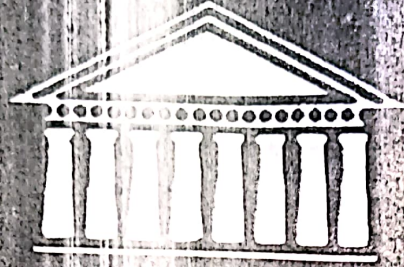


September 2022



1804

Journal of the
University of
Jammu
Volume 40(1) 2022
Jammu, INDIA

Dr. Vani Arora

Assistant Professor, PG Dept. of Economics, Hindu College, Amritsar

Abstract

Environmental problems such as, shortage of water, forest, fertile lands and the like are very often the cause of violent conflicts in the world. There is a need to manage limited natural resources in a careful manner as human welfare ultimately depends on ecological services. Ignoring environment will increase the risk of undermining long-run prospects for development. The linkage between and co-evolution of environment and socio-economic system, underlines the requirement of considering their joint sustainability. Today there is a widespread call for a paradigm shift from wealth accumulation to sustainability. It is significant to bring alive the very spirit of the SDGs—the resolve to let no one lag behind—by envisioning a society in which each and everyone is socially and economically affluent.

Key Words: Sustainability, Socio-economic, Society, Development, Immoral Behaviour, Responsibility.

Introduction

Environment provides basic services essential to humanity such as supplying materials, energy and absorbing waste products and supporting life. Environmental economics deals with the issues related with excessive, unethical or immoral behavior of human with the environment. It is an application of scientific theories and general application of welfare economics. It evolves the development that meets the need of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. An environmentally sustainable system maintains a stable resource base, avoid over-exploitation of renewable resources and deplete non-renewable resources so to bring quality of life with equitable distribution for every life living on this planet. Professor Amartya Sen. calls attention to the fact that, "genuinely secure and stable society cannot be realized without alleviating and eliminating sources of threat and insecurity to the vital core of all human lives." So, these three areas economic, environmental and social are interrelated. Solution to one problem can make another problem worse. Now a days; developing countries are facing both environmental crisis and development crisis. There has been an upsurge not only in the economic conundrums like poverty, unemployment, inadequate infrastructure, and overcrowding of places but in environmental deterioration as well. The boisterous lifestyle and extravagant consumption jeopardize the ecological balance on the earth. Deforestation for fuel, ships, buildings, and other economic reasons imperils the atmosphere leading to global warming and the adverse greenhouse effect. Ever-increasing CO2 has adversely impacted the economy, particularly the vulnerable sectors including agriculture, the coastal zones, human morality, and natural ecosystems. With the climate getting warmer and warmer, the sea level has been rising and coastal areas sinking which has posed a threat to humanity. The warmer temperature has also been harming agriculture. Climate change has been resulting in a decrease in soil moisture, an increase in the incidence of pests and diseases, and many other serious global issues.

and, rivers and even the seas have been converted into sewers and industrial dumps. Increased industrialization leads to littering of plastics, chemicals, spilling oil into the sea and threatening all marine life. As a consequence, a lot of the world's Marine species are already extinct or are on the verge of extinction. Humans have been responsible for major habitat changes resulting in genetic and more

species diversity. The more the species living in an ecosystem the higher the productivity and the greater is its ability to withstand drought and other kinds of environmental stress. Technological advancement for the comfort of mankind has been disturbing the ecological balance. The exploitation of biodiversity for lifestyle of the industrialized world is a sure recipe for ecological disaster. Economic growth causes larger discharges of waste water and solid wastes per capita. Inadequate investment in waste collection and disposal means that large quantities of waste enter both ground water and surface water. The enhanced demand for water for domestic, agricultural and industrial use means more inter-basins transfers, lowering of the ground water levels and less water for domestic use by an ever-increasing population. According to UN Comprehensive Fresh Water Assessment 1997, global water use has been increasing at more than twice rate of population increase during this century. Using water resources in an unsustainable manner can hamper economic productivity and social development in underdevelopment countries. Environmental problems of shortage of water, forest, fertile lands and the like are very often the cause of violent conflicts in the world. There is necessity to manage limited natural resources in a careful manner as human welfare ultimately depends on ecological services. Ignoring environment will increase the risk of undermining long run prospects for development. The linkage between and co-evolution of environment and socio-economic system, underlines the requirement of considering their joint sustainability. The relationship between socio-economic determinants and environmental degradation has wide implications for formulation and evaluation of policy design to improve the environmental quality. The present paper focuses on causes and impact of environmental crisis that instantly rob people of their livelihood, joy and happiness and disrupt as well as undermine the foundations of entire society.

Environmental Threats in 21st Century

Since the beginning of twenty-first century, the world has seen series of massive natural disasters, from the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami in (2004), the Kashmir Earthquake (2005), the Myanmar cyclone (2008) to the massive earthquake in Haiti in 2010, exacting a horrific toll in human life. A devastating earthquake and tsunami struck Japan in 2011, while several earthquakes also hit New Zealand and Turkey; Thailand and the Philippines experienced deadly flooding; and severe drought afflicted Somalia and much of East Africa. In recent years the world is under the grip of COVID-19 Pandemic. This crisis has struck almost all nations, sectors and aspects of society. The world has not revived yet from the social and economic effects of pandemic. It is painful to observe the reality of people around the world. Many of them are in challenging situation; lost jobs as well as they lost loved ones; fighting depression and anxiety. People who are already in a vulnerable position have found their circumstances more difficult. The pandemic has brought greater financial hardship to many households; young people are also finding themselves further burdened by student debt or unable to gain opportunities to develop the skills they need for the career they desire. Further, studies indicate that future career prospects sound bleak for more and more students, with 40 percent expressing uncertainty and 14 percent harbouring actual fear about what the future might hold. The pandemic has placed an unprecedented burden on healthcare system, increased poverty, unemployment and disparity. The crisis has forced many women to put their career on hold or take a leave of absence in order to care for sick family members and others close to them. Moreover, there are growing cases of domestic violence against women. In addition, a vast proportion of those who have lost jobs are women with less paid wage. This fact points to intensified gender inequality.



The pandemic impacted the children and youth in the form of disrupted educational services and the loss of learning opportunities due to school closure. One study shows that as many as 1.6 billion students have been impacted adversely. The loss of learning hours is not the only consequence of school closure. Because of the abrupt termination of daily interactions with friends, countless children are finding it hard to feel a tangible sense of progress and hope for the future, resulting in emotional and psychological distress as they become ensnared in an epidemic of loneliness and loss of motivation. School closure also result in suspension of the provision of school meals, a lifeline that provides children from economically distressed families and communities with a much-needed source of nutrition. There is a growing concern about an increase in the number of children suffering from the effects of malnutrition and outcomes such as anaemia and low body weight, due to the prolonged absence of school meals. This kind of wide-ranging and long-term disruption to classroom learning being experienced simultaneously around the globe is without parallel in the history of the modern school education system. Many children were unable to access the necessary means for distance learning. Still enormous numbers of young learners stranded on the wrong side of the digital divide, it is estimated that only 5 percent of refugees across the globe have managed to find their way into university or other programs of higher education. Another problem is split of the social fabric due to social distancing. After living in isolation during novel corona virus, it has been difficult to engage in society, build trust and mutual connect

Recent threat to environment has been posed by the Ukraine-Russia War. The unintended consequences of science and technology are on full display; a large numbers of people are forced to evacuate their homes, there is grave and still unmitigated scope of radioactive contamination, and there are as-yet-unknown long-term effects on people's health. The loss of human life, the wounding of dignity, and the destruction of the familiar nature and ecology of the community-such are the cruel outcomes of the by war leading to environmental degradation. People's lives, livelihoods and dignity is also be grievously undermined by the war. The increasing number of refugees in neighbouring countries results in economic disturbances and identity crisis of humans. There is nothing pathetic than losing one's identity and dignity. Environmental destruction has badly impacted population's health, food supply and livelihood. Bombardment caused by the war in the fields has affected the quality of soil which has badly impacted the agrarian sector. Serious effect of water and air pollution by the war has spilled over into neighbouring countries as well. Increasing factors such as, emissions due to military activity, the spillage and toxic clouds caused by the destruction of industrial and fuel storage facilities, contamination of water and soil from heavy metals and chemicals from bombs and weaponry, and even the destruction of crops and wildlife have a staggering impact. Nuclear weapon is a constant threat to all countries of the world. If the nuclear weapons development continues and the constant stream of new means of confronting other countries may lead to a constant friction and restraint among various countries of the world. Due to all setbacks and economic crisis all over world, youth are jobless and inspired. They are constantly in despair. This is not only an intolerable situation in human terms, but also a serious environmental problem. The relentless pressures that arise where basic human needs are not met erase the resource base from which man must inevitably gain his sustenance. The destruction of forests, loss of fertile soil, loss of productivity through disease and malnutrition and the increasing pressure on fragile ecosystems through war and increasing population have been accelerating environment degradation on the whole planet. These things are as significant as the pollution created by industry, technology and over-consumption by the affluent. All of them lead to rapid depletion of natural resources. Today there is a widespread call for a paradigm shift from wealth accumulation to sustainability. To achieve this,