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Global vision of Environmental Protection Through Local Mission

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ABSTRACT:

Presently environmental crisis had become a major social and political ‘hot spot’. The Indian government responded by introducing the ‘Scientific Approach to Development’ The paper analyses the concept of sustainable development that has determined the society to recognize and become aware of the importance of environmental factors as well as of the functions and services that the environment offers. Sustainable development has as its goal the improvement of the negative effects of environmental pollution having in regard the need to satisfy present generation needs while ensuring the liveliness of the environmental factors for future generations. . . The main contribution of our study is the identification of specific sets of strategies employed by firms broadly speaking, these environmental management strategies are divided into compliance, a pursuit of competitive advantage, and a structural integration of environmental management.

Keywords: Environmental Protection; Environmental Management, Corporate Responsibility, Pollutants, Industries, Ashthama, Sustainable Development

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INTRODUCTION:

Conservation of the global environment and achievement of a sustainable society, is not possible without reduction of environmental impact to a level within the Earth's self-recovery capabilities. For realisation of this objective we must first envision an ideal society and global environment, then we must create a long-term vision to realize our ideas and seriously promote environmental conservation activities. Global environmental conservation is a challenge and to realize our global vision we need to have a firm and practicable local mission. Similar to a confluence of rivers merging in the great ocean all efforts at the local levels lead to the realisation of global vision of a safe and secure environment for all.

Nations world over have done pretty little for our environment so far except conduct of several meetings and seminars at international level with no concrete and positive outcome and by the present trend it will likely to be very similar in the days ahead. Unless people at local and community level take initiative, environmental degradation will continue to make its impact felt in different ways at the universal level. In the absence of genuine and wholehearted measures environmental problems threaten to reach irreversible stage. Hence there is an urgent need to evolve local mission for successful global vision of environmental protection. This paper modestly puts forward an array of measures as local mission for environmental protection while emphasising the positive role that these measures at the local level can play in meeting the challenges effectively at the global level.

CAUSES OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

“Any use of natural resources at a rate higher than nature's capacity to restore itself can result in pollution of air, water and land” we process, consume and throw away a high volume of material resources at a very high rate, and the nature's own rate of re-absorbing these resources back into its structure and effectively neutralizing them is much slower than our rates of productions/consumption. So it is not just the concepts of production and consumption but excessive production and consumption which are the major contributors to man-caused pollution. Besides this, it is not only excessive production but also inefficient and dirty methods of production which become sources of environmental pollution. Added to this, excessive consumption, careless and thoughtless disposal of post-consumption waste resources which would also cause environmental pollution.

Although pollution had been known to exist since long it had seen the growth of truly global proportions only since the onset of the industrial revolution during 19th century. The industrial revolution brought with it technological progress such as discovery of oil and its virtually universal

use through different industries. Technological progress facilitated by super efficiency of capitalist business practice had largely become one of the main causes of serious depletion and degradation of natural resources.

Pollutants released from various sources affect directly or indirectly people and their environment. Pollutants emitted from different sources are transported, dispersed or deposited by meteorological and topographical conditions. Dispersion of pollutants in the atmosphere takes place due to mean air flow that transports the pollutants downwind and turbulent velocity fluctuations that disperse the pollutants in all directions. Environmental pollution is a problem both in developed and developing countries. Unimaginable and unmanageable population growth and urbanisation are the major factors which have placed greater demand on the planet and compelled to stretch the use of natural resources to the maximum.

Simply says the main causes of Environmental pollution:

1. Increasing of population and decreasing of natural resources
2. Deforestation
3. Industrialisation
4. Urbanisation
5. Formation of roads
6. Construction of Dams, Rivers
7. Increasing of radiation

HEALTH IMPACTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

All types of pollution such as air, water and soil pollution have an impact on the health of human beings. Pollution causes not only physical disabilities but also psychological and behavioural disorders in people. Environmental pollution can affect public health in many ways and human beings are affected by it in different ways. Some individuals are much more sensitive to pollutants than others. Young children and elderly people often suffer more from the effects of pollution. People with health problems such as asthma, heart and lung disease may also suffer more when the air is polluted. Similarly water-pollution, soil-pollution and environmental pollution related diseases also cause severe health hazards, at times proving to be fatal in nature.

REMEDIES TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

There is a need to search for remedies to reduce the impact of effects of environmental pollution

1. First of all factories, industries, business houses, hospitals, municipal authorities etc., made to strictly follow the rules to contain environmental pollution caused as a result of their activities.
2. All industries must follow safe and scientific methods of disposing the waste material.
3. Industries that pollute environment shall be closed down.
4. Use of manur instead of chemical fertilizers has to be encouraged.
5. A forestation and planting of saplings in urban and rural areas will help to restore the levels of oxygen in our atmosphere and also prevent several natural hazards.
6. Bicycles(Electric) can be used for short distances instead of fuel vachicles.
7. Promotion of renewable energy sources
8. A forestation and wasteland development
9. Economic reforms, subsidy removal and joint ventures in capital gains
10. Governments of various countries should give priority to programmes aimed at controlling environmental pollution.

Successive U.N. Conferences have drawn attention to the environmental problem and the need for global action They also urged the industrialized countries to considerably reduce the emission of polluting gases by end of 20th century .Needless to mention that the survival and well-being of nations would depend on sustainable development.

BEYOND SLOGAN CAMPAIGN

Pollution is the result of activities at the global level and nations may be required to implement international agreements that address current pollution practices. As environmental problems become global in scope, international cooperation is needed to solve them. International and regional organizations may play a key role in developing a consensus on what types of collective action should be pursued .Although the role of international organizations is extremely important, one should not forget that environmental problems require action at the national and local levels also.

Moreover, the efforts so far put in have not proceeded beyond slogan campaigns to practical implementation. Of late there has been much campaigning and sloganeering in respect of environmental protection. Many seminars, symposia, conferences etc., have been continuously held and many environmental-related issues have been discussed but the results are hardly encouraging .An honest introspection by everyone connected with and concerned for environmental protection is the need of the hour. The revelation of such introspection could be that we are struck up too long at

slogan campaign. There is an urgent need to come out of it and proceed towards implementation of what we campaign for.

PARTICIPATION OF PEOPLE

People's participation should be viewed as most important and active process in which people take initiatives and action that is stimulated by their own thinking and deliberation and which they can effectively influence. Participation is therefore more than an instrument of implementing all projects related to environmental protection. It is a development approach which recognizes the need to involve all the sections of the population in the design and implementation of policies concerning their well-being. While participatory approaches have been successful in many countries at stimulating self-help activities at the local level, they can and should also be followed in the design, implementation and evaluation of large scale projects.

Increased public environmental awareness especially among the younger generation, is the need of the hour, so that they take the lead to ensure a pollution free environment through active participation. The process and programmes for protection of environment can only be successful in full measure with the participation of the people at local level as a mission which ultimately transforms into a global vision of environmental protection.

“Nature fulfils our Needs, but not Greeds”---Mahatma Gandhi

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