

DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION: THE NEED FOR A NEW MODEL OF DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

The policy of development has resulted in the development of the few and impoverishment of the many. The developmental model adopted by independent India has encountered conflicts over the issues of livelihood and environment. The unplanned development and industrialization have not only led to problems of livelihood and environmental degradation but also fueled the livelihood and the environmental movements. The quest for rapid growth and industrialization has caused serious imbalances in nature. In this context the present article tries to study the relationship between development and environment. This study tries to analyse different model of development prevailing in different parts of the world. The major focus of this study is on how the current model of development leads to environmental degradation. This study also focuses on how the current model of development is challenged and how it leads to the demand for a new model of development.

Keywords: Development, Environment Degradation, New Model of Development



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Introduction

Social and economic development as processes is natural to society since inception. The concept of development has gained momentum in the 1950's. Post Second World War decolonization period saw the dominance and the emergence of the idea of "Development" in academic literature. UN declared the 1960s as the Development decade. With declaration resulted in a plethora of literature on the idea of development. Initially, it was primarily used as an economic phrase referring to "growth", "increase in per capita income" etc. But quickly it was realised that development can't be thought of as a one-dimensional way having only economic implications. It must influence another dimension of life. Gradually academicians

and activists began to distinguish between growth and development. Development began to signify an improvement in the quality of conditions and life of living. The development indicates an improvement in every sense or it must add positive values in life. There must be some visible positive changes in life.

After India got independence, people had a lot of expectations from the government. Since independence, the Indian state was confronted by two various models of development i.e., the Gandhian notion of reviving the village economic system and also the Nehruvian type of fast industrialisation.

The majority of Indian nationalists thought that India's reconstruction was possible by emulating the west. This was possible by intellectually through the integration of contemporary science, materially through the adoption of large-scale industrialization (Guha and Gadgill, 1992). It is in this particular ideological context; India started the five-year plans in 1951. The colonial exploitation had left the nation in a lot of distress because of large scale poverty and unemployment. Hence, the focus was on revamping the core sectors of the economy like agriculture and industry. The Indian government adopted the 'industries or perish model' type of economic development in the next five-year plan. "From the next five-year plan onwards, the Indian government spent just 22 per cent of its total planned budget on agriculture. At that time, 75 per cent of the population was interested in farming. The majority of the planned budget went to build industries, which provide job just to eleven per cent of the population". (Kumar, 2005) When this particular policy was followed, it was assumed the advantages of industrialization would generate employment, increased production, and increase income would benefit the economy at the lowest level of the society. But we did not experience this.

The Process of Development

The effort to achieve modern industrial growth is based on two interrelated processes: one, the unchecked use of the earth's natural resources, and second, the transformation of individuals, typically against their will, into a disposed of the working class. These methods weren't a new thing, they had their antecedents in India's colonial history and now they have been legitimized as a part of the imperial objective of improvement and civilization of the natives - the white male's burden. (Guha, 1988 cited by Baviskar, 1995) For the independent State, modernization was vital to the task of national development. The task of national development isn't restricted to the Indian State alone but is deeply embedded in global structures. The national economies across the globe are mutually dependent. This model of

development has been emulated from the colonial powers like Britain, France, Germany, etc. The quest for growth necessitated huge injections of capital into the national economy for building industrial infrastructure an asset which has frequently been financed by international funds. (Baviskar, 1995) A common example of this type of funding is Vedanta Project in Odisha.

The Concept of Development

The idea of development is constantly changing since the start of civilization. It's been taking various dimensions and shapes over a period of time. The concept of development as observed in the early 1990s is significantly different from the experience of 1950s. Development is a term which is so complex that it is very difficult to satisfy everyone with a single approach. The development has been defined in the terminology of financial improvement of a nation; many others include community transformation in it but still, others believe with regards to rise in the capability associated with a political system. Thus, while defining the idea of development, it's essential to take an integrated approach. Development is a complex process comprising important dimensions of life like social, economic, political, cultural etc. Movement from tradition to modernity is an integral part of development. For every country, the vital designs of development are the elimination of poverty, social inequality and unemployment. The World Development Report 1991 examines a few indexes of advancement. To quote from the report "The challenge of development, in the broadest sense, is to improve the quality of life. Essentially in the world's poor countries, a better quality of life generally calls for higher incomes but it involves much more. It encompasses as ends in themselves, better education, higher standards of health and nutrition, less poverty, a cleaner environment, and more quality of opportunity, greater individual freedom and richer cultural life". (World Bank, 1991)

Environmental pollution of India has been brought on by a combination of social, financial, technological and institutional elements. Rapidly growing population, urbanization, manufacturing tasks and also increasing use of pesticide sprays as well as fossil fuels have almost all generated extensive degeneration of the quality as well as the sustainability of the ecosystem. After China, India is considered the most populous country on the planet accounting for 16.0 per cent of the world population and also having just 2.4 per cent of the entire world region. India's population has grown quickly since the time of independence. It has increased from 36.1 crores in 1951 to 43.9 crore in 1961, to 54.8 crores in 1971 and also to 68.5 crores

in 1981. The census of 1991 showed that the population increased from 84.4 crores to 102.7 crores in 2001. The population according to 2011 census is 121.4 crore. (Census, 2011) The ever-growing population has negatively affected the environment with the unnecessary utilization of land, forests as well as water-based resources along with the increasing industrial wastes.

India's increasing population has aggravated the issues of unemployment and poverty. Poverty is believed to be both causes as well as the effect of environmental pollution and degradation. The circular link between poverty as well as the environment is an incredibly complicated phenomenon. The process of inequality fosters unsustainability because there is a tussle between rich and poor over the use of natural resources. Additionally, the poor environment has a negative impact on the poor and it leads to their impoverishment. The reason is the poor depend on the availability of natural resources.

Nevertheless, the euphoria of rapid economic development produced a huge strain on India's natural resources. Forests have been put through fast degradation as a result of the growing need for forests and their resources for industrial use. On the other hand, other natural resources; specifically, clean water, land as well as air became dumping grounds for wastes from industries and other harmful substances. In a nutshell, green concerns had been totally overlooked throughout the initial two decades of independence and economic development. It had been during the early 1970s, the government realized the demand for environmental safeguard as a fundamental component of modern industries and its related policies. By then significant damage had actually been inflicted on India's nature-based resources.

Different Models of Development

The Post-World War II phase, the procedure of need, the emergence, and decolonisation for the financial reconstruction of nation-states, as well as the shadow of the Cold War commonly shaped the development discourse till the late 1970s. The political and industrial rise of the West and North America and Southern Europe on the one side, along with Russian Federation as well as communist states on the other, with the stagnation of a great number of nations with lower productivity, manufacturing backwardness as well as poverty gave rise to the very first, Second and also building world versions of growth respectively, The very first type of growth is known as the "Capitalist Model", the next world design was popularly referred to as the "Socialist Model" combined with the final world development model was named as the "Developing World Model".

The Capitalist Model of Development

The capitalist system of growth is characterised by the provision of private ownership of means and property creation, minimum state influence on financial enterprises, along with a totally free economy managed by competition. This developmental model additionally emphasises sustained modernisation and growth with substantial state investment at the take-off stage. This particular perspective insists economic development would centre on industrialisation. This particular model of growth is criticised as pro-wealthy as well as anti-poor in character. It is claimed that it boosts the wealthy poor divide and creates uneven development.

The Socialist Model

The socialist-style or even Second World design was contradictory to the capitalist type of development. It challenged the capitalist type of development. It propagated the abolition of ownership of personal property and also means of creation, emphasised state ownership of means of production, state-owned public business, along with a state-regulated economic system also centralised preparation by the state for financial development. While both the capitalist and also the socialist theories laid the main focus on economic development, the socialist version even emphasised on the equal division of the fruits of development with all of the areas of the population. This particular type of improvement faced the tragic consequences of it's in the 80s when there's the fall of communism in Soviet Russian Federation. The model couldn't yield its targeted result and then failed to produce an egalitarian society. Instead, poverty, as well as unemployment, evolved into the worst outcomes of this particular model of development.

Developing World Model

The developing world is represented by the ex-colonial, non-aligned and independent states of Asia, Africa as well as Latin America. These nations were industrially backward during the time of liberation. These nations witnessed broad diversity in conditions of the socio-cultural and political configurations as well as historic levels and experiences of economic and technological advancement. These nations had been technologically and economically underdeveloped and had been undergoing the process of nation-building and quick interpersonal transformation in the post-colonial era. As against these backdrops, these nations are actually tinkering with several versions of development. For instance, India has adhered to the road of "mixed economy" by following a path of development between socialist models

and the capitalist. With all the procedure of Globalization as well as the subsequent structural changes policies this particular system is taking the root of a capitalist pattern of development.

Democratic Socialist Model of Development

This particular design advocates development with the securing of socialist objectives by utilizing democratic means. India and many other third world countries chose to follow this particular model. In reality, these states put together the democratic socialist and welfare type of State model for fast industrialization, economic development and growth. Organised planning and democratic procedure of politics were used by them.

Nevertheless, the particular functioning of this particular type of development also proved to be insufficient for securing the aim of fast socio-economic-political advancement. Bureaucratic inefficiency, corruption, flawed preparation goals as well as the growth that is slowly resulted in insufficient achievement in all of the aspects of development.

Within the last decade of twentieth centuries, these states also chose to go in for liberalisation, competition, privatisation, globalisation and market economy. These began registering a number of rapid developments by utilizing the new model. Nevertheless, this model of development has additionally started showcasing several dangers and limitations of globalisation and privatisation.

It has started acting as a supply of commercialization of human relations as well as commercialization of education, social service sectors and healthcare. A requirement for reforms as well as modifications is presently being developed as well as followed, especially for fulfilling the pressures resulting from worldwide financial downturn.

Welfare Model of Development

The Welfare type of development accepts and also strongly advocates the importance of the state in the economic sphere for improving the socio-economic welfare as well as common interests of the society. It conceptualises the state as being a welfare state and recommends that organised efforts and state planning are important for fast industrialization, socio-economic development and economic growth. The welfare state is able to offer different kinds of social services for the individuals i.e., employment, health, education and social security as well as public distribution program.

It functions as the agency for promoting desired social development and change. It will take specific measures for safeguarding the interests of the weaker segments of society.

Welfare State protects all social, political and economic rights of all of the folks and in turn, others act in a socially responsible manner.

Gandhian Model of Development

The Gandhian type of development was unique and indigenous to India. It was propounded by the father of the country Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. Nature is the centre of all attention in this approach. Gandhian type of development had two goals which distinguished it from some other versions of development. These two priorities were: The improvement of the self of the people in the development process and material prosperity of the villages.

Sustainable Development

The idea of “Sustainable Development was first launched by Brundtland Commission (1987) who defined development as ‘sustainable’ assuming it meets the requirements of the present without compromising the capability of generations to come to meet up with their very own needs”. Sustainable development implies minimising the usage of exhaustible assets to develop a continuous flow of it throughout generations and making suitable use of sustainable resources. Consequently, sustainable development argues that development should be both inclusive and environmentally sound also reducing poverty and unemployment. In addition to this, it must develop shared prosperity for present-day individual and also continue to keep meeting up with the requirements of generations to come. The three pillars of sustainable development are economic development, social inclusion, and environmental stewardship.

The current Model of Development leads to Earth Degradation

The main factors behind the environmental degradation are contemporary urbanization, over-population growth, industrialization, deforestation etc. Environmental pollution refers to the wreckage of quantity and quality of natural resources. Human activities are responsible for environmental degradation.

Land Degradation

India may be the seventh largest state in the planet, with a complete land area of 3,287,263 sq. km. It measures 3,214 km. from North to South and 2,993 km. from East to West. It's a land frontier of 15,200 km. along with a coastline of 7,517 km. from India's overall geographical location of 328.73 million hectares. (SoE Report, 2019)

The varying types and degrees of degradation stem primarily from unsustainable use as well as inappropriate management practices of the land. Loss of vegetation happens as an

outcome of fodder extraction, unsustainable fuel-wood, and deforestation, shifting cultivation, encroachment into forest lands, forest fires and combining all this constitute the degradational forces. Various other key elements accountable for large scale degradation are; non-adoption of ample earth efficiency measures, incorrect crop rotation, indiscriminate use of agricultural chemicals like pesticides and fertilizers, improper management and planning of irrigation systems as well as extraction of groundwater in excess of the recharge capability.

At the behest of the Ministry of Environment, Forest as well as Climate Change, ISRO's Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad alongside partner institutes has taken up the process of studying land degradation in India applying Indian Remote Sensing Satellites (IRSS) information. The evaluation reveals that 96.40 million hectares area (MHA) or may be 29.32 per cent of the Total Geographic Area (TGA) in India is having a procedure of land degradation during 2011-13, that is a rise of 1.87 mha region or maybe 0.57 per cent of TGA after 2003-05.¹

India has pledged to restore five million hectares of a degraded area by 2030². But this is merely 1.5 per cent of the country's geographical region, 28.5 percentages which is less than the total land remains degraded.

Air Pollution

Air pollution in India is proving to be an important concern. India's continuous population explosion along with quick industrialization and urbanization has placed considerable pressure on the infrastructure and on its natural resources. While the Industrial sector has contributed substantially to the economic development of India, it's done so at a significant expense to the environment. Pollution of air and the resultant impacts of it's could be linked to pollutants from vehicular, domestic and industrial activities. The air quality continues to be, consequently, a concern of social problem in the backdrop of different developmental works. There has been unbalanced development of industries, deforestation and unplanned urbanization. Based on reports India's atmosphere quality position is among the world's is worst. So, among three million premature deaths on the planet which occur every year on account of indoor and outdoor air pollution, the top numbers are evaluated to be happening in India. A number of cities in India have seen a drop in air pollution levels because of different actions taken by the Governments. The Bhopal disaster of 1983, among the worst

¹ <http://www.teriin.org/article/reversing-land-degradation-india>

² http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/as-india-hosts-desertification-meet-30-of-its-land-is-already-degraded-119090200088_1.html

mishap experienced by humankind, saw the demise of a huge number of individuals and is adversely affecting the new born with numerous genetic problems even after so many years. Although after the tragic Bhopal incident no main crash has thus far happened in nuclear facilities in India, the prospect is unquestionably not remote. Many Indian nuclear power plants are stricken by little reactor crashes. The Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant has probably the most radioactively polluted interiors on the planet. Pesticides are yet another category of green contaminants. A lot of pesticides are recognized to enjoy a biomagnifying character, i.e., developing a cumulative impact after years of build-up within the body or even magnifying in focus while entering from prey to predator in the food chain. The utilization of severely poisonous pesticides has led to the drop of countless bird species and caused severe ailments amongst humans by poisoning the environment as well as water in most places.

In reality, pollution of air is liable for 12.5 per cent of all deaths in India. (SoE Report, 2019) Over 100,000 kids below the age of five die due to poor air in the nation.

Water Pollution

As we think about water in our daily life, the UN declared the ten years 2005- 2015 as the ten years of “water for life”. (UN World Water Development Report, 2005) Living begins with water, depends upon drinking water, along with decays with water. On average, the mixture of rainfall, surface and groundwater resources are having adequate water for giving enough water to the Indian people. The surge in demand and pressures of development are impacting the scenario of clean water accessibility in India. Erosion in the watersheds because of quick development as well as bad land management methods is increasing siltation and transforming stream hydraulics. Groundwater reserves are starting to be increasingly more depleted while as surface water sources start to be very contaminated for human use.

Drinking water pollution is a major issue of India as nearly seventy per cent of the surface water resources are polluted by biological, poisonous, inorganic and organic contaminants. So, these water sources are made unsafe for human consumption along with for some other works like irrigation as well as industry requirements. This illustrates that degraded water quality will create water scarcity as it restricts its availability for human consumption and natural use. In 1995, the Central Pollution Control Board identified seriously contaminated stretches on eighteen main rivers in India. (World Bank, 1999) Not surprisingly, many of these stretches have been found in big cities. The high likelihood of serious contamination near cities suggests the domestic and industrial sector's contribution to water pollution is significantly

greater. Besides quickly depleting groundwater, the nation faces another significant problem of groundwater contamination and approximately nineteen states are facing the issue of groundwater contamination. Both surface as well as groundwater for the nation is below normal. Eighty-six water bodies are significantly polluted. (SoE Report, 2019)

The Biodiversity Crises

India is among the 17 identified mega diverse countries of the planet. From approximately seventy per cent of the entire geographical region surveyed thus far, 45,500 plant species (including lower plants and fungi) and ninety-one animal species, representing approximately 7 per cent of the world's flora also 6.5 per cent of the world's fauna, respectively, are discussed. About 6,500 plants that are native continue to be utilized prominently in the indigenous healthcare services. From the biodiversity standpoint, India has several 59,353 insect species, 2,546 fish species, 240 amphibian species, 460 reptile species, 1,232 bird species as well as 397 mammal species, of which 18.4 per cent are endemic also 10.8 per cent are threatened. (SoE, 2019)

Biodiversity is essential for keeping the harmony of the environment and helps in fighting pollution, restoring nutrients, protecting stabilizing climate and water sources. The primary reason for the loss of biodiversity is deforestation, climate change, overpopulation as well as pollution etc. In reality, individuals have profoundly changed the planet, and also have modified the territory, exploiting the species immediately, for instance by hunting and fishing, replacing the biogeochemical cycles, transferring species from a single region to yet another area. Deforestation as a result of hydropower as well as mining projects poses important risks to biodiversity in India.

Vanishing Forest

All-natural forests across India are steadily disappearing, with a few really serious declines in the core forest region and big protected forests. All-natural forest protection is a crucial determinant of biodiversity, ecosystem services as well as the balance of ecosystems and same work can't be done by plantations. That this kind of organic forests is declining considerably. Experts in the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad, analysed the patterns of declining eco-friendly forests across India from 2001 to 2014, utilizing MODIS satellite data, measured drop in the primary forest areas and also determined hotspots of forest damage in big secured forest areas.

Based on official statistics compiled by the Ministry of Climate Change, Forests, and Environment, a total of ‘one million five hundred thousand’ hectares of forests have been diverted between the period of 1980-2019: over five hundred thousand hectares for mining, the remaining for energy plants, transmission lines, other projects and dams. Within the last 3 years alone (2015 to 18), the Indian Government has given ‘forest clearances’ of over 20,000 hectares³, licensing destruction of mainly dense forests. A recently available analysis of mining driven deforestation covering more than 300 districts points out the state which accounts for approximately thirty-five per cent of India's forest cover. These States are Odisha, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, along with Jharkhand - additionally make considerable amounts of iron and coal. Several of these states have regularly recorded forest covering reduction in the latest information based on official forest protection data.

Impact of Environmental Degradation

The effect of environmental degradation is posing a major risk by challenging the ecosystem and impacting organic eco-balance. Loss of topsoil, salinity, pollution, shortage of water as well as biomass is mainly responsible for severe declines in farming efficiency in a number of places, making the food security situation dismal. Although the degradation indirectly or directly affects everyone but in case of very poor and most marginalised sections, the chances tend to be more as they are directly exposed to all sort of hazardous occupations. Large numbers of workers in India are subjected to bad occupational environments, filled with dust, dirt, noise, heat, gases as well as machinery danger. About seventy per cent of the illnesses in India are induced by contaminated water. These illnesses reach the poor much more than the wealthy due to the unhygienic existing conditions and bad socio-economic atmosphere. Yearly, a huge number of manufacturing employees, particularly contract labourers, fall prey to eco degraded working problems. Farming labourers, probably the poorest rural strata are most exposed to the hazards of pesticides and threshers.

The immediate effect of the degradation of environmental leads to severe issues like the decline in farming efficiency and which force farmers to use increasingly more pesticides and fertilizers. Nevertheless, merely rich farmers are able to afford to invest a large amount on the newest varieties of fertilizers and pesticides to boost the productivity.

³ According to [information presented in the Parliament](#), Telangana topped the list with 5,137.38 hectares, followed by Madhya Pradesh with 4,093.38 and Odisha with 3,386.67 hectares.

Poor and marginal farmers are fighting a losing fight and numerous ends up taking their own lives, as in the case of the cotton growers of Andhra Pradesh in the latest times. Marginal farmers are further impacted by the loss of different indigenous knowledge and varieties of livestock and crops as they are left without any fallback systems. Loss of biodiversity has frequently marginalised as well as impoverished numerous tribal along with other forest-dependent communities which exclusively rely on numerous parts of biodiversity for food, spirituality, culture, medicine, drink, etc. The indirect effect of degradation like severe drought or maybe deforestation induced floods additionally hits the very poor the most. Poverty in these instances is an immediate effect of environmental destruction.

The Dominant Model of Development and Environment

Probably the most excellent definition among all the contemporary discourse on growth is provided by Riddell: “change in favour of common human improvement, then change of two types typically linked: expansion in consumption and enhancement of welfare”. (Cohen, 1985) This particular model of development is dependent on the panacea for each crisis which hits mankind. It is going to eradicate poverty, ill-health and connected man miseries and can result in overall human welfare. Economic growth, consumerism and productivity, therefore, acquire prime value in a country's preparation as indicators of development.

Both the capitalist and also the socialist countries follow exactly the same model of development with very little variance. In capitalist countries market is the chief allocator of resources, whereas in socialist countries allocation of resources was done by centralised planning. Nevertheless, both consider industrial development, increased consumption and production, progress in technology and science as the index of advancement. The improved material prosperity is usually to be accomplished by conquering the forces of nature with the assistance of technology and science.

The dominating development paradigm defines ‘rich’ as a person/nation containing, even more, buying power, and ‘poor’ as a person/nation containing much less buying power in a consumerist economy. Wealthy or ‘developed’ nations, who've accomplished the greatest level of material prosperity and are, able to offer the citizens a good standard of living, stand up as being a role model for the ‘underdeveloped’ and ‘developing’ nations. These nations are expected to analyse the ‘developed’ nation and stick to the very same road towards productivity, prosperity and consumerism.

Millions of individuals now a day are even worse off than they had been when the modern development process began to take off. Tribals are alienated from their forests and land, nomadic groups have had their pastures taken away by mega-projects, marginal peasants, as well as the landless, have grown to be economically substantially more insecure. Over fifty million individuals are displaced by development projects, rendered refugees in desperate search of jobs and shelter since they had no say in the planning of the development of the nation.

The procedure for structural adjustments and liberalisation that India embarked upon in the 1990s has just served to intensify the social and environmental problems. You will find a minimum of four elements to it:

- A) The drive towards an export-led design of the development is quickly depleting natural sources to be able to earn foreign exchange, especially in the fisheries as well as mining sectors.
- B) The move to liberalisation is causing a free-for-all environment, with industries frequently ignoring green requirements as well as state governments foregoing natural habitats, such as the own wildlife of their protected areas, to clear the way for business enterprises.
- C) Directives to lower the government's spending are leading to cuts in environmental and social sectors. This is bringing about stagnation or maybe decrease in programmes aim for the preservation as well as regeneration of natural resources.
- D) Opening up of the economic system is bringing in organizations with a notorious track record on the protection of the environment.

The controversy on the Economic Policies of the 1990s has highlighted another essential element of the environmental issues: the job of overseas International Organisations. Much as inequities inside the nation have fuelled the problems, those between nations have generated extensive environmental degradation. Unequal trade regimes are compelling Southern nations to over exploit the resources of theirs to participate in the global market place and lower their financial debt burdens. Foreign aid from bilateral and multilateral donors (notably the World Bank) principally finances eco harmful projects, and also aid packages (notably IMF) drive macroeconomic policies more towards inequitable and unsustainable resource consumption.

Within the last seventy years debate over development, there is already a detailed analysis relating to its failures and achievements. From the start, social equality continues to be emphasized at every level in the process of development. However, with the modification of the developmental policies and particularly after the 1990s by prioritizing economic progress as the main thrust of development, the policymakers have implemented a new paradigm of development. Together with the economic development as well as social equity and ecological balance has constantly attracted the interest of environmentalists and social activist. Thus, we must visualize the development of ours by taking these three aspects such as ecological stability, social equity, and economic growth, into account. Awareness of the three aspects clubbed with some kind of economic efficiency, ecological stability and social equity are important for every development to take place.

The interaction between development and environment is usually alluded to discover its expression in the movements of the third world, particularly in India. The environmental protest is a kind of neo social movements which have been a recent occurrence in Social Movements. Even though the beginnings of such movements are particular to certain nations, in India, they are usually traced back to 1970s. Strangely their growth continues to be witnessed in the very short span of thirty-five years, especially during the final quarter of the twentieth century as well as the succeeding years of 20 first century. These movements have been a significant area of focus due to their mass and natural appeal. It's well worth talking that, among various types of mass protests which India has previously observed, the job that environmental movements have played throughout a final couple of years happen to be different. Because these movements are directly associated with the culture, earth as well as the very presence of individuals in a big scale and also have challenged the state power directly, which viewed as strong and powerful.

While different elements are linked to the growth of these movements in India, the job that Development has played is very significant. A majority of these dichotomies have found a place in the Protest Movements of India, particularly in Lanjigarh.

Contesting Old Development and the Search of New Model of Development

There is a constant struggle between the development policy planner and the people who are considered as the real end of getting benefits of these development policies. The procedure for development hasn't been straightforward or easy; it's been constantly contested by fighting groups of elites, within as well as between nation-states. (Stephens and Evans 1988)

More significantly, the efforts of elites to exploit in view of development are stopped as well as opposed by the folks that they wanted to marginalize. The protest has happened at numerous levels and also wanted to achieve various goals - from keeping access to natural resources, to have a say in developmental policies, to assert cultural autonomy. But the majority elites want the power to formulate developmental policies to be centralised in few their hands which will help them to control the resources, whereas the marginalised group want the power to be decentralised which will provide them with the opportunity to have a greater say in the developmental policies of the state.

Environmental degradation and population explosion create issues for socio-economic growth and also has disrupted the ecological balance and therefore threatening human presence in the 21st century. How you can sustain a human living on earth has become a huge question mark. Several humans made disasters like Bhopal Gas tragedy; Chernobyl disaster continuously bothers us. So, these environmentally dangerous projects only benefited the few elites whereas its danger was faced by the marginalised people who have little say in the development process. The people challenge the present model of development and want a new model of development where marginalised people will play an major role in policy formulation.

Conclusion

There have been discussions and debates at international and national levels about the relationship between environment and development. The environmental effects of the new growth trends raised global concern. Formerly regarded as the panacea for every human issue, the dominant development method is now challenged on the basis of ecological expenses as well as goes against the whole concept of growth. The principle of “optimum utilization” of natural resources is the basic principle for this development method. This has far-reaching implications for individuals who tend to rely on nature to survive. In India, the over-use of natural resources is only advantageous for few people, because of its unique socio-historical situation.

Natural resources from the survival requirements of several people achieve developmental objectives. Although few share the benefits of growth, as a consequence this will cost the lives of poor people, humanity and marginalized. The depletion and misuse of these natural resource base led to these people being further impoverished. These unfair rewards are mediated by the State from the development. Nevertheless, this uneven development procedure which is resulting in environmental degradation is challenged. This

challenge is motivated by the movements of the environment. Today, these movements are seen as vital to sustainability approaches and promote an alternative model of long-term sustainable growth.

Protest movements for environmental protection on the planet are known for their complexity and diversity. Nevertheless, the majority of the movement for environmental protection in India is viewed as protests by a number of grassroots individual activists and where they question the developmental policy of the government. These developmental policies of the Indian government are believed to be damaging environment and natural habitat. The local people have better cultural and traditional ties with the environment and they considered as the best protector of the environment. Because of these reasons, serious debates over development as well as the environment are taking place in various academic spheres. This particular debate regarding the need for new model of development has emerged due to the conflict between development and environment. people are demanding that the in new model of development people should have the right to take care of their natural resources and there should be significant change in current policy programs to encourage local management of the resources and also policy should be formulated at the grassroot level.

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