles of integration- across space and time to all decisions and
- It is an End goal – A way of identifying and fixing the specific problem of resources depletion, health care, social exclusion, poverty, unemployment etc.

Generally, it is common said that, the sustainable development is primarily about the environment. The people living in lower section of the society i.e. lower income group basically depend on environmental resources for their livelihood. Consequently they faces the dangers of environmentally unsustainable practices such as damage done to ozone by CFCs or damage to soil, water supplies due to pesticides etc. Sustainable development has always included the social dimension. This is only because of the interpedently of the society. It is the connection of humans, their economies and societies to the ecosystem that support them which defines sustainable development. The first man to conquer Mount Everest, Sir Edmund Hilary said, 'Environmental problems are really social problem any way. They being with people as the cause and end with people as the victims.'

### **Conclusion:**

It is necessary to take important step to protect and preserve the natural environment resources on all over the countries. For a worldwide sustainable growth, there is a need for efficient and effective management of available resources. The government take policies giving environment awareness to people, motivating the rural poor people in permanent cultivation, organic farming, encouraging afforestation. It is important that in every where pollution will be stop for the balance growth of all round development in the countries.

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