

# ● SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA: SOME REFLECTIONS



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## Abstract

*Sustainable development today, becomes a very common phenomenon in almost all the democratic countries. But, the outcome is not very encouraging. The reason behind such failure is the lack of efforts by the States to implement various doctrines of protection of environment like polluter pays, precautionary principles, eradication of poverty etc. However, in India, some half hearted measures were taken to apply the principle of sustainable development, but they failed. In this scenario, there is need of proper legislations and judicial watch over the proper implementation of programmes and policies to achieve the target of preservation and protection of environment.*

## Introduction

Stockholm conference in June 1972 emphasized that man has the fundamental right to environment of quality and also that he has a responsibility towards protecting the environment for present and future generations. It also maintained that natural resources of the earth must be safeguarded for the benefit of present and future generations. Thus the seed for the concept of sustainable development started to sprout. World Commission on Environment and Development constituted in 1983 which is popularly known as Brundtland Commission (1983) described sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". It requires an integration of economic, social and environmental approaches towards development.

From an environmental perspective the goal is to build an alliance with nature which balances the demands of social and economic development on natural resources and the environment. Agenda 21 of action plan, adopted in 'Earth Summit' held at Rio-de Janeiro in 1992, promised to reduce poverty, provide clean water and health care, and protect the natural resources and so on. Similar tasks were set in Millennium Development Goals and recommended by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Thus all the major world conferences and initiatives taken so far on environment conservation and development have stressed on equitable socio-economic development, for protection of the environment and attaining sustainable development.

In Delhi on 2nd February Prime Minister Manmohan Singh inaugurated the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit, organised annually by TERI since 2001. It is an international undertaking that provides a platform for knowledge exchange and debate on all aspects of sustainable development. This summit brings together important heads of the State and Central Governments, academics and policy makers

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to deliberate over environmental issues. We are organising such events at regular basis but what steps have been taken at ground level is a issue of depth study and debate.

As a nation we are still struggling to reconcile our effort to develop with the compelling need to protect our environment from air pollution, industrial pollution, increasing quantum of waste and pollution of our rivers. Socio-economic conditions of our rural as well as urban areas are making the situation worst. Thus we need to make a holistic policy which can deal with all these problems interlinked to reduce poverty, provide clean water and health care, and protect the natural resources and so on. In this paper attempt is made to focus on field realities and to point out the drawbacks in our policies and make suggestions to improve the situation.

## WHAT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MEANS:

Development comes through industrialization, which in turn the main factor behind the degradation of environment. To resolve the issue, the experts worldwide have come up with a doctrine called 'Sustainable Development', i.e. there must be balance between development and ecology.

The concept of 'Sustainable Development' is not a new concept. The doctrine had come to be known as early as in 1972 in the Stockholm declaration. It had been stated in the declaration that:

*"Man has the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well being and he bears a solemn responsibility to protect and improve the environment for present and future generation"*

But the concept was given a definite shape in a report by world commission on environment, which was known as 'our common future'. The commission, which was chaired by the then Norway Prime Minister, Ms. G. H. Brundtland defined 'Sustainable Development' as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs. The commission defined sustainable development as:

*"Humanity has the ability to make development sustainable—to ensure that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."*<sup>1</sup>

The report was popularly known as 'Brundtland report' the concept had been further discussed under agenda 21 of UN conference on environment and development held in June 1992 at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

## Basic Principals of 'Sustainable Development':

Sustainable development as a concept involves a cluster of elements or principles. All these principals have its own important but some form the corner-stone of the concept of sustainable development. Some of these principles or elements are of utmost importance so they are mentioned here.

### 1. Principle of Sustainable Use:

According to this principle natural resources should be used in a manner which is

<sup>1</sup> World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), *Our Common Future* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1987), 8





“sustainable” or “prudent” or “rational” or “wise” or “appropriate”. It requires that natural resources be used for maximum benefit and misuse or disuse must be avoided.

## **2. Inter-Generational and Intra-Generational Equity:**

This principal talks about the right of every generation to get benefit from the natural resources. According to principal 3 of Rio declaration “the right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations.”

This principal is founded on the essentially utilitarian criterion of maximizing the sum total of welfare of different generations. It allows the welfare of one generation to be traded off one-for-one against that of another generation. If the benefit to us from economic activities which continue to emit greenhouse gases at the present rates outweighs the harm done to future generations from global warming, then the criterion would recommend no change in our activities.

Preservation of the resource base does not imply that all exhaustible (e.g. mineral and fossil fuel) resources must be conserved that is likely to be unfeasible. But if society's broad stock of capital is to be maintained, we have to replace the non-renewable resources that are used up with something else. That has to be reproducible capital, whether physical or human.

This principal also mandates intragenerational equity by which it means that the people of present generation have equal rights to benefit from the use of natural resources and from the enjoyment of a clean and healthy environment. This is environmental justice.

The Precautionary Principal:

Principle 15 of the *Rio Declaration (1992)* defines precautionary principle as:

*“Where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.”*

According to this principle if there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation. In the application of the precautionary principle, public and private decisions should be guided by:

- i. careful evaluation to avoid, wherever practicable, serious or irreversible damage to the environment,
- ii. and an assessment of the risk- weighted consequences of various options.

## **4. Principle of Integration:**

This principal requires the effective integration of economic and environmental considerations in the decision-making process. This principle is the philosophical underpinning of the report *Our Common Future*.

According to this report ecologically harmful cycle caused by economic development without regard to and at the cost of the environment could only be broken by integrating environmental concerns with economic goals. Thus environmental concerns must be taken account of during the process of policy making so that harm to ecology may be avoided. This principle ensures mutual respect and reciprocity between economic and environmental considerations by:

- i. Environmental considerations are to be integrated into economic and other development plans, programs and projects and
- ii. Development needs are to be taken into account in applying environmental objectives.

This principle also takes into account social development along with economic development and environmental protection. The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, 2002, noted the need to "promote the integration of the three components of sustainable development- economic development, social development and environmental protection- as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars.

### **5. Conservation of Biological Diversity and Ecological Integrity:**

Sustainable Development mandates that the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration in decision-making, including in the formulation, adoption and implementation of any economic and other development plan, program or project.

### **6. Polluter Pays Principal:**

In *environmental law*, the polluter pays principle requires that the costs of pollution be borne by those who cause it. In its original emergence the Polluter Pays Principle aims at determining how the costs of pollution prevention and control must be allocated: the polluter must pay. Its immediate goal is that of internalizing the environmental externalities of economic activities, so that the prices of goods and services fully reflect the costs of production.

The first mention of the Principle at the international level is to be found in the 1972 Recommendation by the OECD Council on Guiding Principles concerning International Economic Aspects of Environmental Policies, where it stated that: "The principle to be used for allocating costs of pollution prevention and control measures to encourage rational use of scarce environmental resources and to avoid distortions in international trade and investment is the so-called Polluter-Pays Principle." It then went on to elaborate: "This principle means that the polluter should bear the expenses of carrying out the above-mentioned measures decided by public authorities to ensure that the environment is in an acceptable state."

It is enacted to make the *party* responsible for producing *pollution* responsible for paying for the damage done to the *natural environment*. The polluter pays principle underpins environmental policy such as an *ecotax*, which, if enacted by government, deters and essentially reduces *greenhouse gas emissions*.

## **POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE MEASURES:**

Policy and legislative measures dealing with environmental conservation and thus promoting sustainable development are discussed as under:

### **Environmental Policy in Ancient India:**

In ancient India our ancestors were well acquainted with the need of protecting and preserving environment. They knew that the key lies in sustainability of environment and sustainability of development both. That was the reason why they have attached environment conservation with the faith and religion. The Arthashastra by Kautilya, written as early as between 321 and 300 BC, contained provisions meant to regulate a number of aspects related to the environment. There are several examples of plants and trees were given the status of god and goddess. Even the fifth pillar edict of





Emperor Ashoka also contains such regulations.

In almost all religions originated in India and in every culture of this country we can trace the element of Nature worship.

### **Environmental Policy in British India:**

Problems of environment protection and conservation are not of modern world only. Even in colonial period British rulers' have also enacted more than half dozen legislations to protect and conserve environment.

Shore Nuisance (Bombay and Kolaba) Act, 1853

The Indian Penal Code, 1860

The Indian Easements Act, 1882

The Fisheries Act, 1897

The Factories Act, 1897

The Bengal Smoke Nuisance Act, 1905

The Bombay Smoke Nuisance Act, 1912

The Elephant's Preservation Act, 1879

Wild Birds and Animals Protection Act, 1912

### **Environmental Policy in Modern India:**

National Council for Environmental Policy and Planning was set up in 1972 which was later evolved into Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) in 1985. Now the pollution control boards (CPCB i.e. Central Pollution Control Board and SPCBs i.e. State Pollution Control Boards) together form the regulatory and administrative core of the sector.

### **National Environment Policy, 2006:**

It was the first initiative in strategy-formulation for environmental protection in a comprehensive manner.

It undertakes a diagnosis of the causative factors of land degradation with a view to flagging the remedial measures required in this direction.

It recognizes that the relevant fiscal, tariffs and sectoral policies need to take explicit account of their unintentional impacts on land degradation.

**Constitutional Provisions:** There are three important provisions in the Constitution of India.

**Article 21:** *No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.*

In India the Supreme Court has adopted an expanded view of 'life' under Article 21 and enriched it to include environmental rights by reading it along with Articles 47, 48-A and 51A(g) and declaring:

*"Article 21 protects right to life as a fundamental right. Enjoyment of life and its attainment including their right to life with human dignity encompasses within its ambit, the protection and preservation of environment, ecological balance free from pollution of air and water, sanitation without which life cannot be enjoyed. Any contra acts or actions would cause environmental, ecological, air, water, pollution, etc. should be regarded as amounting to violation of Article 21."*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Virender Gaur & Ors. v State of Haryana & Ors, (1995) 2 SCC 577

**Article 48A:** *The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wild life of the country.*

**Article 51A:** *It shall be the duty of every citizen of India—*

*(g) to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures;*

### **Legislative Framework:**

There are nearly a dozen legislations of modern India which were enacted after independence having provisions regarding protection and preservation of environment so that sustainable development may be achieved. They are as follows:

Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974  
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 Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981  
 Atomic Energy Act of 1982  
 Motor Vehicles Act, 1988  
 The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972  
 The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980  
 Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (EPA)  
 The National Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997  
 Public Liability Insurance Act (PLIA), 1991  
 National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995  
 Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006  
 The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010

### **Environment Impact Assessment (EIA):**

On 27th January, 1994 a notification was issued dealing with mandatory EIA. The notification requires project proponent to submit an EIA report, and environment management plan, details of the public hearing and a project report to the impact assessment agency for clearance, further review by a committee of experts in certain cases. By the amendment in the year 1997, public hearing was made compulsory before impact assessment was finalized.

## **JUDICIAL INTERPRETATIONS:**

Since the last few decades, the Supreme Court of India has been actively engaged, in many respects, in the protection of environment and encouraging and directing sustainable development. While conventionally the executive and the legislature play the major role in the governance process, the Indian experience, particularly in the context of environmental issues, is that the Court has begun to play a significant role in resolving environmental disputes. Supreme Court has been engaged since 1980s in interpreting and introducing new changes in the environmental jurisprudence through the principle of sustainable development.

Significant environmental principles like polluter pays,<sup>3</sup> precautionary principle,<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> *M.C. Mehta v Kamal Nath* (2000) 6 SCC 213.

<sup>4</sup> *Vellore Citizens' Welfare Forum v Union of India* (1996) 5 SCC 647.





sustainable development,<sup>5</sup> public trust doctrine<sup>6</sup> and intergenerational equity<sup>7</sup> have become entrenched in the Indian law without explicit incorporation in any legislative framework.

In *Vellore Citizens' Welfare Forum v Union of India & Ors.*,<sup>8</sup> the Court employed the 'precautionary principle' to invent the special principle of burden of proof in environmental cases where burden as to 'the absence of injurious effect of the actions proposed, is placed on those who want to change the status quo' viz. polluter or the industrialist. In the process, the apex Court has gone beyond the statutory texts to refer extensively to international conventions and obligations of India and even to the historical environmental values reflected in the edicts of Emperor Ashoka and verses of *Atharva Veda*. The Supreme Court has, in clear terms, advised the State to shed its 'extravagant unbridled sovereign power' and to pursue a policy to maintain ecological balance and hygienic environment.

In *T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad v. Union of India* case<sup>9</sup> was set in the backdrop of critical state of national forest cover, appalling apathy of governments towards forest management and conservation and open violations of forest legislations by illegal felling in North-Eastern States. A three judge bench of the Court, known as the 'Green Bench' or the 'Forest Bench', issued a 'continuing mandamus', operative for past twelve years, and has been using it to deal with prominent issues including conversion of forest land for non-forest purposes, illegal felling, potentially threatening mining operations, afforestation and compensation by private user agencies for using forest land.

In the *Narmada Bachao Andolan v. Union of India* case,<sup>10</sup> the Court did not allow Narmada Bachao Andolan from making any submissions on the pros and cons of large dams. Despite the dissenting judgment of Justice S.P. Bharucha, who pointed out that the Sardar Sarovar Project was proceeding without a comprehensive environmental appraisal, majority of the successive judges allowed the government to construct the dam without any comprehensive environmental impact assessment, which was necessary even according to the government's own rules and notifications. The majority judgment observed that a conditional clearance given in 1987 was challenged in 1994 and stated that the pleas relating to height of the dam and the extent of submergence, environment studies and clearance, hydrology, seismicity and other issues, except implementation of relief and rehabilitation, cannot be permitted to be raised at this belated stage.<sup>11</sup>

The subordination of environmental interests to the cause of development was also evident in Supreme Court's judgment in the PILs challenging the construction of Tehri Dam and the construction of power plant at Dahanu Taluka in Maharashtra, where the government's own expert committee had given an elaborate report pointing out a series of violations of the conditions on which environmental clearance

<sup>5</sup> See *Narmada Bachao Andolan v Union of India* (2000) 10 SCC 664; *Goa Foundation v Diksha Holdings Pvt. Ltd* (2001) 2 SCC 97; and *N. D. Javal v Union of India* (2004) 9 SCC 362.

<sup>6</sup> *K.M. Chinnappa & T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad v Union of India*, AIR 2003 SC 724 and *Intellectuals Forum, Tirupathi v State of A.P. and Ors.*, (2006) 3 SCC 549.

<sup>7</sup> *State of Himachal Pradesh v Ganesh Wood Products*, (1995) 6 SCC 363.

<sup>8</sup> (1996) 5 SCC 647.

<sup>9</sup> Judgement of 12 December 1996, (1997) 2 SCC 267.

<sup>10</sup> *Narmada Bachao Andolan v. Union of India and Others*, Supreme Court of India, Judgement of 18 October 1996, AIR 2000 SC 3753.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid* at 3761.

to the projects had been given by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. In such nature of environmental litigations challenging infrastructure projects, the Court held that in case of conflicting claims relating to the need and the utility of any development project, the conflict had to be resolved by the executive and not by the Courts.<sup>12</sup>

**M.C. Mehta v. UOI, AIR 1997 SC 734 (Taj Trapezium Case):** *while taking note of the disastrous effects that the emissions from the Mathura Oil Refinery had on the Taj Mahal, the Supreme Court applied the principle of sustainable development to the case, and apart from passing various directions, stepped in to execute and supervise the resultant actions.*

*State of Himachal Pradesh v. Ganesh Wood Products, AIR 1996 SC 149, the Supreme Court invalidated forest based industry, recognizing the principle of inter-generational equity and sustainable development.*

### **Doctrines Evolved By Judiciary:**

Following doctrines of environmental jurisprudence were applied by the Supreme Court while dealing with cases relating to environmental conservation.

#### **Public Trust Doctrine:**

The genesis of the public trust doctrine can be traced from the doctrine of *res communes* of the Justinian code of sixth century Rome. This doctrine claims that some things are 'common to mankind - the air, running water, the sea, and consequently the shores of the sea and the right of fishing in a port, or in rivers, is common to all men'.<sup>13</sup> The title of *res communes* was vested in the state, as the sovereign, in trust for the people and it was excluded from private control. Thus the state as trustee was charged with the duty of preserving the resources in a manner that made them available for certain public purposes.<sup>14</sup> The Romans implemented a concept of 'common property' and extended public protection to the air, rivers, sea, and seashores. There existed common rights or easements to navigate and fish, and a presumption that the sovereign owned the submerged lands and the shores in trust for the people.<sup>15</sup>

In *M.C. Mehta v. Kamal Nath*,<sup>16</sup> where an attempt was made to divert flow of a river for augmenting facilities at a motel, it was held that State and its instrumentalities as trustees have a duty to protect and preserve natural resources.

In *MI Builders Pvt. Ltd. v. Radhey Shyam Sahu*,<sup>17</sup> a city development authority was asked to dismantle an underground market built beneath a garden of historical importance.

#### **Precautionary Principle:**

In the Rio Declaration (or Agenda 21) of 1992, states that:

<sup>12</sup> See Vidheh Upadhyay, 'Changing Judicial Power', 35(43&44) *Economic and Political Weekly* 3789 (2000).

<sup>13</sup> Joseph L. Sax, 'Public Trust Doctrine in Natural Resource Law: Effective Judicial Intervention', 68 *Michigan L. Rev.* 471 (1970).

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>16</sup> (1996) 1 SCC 38.

<sup>17</sup> AIR 1996 SC 2468.





*"In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation."*

In *Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. UOI*,<sup>18</sup> this principle was adopted by the Supreme Court to check pollution of underground water caused by tanneries in Tamil Nadu.

The Supreme Court in *Narmada Bachao Andolan v. UOI*,<sup>19</sup> and held that the precautionary principle could not be applied to the decision for building a dam whose gains and losses were predictable and certain.

### **Polluter Pays Principle:**

In India Courts have followed with the object to make the polluter liable for the compensation to the victims as also for the cost of restoring of environmental degradation. This principal was used by the Supreme Court of India in *Indian Council for Enviro-Legal Action vs. Union of India* <sup>20</sup> commonly known as Bichhri village case.. In this case court ordered the polluter ccompany to pay for the pollution and redo the environmental damage and wrong caused by its industrial activity.

Again in *Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. UOI*,<sup>21</sup> the Supreme Court held that the precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle are part of environmental law of the country.

## **REFLECTION IN SOCIETY AND PROBLEMS:**

The moral obligation underlying sustainability is an injunction to preserve the capacity for future people to be as well off as we are. This has a terribly hollow ring if it is not accompanied by a moral obligation to protect and enhance the well-being of present people who are poor and deprived. If one thinks that people will be deprived in the future unless different policies are followed, then one is morally obliged to ask whether people are deprived right now. It would be a gross violation of the universalist principle if we were to be obsessed about intergenerational equity without at the same seizing the problem of intragenerational equity: the ethic of universalism certainly demands such impartiality. A concern for equity right now, and not merely for equity between periods of time, requires redistribution to the deprived contemporaries. But redistribution to poor people today might be felt to be disadvantageous from the standpoint of sustainability. It might be interpreted as leading to an increase in current consumption, not to an increase in investment. However, much depends on what form that redistribution takes.

Redistribution to the poor in the form of improving their health, education and nutrition is not only intrinsically important--in enhancing their capabilities to lead more fulfilling lives but it is also instrumentally important in increasing their "human capital" with lasting influence in the future. Thus the concepts of interrelatedness, of a shared planet, of global citizenship, and of 'spaceship earth' cannot be restricted to environmental issues alone. They apply equally to the shared and inter-linked responsibilities of environmental protection and human development.

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<sup>18</sup> AIR 1996 SC 2718.

<sup>19</sup> AIR 2000 SC 375.

<sup>20</sup> AIR 1996 SC 1446.

<sup>21</sup> AIR 1996 SC 2718.



The integration of agriculture with land and water management, and with ecosystem conservation is essential for both environmental sustainability and agricultural production. An environmental perspective must guide the evaluation of all development projects, recognizing the role of natural resources in local livelihoods. This recognition must be informed by a comprehensive understanding of the perceptions and opinions of local people about their stakes in the resource base. To ensure the sustainability of the natural resource base, the recognition of all stakeholders in it and their roles in its protection and management is essential.

### **Problems in Moving Towards Sustainable Development:**

Conservation, which covers a wide range of concerns and activities, is the key element of the policy for sustainable development. Framing a conservation strategy is, therefore, an imperative first step. Development requires the use and modification of natural resources; conservation ensures the sustainability of development for the present and in the future. The conservation strategy is to serve as a management guide for integrating environmental concerns with developmental imperatives.

There are many aspects in social development of country which are creating hurdles for environmental conservations thus also for sustainable development. Some important problems are discussed below.

#### **1. Poverty:**

In 1972, the then Prime Minister of India, Mrs. Indira Gandhi emphasized, at the UN Conference on Human Environment at Stockholm, that the removal of poverty is an integral part of the goal of an environmental strategy for the world.

Poverty and a degraded environment are closely inter-related, especially where people depend for their livelihoods primarily on the natural resource base of their immediate environment. Restoring natural systems and improving natural resource management practices at the grassroots level are central to a strategy to eliminate poverty. The survival needs of the poor force them to continue to degrade an already degraded environment. Removal of poverty is therefore a prerequisite for the protection of the environment.

#### **2. Population:**

Population is an important resource for development, yet it is a major source of environmental degradation when it exceeds the threshold limits of the support systems. Unless the relationship between the multiplying population and life support systems can be stabilized, development programmes, however, innovative, are not likely to yield the desired results. We have reached nearly to 1.22 billion and still, our growth rate is 1.58%.<sup>22</sup> This growth rate is also a hurdle in achieving sustainable development.

This population growth eventually relates to education. Increases in population and resource use are thought to jeopardize a sustainable future, and education is linked both to fertility rate and resource consumption. Educating females reduces fertility rates and therefore population growth. By reducing fertility rates and the threat of overpopulation a country also facilitates progress toward sustainability. The opposite is true for the relationship between education and resource use. Generally, more highly educated people, who have higher incomes, consume more resources than

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<sup>22</sup> Accessed at <http://www.indiaonlinepages.com/population/india-current-population.html>; visited on 6th February 2012.





poorly educated people, who tend to have lower incomes. In this case, more education increases the threat to sustainability.

### **3. *Lack of Education:***

Education is an essential tool for achieving sustainability. People around the world recognize that current economic development trends are not sustainable and that public awareness, education, and training are key to moving society toward sustainability.

From the time sustainable development was first endorsed at the UN General Assembly in 1987, the parallel concept of education to support sustainable development has also been explored. From 1987 to 1992, the concept of sustainable development matured as committees discussed, negotiated, and wrote the 40 chapters of Agenda 21. Initial thoughts concerning ESD were captured in Chapter 36 of Agenda 21, "Promoting Education, Public Awareness, and Training."

But in India majority population is not educated about the needs of environment conservation.

### **4. *Lack of Integrated Policy:***

First and important step of sustainable development requires an integrated policy for development. Such policy must be made with consultation with local people as their consultation makes themselves responsible for execution of such policies.

For example, a community with an abundance of skilled labor and technically trained people can persuade a corporation to locate a new information-technology and software-development facility nearby. Citizens can also act to protect their communities by analyzing reports and data that address community issues and helping shape a community response.

### **5. *Lack of Proper Mechanism for Distributing Benefit of Natural Resources:***

When benefits of natural resources which are in principal the 'common property' are not distributed in justifiable manner, some amount of discontent is spread among people who traditionally used such resources. Such discontent may lead to naxalism and other kind of violent activities. People involved in such anti-social activities are the people who may have played their active role in development of society. Thus country suffers in many folds, firstly by anti-social activity, secondly by loosing human life and resources, thirdly economic loss of state in preventing anti-social activity, and lastly of natural resources.

### **6. *Lack of Basic Infrastructure:***

Infrastructure of a country plays an important role not only in economic development of that country but also in environment conservation and thus in sustainable use of resources and sustainable development. Lack of infrastructure such as electricity, roads, transport means, water, storage facilities, and other basic amenities lead to abuse or wastage of natural resources.

### **7. *Lack of Proper Basic Amenities:***

Lack of proper healthcare, proper basic education may lead to migration of population from rural areas to cities. Such migration results in over burden of infrastructures in cities which may also be the cause of many kinds of pollutions.

## THE WAY FORWARD:

All the major conferences on world environment have stressed on need of development of the economy with social equity and protection and conservation of the environmental resources. In recent times, cities have become places of wasteful use of non-renewable resources and urban environmental degradation. Apart from that, Climate change is posing a challenge to the world and it has the potential to affect the economies, rich and poor both. This is likely to affect the water supply and ecosystems among other things. Climate change would affect the poor of the world more because they are more vulnerable and does not have the means to protect themselves against the vagaries of extreme climatic conditions. Manmade pollution of water, air and environment seriously affect the climates.

Sustainable development presents the solution to the problem of environment conservation but its implementation has to be very cautiously. Poor and needy must be treated preferentially so that they may be given their due which was not made available due to social injustice.

Several traditional practices that are sustainable and environment friendly continue to be a regular part of the lives of people in India. These need to be encouraged rather than replaced by more 'modern' but unsustainable practices and technologies.

The traditional approaches to natural resource management such as sacred groves and ponds, water harvesting and management systems, etc., should be revived by creating institutional mechanisms which recapture the ecological wisdom and the spirit of community management inherent in those systems.

Development decisions regarding technology and infrastructure are a major determinant of consumption patterns. It is therefore important to evaluate and make development decisions which structurally lead to a more sustainable society.

In policy making participatory method must be adopted and integration of all needs including social and environmental be done.

Benefits of natural resources which are in principal the 'common property' are not distributed in justifiable manner.