

## A STUDY ON VARIOUS SOCIAL ISSUES AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

**\*DR.D.VIJAYA KUMAR & \*\*CH.NIRANJAN REDDY**

**\*PRINCIPAL, KODADA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR WOMEN, KODADA - TELANGANA.**

**\*\*ASSITANT PROFESSOR, DEPT.OF.CHEMISTRY, KITS FOR WOMEN, KODADA - TELANGANA.**

### **ABSTRACT**

*Global warming, widespread pollution, deforestation, land degradation, and species extinction are just some of the major issues threatening human life on earth. The consequences of such large scale environmental degradation would be most severe in the developing world.*

*With hundreds of millions of people deprived of enough food to meet their basic needs and billions of people lacking access to safe water supplies , it is imperative that sustainable measures are devised to ensure that a quality life is provided to them. Since it is impossible to stop the process of industrialization, it becomes important to ensure that it is carried out in an ethical manner, keeping in mind both protection of the environment and benefit of the human society.*

**KEYWORDS:** - *Global warming, Water Supplies, Widespread Pollution, degradation, Human society.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The needs of the primitive humans were limited and hence they were able to maintain a balance between different components of the environment. The development of the society is dependent upon the resource available. By the 1970s most development specialists began to appreciate the fact that economic growth alone could not bring about a better way of life for people unless environmental conditions were improved. Development strategies in which only economic considerations were used, had begun to suffer from serious environmental problems due to air and water pollution, waste management, deforestation and a variety of other ill effects that seriously affected peoples' well being and health. There were also serious equity issues between the "haves and the have not's" in

society, at the global and national levels. The disparity in the lifestyles between the rich and the poor was made worse by these unsustainable development strategies.

It was also realized that these were not simple issues. Indira Gandhi said in the Stockholm Conference in 1972 that poverty was the greatest polluter. This meant that while the super rich nations had serious environmental problems, the under-developed in Asia, Africa and South America had a different set of environmental problems linked to poverty. Developing countries were suffering the consequences of a rapidly expanding human population with all its effects on the over utilization of natural resources.

To ensure sustainable development, any activity that is expected to bring about economic growth must also consider its environmental impacts so that it is more consistent with long term growth and development. Many 'development projects', such as dams, mines, roads, industries and tourism development, have severe environmental consequences that must be studied before they are even begun. The current strategies of economic development are using up resources of the world so rapidly that our future generations, the young people of the world, would have serious environmental problems, much worse than those that we are facing at present. Thus current development strategies have come to be considered unsustainable for the world's long-term development. The newer concept of development has come to be known as "Sustainable Development". The nations of the world came to clearly understand these issues at the Rio Conference in 1992. Several documents were created for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), which brought out the fact that environment and development were closely connected and that there, was a need to 'care for the Earth'.

## **NEED OF STUDY**

Using appropriate technology is one which is locally adaptable, eco-friendly efficient and culturally suitable. It involves local labours, less resources and produces minimum waste. 3-R Approach Reduce, Reuse and Recycle approach. Reduce the usage and also reduce the wastage of resource by making things that last longer and are easier to recycle, reuse and repair. Promoting environmental education awareness. Environmental education will help in changing the thinking and attitude of people towards environment. Population stabilization can achieve sustainable development by controlling population. Conservation of non-renewable resources. It should be conserved by recycling and reusing. Usage of renewable resources. Usage of renewable resources should not be faster than their regeneration capacity.

Sustainable development also looks at the equity between countries and continents, races and classes, gender and ages. It includes social development and economic opportunity on one hand and the requirements of environment

on the other. It is based on improving the quality of life for all, especially the poor and deprived within the carrying capacity of the supporting ecosystems. It is a process which leads to a better quality of life while reducing the impact on the environment. Its strength is that it acknowledges the interdependence of human needs and environmental. To ensure sustainable development, any activity that is expected to bring about economic growth must also consider its environmental impacts so that it is more consistent with long term growth and development. Large dams, major highways, mining, industry, etc. can seriously damage ecosystems that support the ecological health of a region. Forests are essential for maintaining renewable resources, reducing carbon dioxide levels and maintaining oxygen levels in the earth's atmosphere. Their loss impairs future human development. Loss of forests depletes biodiversity which has to be preserved to maintain life on earth.

## CONCLUSION

Saving water in agriculture: Drip irrigation supplies water to plants near its roots through a system of tubes, thus saving water. Small percolation tanks and rainwater harvesting can provide water for agriculture and domestic use. Rainwater collected from rooftops can be stored or used to effectively recharge subsoil aquifers. Saving water in urban settings: Urban people waste large amounts of water. Leaking taps and pipes are a major source of loss of water. It is also stressed that evidence does not provide a clear response to the question of whether economic growth and environment protection and conservation are conflicting or complementary goals. Rather it shows that trade-offs and complementarities depend on various other factors such as: the scale and the structure of the economic and the social systems, technology, efficiency with which natural resources are used. In addition it is pointed out that economic and environmental issues are two important but not absolute conditions for ensuring a sustainable development. A third dimension, the social dimension, has also to be accounted for because humans are integral parts of ecosystems. Humans and ecosphere are partners in ensuring a good quality of life. It follows that protecting natural resources, their composition, structure, and functions, is protecting humans and life on earth.

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