

Environment and Development-The Challenges

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Introduction:-

Global environmental trends are not reassuring. Environmental degradation is taking a toll on human health over 3 lakh soviet citizens are being treated for radiation sickness, millions of children in india are suffering from water borne diseases, depletion of ozone layer in the stratosphese in nor them hemisphese will lead about 2 lakh skin cancer incidences for the next 50 year in united states alone. Soilerosion and land degradation, deproestation, pollution are reducing the productivity thus impading the economy. It is unfortunate that many still see the environment as a peripheral matter which can be dealt with minor changes in policy and practice. The evidence and impact of environmental degration is so much that now these issues can not be taken lightly. Continuing population explosion, rapidly spreading environmental debt have been lead is the dedine of living conditions in the developing countries. There is a tremendqus pressure to accelerate growth and sustain a rapidly growing population on limited resorce base. This has lead to an appasent conflict between environment and development.

Population and Consumption:-

World population reached 6 bilion in 1999 and could reach is 9 or 10 bilion by 2100. The most rapid population growth is in the developing world eg. Africa, Asia, and Latin America this rapid growth prsces many social, economic and environment challenges-not just for the developing world but also for the entise global community. These additional billions of people need equitable and sustainable access to heath services livelihood opportunities, food,matesial consumption goods housing and other infrastructure, education and soon.

"How many people can the Earth support"? This can only be answeres based on the answer to anthere question, "At what level of consumption"?

In a developing country like India, where the income is low, consumption per person is less than 200 kilogram per year mostly in the form of single grain such as rice, for the average American, on the other hand, the great bulk of the 800 kilogram annual consumption is consumed in the form of meat, park, poultry, egg, milk, cheese, icecream and yogurt. At the intermediaries level in a country like Italy, people consume 400 kilogram of grain per year. [Sourec- Brown, L... gardhhes, G. Halwall, B, "beyond Malthus": sixteen dimensions of the population problem. world watch paper 143, sep.-1998]

This marked inequity not only in the consumption of food but also in the consumption of several resources and services (health, education, communication, etc) between the developed and the developing world. Consumption per capital has increased steadily in industrial countries (about 2.3% annually) over the past 25 year, while the average African household today consumes 20 percent less than it did 25 year ago. The many advanced ecological impacts of over consumption. Are raising for example The United States with only 4% the world. Population is the largest contributor to global green house gas emissions.

Globalisation - boon or bane?

Globalisation is a phenomenon that is bringing the world closer through the exchange of goods and product, information knowledge and culture. But over the last few decades, the pace of this global integration has become much faster and dramatic because of unprecedented advancement in technology, communications, science, transport, industry and policy, while globalisation is hailed as a catalyst for and a consequence of human progress, it is also criticised for the social inequity and environment abuse.

When people criticise the effect of globalisation they generally refer to economic integration, economic integration discuss when countries lower barriers such as import tariffs and open their economies to investment and trade. These critics complain that inequalities in the current global trading system hurt developing countries at the expense of developed countries. Support of globalisation argue that countries like China, India, Uganda and Vietnam, that have opened up to the world economy have significantly reduced poverty. However critics say that the process has exploited people in developing. Countries, caused massive disruption and produced few benefits.

Some countries have profited from globalisation for ex. in China reform had to the largest poverty reduction in history. The number of rural poor fell from 250 million in 1978 to 34 million in 1999. But other countries have not benefited from globalisation.

Many countries in Africa have failed to share in the gains to globalisation. These exports have remained confined to a narrow range of primary commodities. Some experts suggest that corrupt governance have marginalised some countries other believe that geographical and climatic disadvantage have locked some countries out of global growth for ex. land - locked countries may find it hard to compete in global manufacturing and services may find it hard to compete in global manufacturing and service markets.

The Indian Scenario:-

India is a best country and is a land of diversity it's diverse eco systems, diverse cultures and tradition, 1652 spoken language make it unique, posing challenges for development planning at the same time .india's population has crossed over on billion in 2000. more than 30% of the population is below the poverty line. Unemployment is a serious problem with no regular employment to the work force. Over 40% of the population suffers from malnutrition these is a growing realisation that population policy must not only focus on numbers of people but also on the health and quality of life of people in general and woman in particular.

Conclusion:-

The cost of development has been high in terms of natural resources used in the process of economic growth. The increasing pressure of livestock, extension of agriculture, industrial growth and urbanisation has resulted in the rapid depletion of natural resources, loss of biodiversity and population of resources. need to provide employment and a better standard of living as well as the compulsion to increase export performance in an integration international market have increased the pressure further on the available resources in such a situation, balancing growth requirement of the present with conservation becomes an extremely difficult exercise.