

Impact of Economic Development on Social Environment

Dr. M. M. Abu Tayyab

Department of Sociology, Shia P.G. College, Lucknow

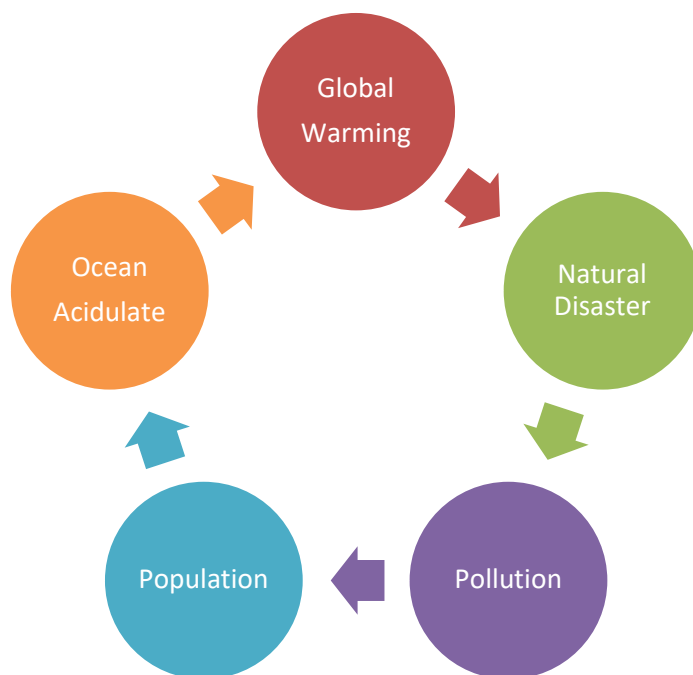
Introduction

Change is a universal process, there is nothing static in the world. The process of change goes on in every society, sometimes this change is slow, sometimes fast, sometimes linear, sometimes multilinear, and sometimes cyclic. Henry Sumner Maine believes that society moves from simple to complex (Maine,1908). We can see the process of social change in many ways like Evolution, Progress, Development, Social Movement, Revolution, etc. Now let's talk about development, If we talk about development, then there is a difference of opinion among scholars regarding its definition. If we put it simply, development is the change that is positive. Development is a multidimensional phenomenon that includes Social Development, Economic Development, political development, etc. We can assume that the beginning of the concept of development came in the 19th century when western countries started colonizing Asian countries and civilized them. First came the concept of economic development which talked-about increase in per capita income and GDP growth but due to its failure in bringing prosperity in the life of the people new dimensions emerged such as sustainable development, human development, administrative development, etc. after this, UNDP came into existence which talks about human development. This human development not only included per capita income but also included life expectancy and literacy in the parameter of development. Some shortcomings were also visible in this development, which ignored the environmental dimension, and now a new concept emerged which was called Sustainable Development. The first Earth Summit was organized by the UN in 1992 and named it 'Rio Earth Summit'. Brundtland Commission released a report and define sustainable development as (World Commission on Environment and Development):-

'Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs''



Sustainable development encompasses all three dimensions of socio-economic and environmental. So the development should be in such a way that there is no harm to our environment and the resources which are there should be saved for the coming future generation also. Development should be such that it is friendly to our environment, otherwise many problems may arise in coming time. We are mentioning some of the issues that harm the environment. These issues are pollution, global warming, climate change, Deforestation, Pollution, lack of Biodiversity, Waste Management, population, Ocean Acidification, Natural disaster, land Degradation, etc. All the issues are interlinked. Some are mentioned below diagram.



Environmental pollution has arisen in our present times as a result of modern civilization, advanced technology, advanced infrastructure, urbanization, and industrialization. Whatever is the biotic and abiotic components of the environment that affect the organisms living in the environment, they are dependent on each other and are interconnected with each other but they cannot adapt to the polluted environment, and many species are destroyed. Due to this, there is also a change in the weather which affects the living beings on the earth, due to this many

species are also getting extinct. Carbon Dioxide, Carbon Monoxide, Sulphur Dioxide, Suspended Particulate Matter, Nitrogen Oxide, Volatile Hydrocarbon Oxidant, and Ozone are some of the harmful gases that affect life. Carbon dioxide is a normal part of the atmosphere and is very necessary for trees, but still, it does not directly affect people, rather it increases the temperature of the earth, and the problem of global warming is caused by increasing the temperature of the earth. As the temperature rises, glaciers will start melting and many species will start becoming extinct due to heat. Carbon Monoxide is released from incomplete combustion of fuel which has harmful effects on respiratory patients. Sulfur dioxide aggravates respiratory diseases, Causes suffocation, sore throat, and irritation in the eyes. It mixes with water vapor present in the atmosphere to form acid rain.

Keeping all these problems in mind, the government has taken important steps from time to time and made many schemes so that environmental pollution can be reduced. Some of those schemes are as follows:-

1. The Environment Protection Act, 1986
2. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002
3. The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010, etc.

Conclusion:

Development and environment are closely related to each other. Development cannot be done by ignoring the environment. As in the beginning, development was considered to mean an increase in per capita income and an increase in GDP. In this era, development means the establishment of big industries, heavy use of vehicles, deforestation, use of advanced technology, urbanization, etc. As a result of this development, we can see environmental issues like global warming, ocean acidulate, pollution, etc. So Development should be such that it does not harm the environment and the available resources should be used in such a way that it is saved for the coming generation also, as stated in the Brundtland report.



Reference:

Maine, H.Sumner., Ancient Law, London, John Murray, Albemarle Street, W , 1908

Our Common Future: Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development".
UN Documents. n.d. Web. Retrieved 27 June 2013. < <http://www.un-documents.net/ocf-02.htm>>

<https://vikaspedia.in/energy/policy-support/enviormntal-1/forests/general-enviormental-acts>.

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_issues

