

# Sustainability and Environmental Management

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**Abstract-** In the first decade of the new century, the issue of human impacts on global climate change has mostly been framed within a broader debate about sustainability. The last twenty years of research in development studies, influenced by postmodernism and post structuralism, leave no doubt of the enormous power of language and discourse to structure the way we think about – and therefore take action about – development . The words we use to talk about development, and the way our arguments construct the world, are hugely significant. Development action is driven forwards by texts ranging from humanitarian tracts to national development plans. There was a self-conscious effort to move beyond environmental protection and transform conservation thinking by appropriating ideas and concepts from the field of development. In extending their focus from hedgerows to rainforests, environmentalists found (or claimed to have found) much common ground with environmental groups in developing countries opposing development projects that threatened breakdown in indigenous and subsistence ways of life . Environmental management system (EMS) refers to the management of an organization's environmental programs in a comprehensive, systematic, planned and documented manner. It includes the organizational structure, planning and resources for developing, implementing and maintaining policy for environmental protection An environmental management system addresses the environmental impact of an organization's activities and establishes goals and procedures that will improve the impact it has on the environment and human health. Sustainable development is the organizing principle for meeting human development goals while at the same time sustaining the ability of natural systems to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services upon which the economy and society depend.

**Key Words-** environment, management, development, sustainability, climate change.

**Introduction:-** Thirty years ago ,the international community gathered in Stockholm for the United Nations Conference on Human Environment to sound an alarm about the perilous state of Earth and its resources. That landmark event is widely credited with environment issues being placed on the international agenda leading. in turn to establishment of environment ministries at the national level, and increased awareness of the impact that even local decisions can have, on the global environment.

Every activity generates unavoidable environmental impact of some kind or the other. but the ability of people and societies to adapt themselves to and cope with the change is varied.

People in developing countries, particularly in the less developed countries, have less capacity to adapt to change and are more vulnerable to environmental threats and the global change. Poverty is generally recognized as one of the most important causes of vulnerability to environmental threats because the poor tend to have much lower coping capacities and, therefore they have bear a disproportionate burden of the impact of disasters, conflicts, drought, desertification and pollution.

## **Environmental Management- concept**

Environmental Management is entirely an emerging and dynamic concept. Environmental Management is concerned with the management for environment encompassing a business. It represents the organizational structure, responsibilities sequences, processes and preconditions for the implementation of an environmental corporate policy. Environment brings together all inanimate organism and forces functioning in nature including man. The basic functions of good environmental management are goal setting; information management; support of decision making; organizing and planning of environmental management; environmental management programs; piloting; implementation and control; communication; internal and external auditing, etc. The present state of economic development, including the environmental state, makes it necessary to broaden management's understanding of natural environment.

## **Sustainable Development:-**

The concept of sustainable Development (Brutaland Commission 1972) broadly means that the development initiatives be initiated in such a way that the future generations can enjoy the benefits of nature without any compromise. It reiterates that we must use the resources only to the extent to which it is sustainable. Since the Stockholm Environmental Conference in 1972 the focus has been on regulating for the caring capacity of the globe. The important elements in the attempts to achieve sustainability have been on

- 1.Regulation
- 2.Consumer awareness
- 3.Companies' solution of end-of-pipe problems
- 4.Companies' green product development.

The government of each country has developed guiding principles of sustainability from the Stockholm Conference. The United Nations have given an impetus to these Stockholm principles by providing the Agenda 21 through the Earth Summit at RIO in 1992. The principles listed below serve as a source of inspiration to evolve action areas by the national government, depending upon their capacity.

## **Environment and Technology**

The major difficulty with that present discussion of technology is the fact that we focus our attention on what we call technology in its everyday sense and we ignore technology in its essence. In this situation it matters little whether we embrace technology or condemn it since both, due to our misunderstanding of what technology actually means, equally enslave us.

Technology, in this view, is an object or a complex of objects and techniques, that seems passive itself, indeed we conceive of it as activated by us only. Viewed from a different angle, the essence of technology reveals it as something far from neutral or merely as an instrument of human control. It is an autonomous organizing activity within which humans are organized. On viewing technology as means to an end. We realize that everything depends on how we manipulate technology.

In summary, the problem with our critique of technology lies at two levels. First, while we argue and take sides on the issue of technology. None of us is really free to deal with it constructively because none of us really understands it in its essence.

Second, our limited understanding of technology is so misguided that little of value can be salvaged from it. This is because all discussions are prefaced on the view that technology is an object, which we manipulate as a means to our own ends. In fact, the essence of technology reveals it as a vast system of organization that encompasses us rather than something that stands objectively and is passively ready for our direction and control.

### **Scope and Aspects of Environmental Management:**

Environmental management is very wide in scope and includes all the technical, economical and other aspects of environment.

### **The broader objectives of environmental management includes:**

- (i) To identify the environmental problem and to find its solution.
- (ii) To restrict and regulate the exploitation and utilization of natural resources.
- (iii) To regenerate degraded environment and to renew natural resources (renewable)
- (iv) To control environmental pollution and gradation.

- (v) To reduce the impacts of extreme events and natural disaster.
- (vi) To make optimum utilization of natural resources.
- (vii) To assess the impacts of proposed projects and activities on environment.
- (viii) To review and revise the existing technologies and make them ecofriendly.
- (ix) To formulate laws for the implementation of environmental protection and conservation programmes.

The components of environmental management are based on five fundamental aspects.

### **1. Environmental perception and public awareness:**

**The environmental perception and public awareness considers the following points:**

- (a) Sources of environmental perception and public awareness.
- (b) Level of environmental perception.
- (c) Role of environmental perception in environmental planning and management.

### **2. Environmental education and training:**

Environmental education and training should be given at school, college and University levels by professionals.

### **3. Resource management:**

**The resource management considers the following points:**

- (i) Classification of natural resources
- (ii) Survey and evaluation of ecological resources
- (iii) Preservation of resources
- (iv) Conservation of resources

### **4. Control of Environmental degradation and pollution:**

**The environmental degradation and pollution can be checked by considering the following points:**

- (i) Control of environmental degradation and pollution.
- (ii) Adopting suitable preventive mechanisms to reduce natural hazards and disaster.
- (iii) Regeneration of degraded environment.

## 5. Environmental impact assessment:

### The environmental impact assessment involves:

- (i) Appraisal of existing environmental conditions
- (ii) Appraisal of existing and proposed production methods
- (iii) Methodologies and procedures
- (iv) Probable impacts of existing and proposed project.
- (v) Review of technology and required improvement.

Environmental problems are becoming serious in India because of the interacting effects of increasing population density, industrialization and urbanization, and poor environmental management practices. Unless stringent regulatory measures are taken, environmental systems will be irreversibly degraded. Lack of political commitment, lack of a comprehensive environmental policy, poor environmental awareness, functional fragmentation of the public administration system, poor mass media concern, and prevalence of poverty are some of the major factors responsible for increasing the severity of the problems. Environmental problems in India are highly complex, and management procedures have to be developed to achieve coordination between various functional departments, and for this, political leaders have to be convinced of the need to initiate environmental protection measures.

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