SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Dr.V.N.SAILAJA, Associate professor
D.LAKSHMI PRATYUSHA, Asst. professor
V. SIREESHA CHAMUNDESWARI, Lecturer, K.B.N College, Vijaywada.India

ABSTRACT

Resources are the backbone of every economy. In using resources and transforming them, capital stocks are built up which add to the wealth of present and future generations. Due to globalization and industrialization the resource utilization reaches maximum heights all over the world and it influences the environment which may impede the growth of the economy. However, the dimensions of the current resource use are such that the chances of future generations - and the developing countries - to have access to their fair share of scarce resources are endangered. Moreover, the consequences of the resource use in terms of impacts on the environment may induce serious damages that go beyond the carrying capacity of the environment. The use of materials has recently become a key issue in sustainability policies internationally, with the G8's 3R (reduce, reuse, recycle) initiative. Hence in this paper an attempt is made to present the importance of sustainable resources and economic development.

INTRODUCTION

Economic theories and empirical evidence have questioned whether lower income economies that are endowed with abundant natural resources develop more rapidly than economies that are relatively resource poor.Economists now recognize that, along with physical and human capital, environmental resources should be viewed as important economic assets, which can be called **natural capital**. Economies who increased investment in basic technologies for extracting and processing natural resources were highly profitable. To a degree, natural resources have become commodities rather than part of the 'factor endowment' of individual countries.

Sustainability is the long-term maintenance of responsibility, which has environmental, economic, social, dimensions, encompasses responsible management of resource use and describes how biological systems remain diverse, robust, productive over time, a necessary precondition for the well-being of human and other organisms. Sustainability keeping quality of life high is a social challenge that entails, among other factors, international and national law, urban planning and transport, local and individual lifestyles and ethical consumerism. Ways of living more sustainably can take many forms from controlling living conditions like ecovillages, eco-municipalities and sustainable cities, to reappraising work practices using permaculture, green building, sustainable agriculture or developing and using new technologies that reduce consumption of resources such as renewable energy technologies.

Recent UNEP(United Nations Environment Programme) report proposes "that greening not only generated increases in wealth, in particular a gain in ecological commons or natural capital, but also produces a higher rate of GDP growth" "an inextricable link between poverty eradication and better maintenance and conservation of the ecological commons, arising from the benefits flows from natural capital that are received directly by the poor" ; "in the transition to a green economy, new jobs are created , which in time exceed the losses in "brown economy" jobs.

INDIA

India made strict implementation that cleanliness of environment and good sanitation also comes in the right to life which is article number 22. If anyone feels that the sanitation is not good in the area where the person lives than that person can protest against the government according to the article number 22 that is right to life .

PROBLEMS IN MAINTAINANCE OF SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES

Deforestation

In the past decade tropical forest area has shrunk from 4.7 to 4.2 billion acres (1.9 to 1.7 billion hectares). According to an estimate as much as 17 million hectares of tropical rain forest, an area about the size of Japan, are destroyed every year. One of the causes for deforestation is commercial logging.

Soil degradation and desertification

Since 1945 nearly 2 billion hectares of productive land has been degraded. This amounts to losing one sixth of the world's fertile area. The average amount of grain land per person has dropped in 30 years from over 0.2 hectares.

Marine life depletion

Land, rivers, even whole seas have been converted into sewers and industrial dumps.70 to 80 percent of all marine pollution, are the sediments and contaminants that flow into the seas like topsoil, fertilizers, pesticides, and industrial wastes consequencing, world's fish species are already starting to die. Rich countries have already, depleted their stock of fish. They now import large quantities from developing countries that catch more fish than they can do.

Water stress

Since 1950, demand for water and its consequent withdrawal has nearly tripled.. Rural electricity is highly subsidized or free, which prompts over-pumping of groundwater.

Chemical Changes - Global warming and Ozone layer depletion

The developed world generates nearly 10 times as much carbon dioxide from energy use as their counterpart in the developing countries. Under-developed countries who are trying to imitate the western model of growth and their life style are only compounding the problem. The threat comes from carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases produced mainly in the industrial world by the burning of fossil fuels. It is estimated that the total world wide manufacturing output increased from about $2500 billion in 1975 to about $4000 billion in 1990 and the trend continues unabated. This relentless industrial growth places a heavy demand on world's non-renewable resources particularly fossil fuels and minerals.

Acid rain

Acid rain, which until recently, was an hazard to central Europe only, is now spreading to underdeveloped countries also. It appears that it is an imminent threat in India too. There is a strong link between acidity of rain and industrial growth. Burning fossil fuels results in the production of noxious gases which are emitted, mainly from coal based power stations and heavy industrial plants. These particles easily find their way into people's lungs, leading to serious bronchial of lung diseases, many times becoming fatal.

Bio-Diversity Loss

Humans, as the dominant species, have been responsible for major habitat changes leading to a loss of genetic and species diversity. Tens of thousands of plant and animal species that shared the planet with us in 1972 have become extinct It is estimated that by the year 2020, 10 percent to 20 percent of the earth's 10 million species of plants and animals will be wiped .

Social Pathologies

Cities have risen to greatness only to collapse under their own weight due to epidemics, ecological calamities and social disorder. Scarcity of renewable resources may precipitate civil strife. The industrialized countries are beset by social pathologies which have been appropriately termed as the diseases of modern civilization. According to Karl Marx, every technological change brings, in its wake, a cultural change as well.There is an all round increase in stress related disorders of which the principal killers are heart diseases, cancer and stroke. The social fabric of society seems to be fracturing, leading to the emergence of a sick society. Psychological depression, schizophrenia, violent crimes, accidents, suicides, drug abuse is on the rise.

PROTECTION METHODOLOGIES

In 1982 the UN developed the World Charter for Nature. They state the measures needed to be taken at all societal levels, from international right down to individual, to protect nature.

Conservation biology is the scientific study of the nature and status of Earth's biodiversity with the aim of protecting species, their habitats, and ecosystems from excessive rates of extinction. It is an interdisciplinary subject drawing on sciences, economics, and the practice of natural resource management.

Habited conservation is a land management practice that seeks to conserve, protect and restore, habitat areas for wild plants and animals especially conservation reliant species and prevent their extinction, fragmentation or reduction for range.

Voluntary Environmental Agreements

In industrialized countries, voluntary environmental agreements often provide a platform for companies to be recognized for moving beyond the minimum regulatory standards and, thus, support the development of best environmental practice. In developing countries, such as throughout Latin America,

these agreements are more commonly used to remedy significant levels of non-compliance with mandatory regulation. The challenges that exist with these agreements lie in establishing baseline data, targets, monitoring and reporting. Due to the difficulties inherent in evaluating effectiveness.

Ecosystems approach

The complex interrelationships of an entire ecosystem in decision making rather than simply responding to specific issues and challenges. Ideally the decision-making processes under such an approach would be a collaborative approach to planning and decision making that involves a broad range of stakeholders across all relevant governmental departments, as well as representatives of industry, environmental groups and community. This approach ideally supports a better exchange of information, development of conflict-resolution strategies and improved regional conservation.

International environmental agreements

The most well-known multinational agreements include: the Kyoto Protocol, Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer and Rio Declaration on Environment and Development Rio. To avert the impending danger, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) known as the Kyoto Protocol was framed that sets targets to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change. The Kyoto Protocol now covers more than 55% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emission.

Three preservative ideas to safeguard nature from further depletion

1. Country-specific knowledge and technical applications in the resource extraction sector can effectively expand what appears to be a "fixed" resource endowment of a country.

2. There must be strong linkages between the resource sector and frontier-based activities and the rest of the economy.

3. There must be substantial knowledge spillovers arising from the extraction and use of resources and land in the economy.

CONCLUSION

It is the primary duty of every individual to safeguard our property i.e our natural resources and render the future generations a healthy asset. Many efforts are made by global brothers like a contributing total additional yearly investment required to achieve universal access to basic social services would be roughly $40 billion, 0.1% of world income, barely more than a rounding error . That covers the bill for basic education, health, nutrition, reproductive health, family planning and safe drinking water, conserving natural resources and sanitation for all.

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