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- ❖ **India's Mission Shakti**
- ❖ **Russia under Putin**
- ❖ **China's American Dilemma**
- ❖ **Gandhi on Truth & Non-Violence**
- ❖ **Journalism & Social Media**
- ✓❖ **Environmental Degradation**

THIRD CONCEPT

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Third Concept aims at providing a platform where a meaningful exchange of ideas can take place among the people of the Third World. The attempt will be to communicate, debate and disseminate information, ideas and alternatives for the resolution of the common problems facing humankind. We welcome contributions from academics, journalists and even from those who may never have published anything before. The only requirement is a concern for and desire to understand and take the issue of our time. Contributions may be descriptive, analytical or theoretical. They may be in the form of original articles, reactions to previous contributions, or even a comment on a prevailing situation. All contributions, neatly typed in double space, may be addressed to:

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Degradation of Environment

Dr. G. P. Surve*

[Environmental degradation is the disintegration of the earth or deterioration of the environment through consumption of assets, like, air, water and soil. The destruction of environments and the eradication of wildlife. Air pollution, pollution of the natural environment is a big challenge for the world. Still, India has a long way to go to reach environmental quality similar to those enjoyed in developed economies. Pollution remains a major challenge and opportunity for India. Environmental degradation is one of the primary causes of diseases, health issues and long-term livelihood impact for India.]

When we think about environment the basic question arises that what is environment? The term environment means surrounding. It is an English word formed by two words – ‘environ’ and ‘ment’ which means ‘encircle’ or ‘all around’. We all live on the earth and this earth has the human environment. It includes all the physical parts of the earth such as air, soil, minerals, rocks and water and its entire living organism such as animals and plant.

In present century scientific and technological development has given several benefits to humankind but at the same time it is also responsible for various types of environmental degradations. Day by day man is using the environmental factors to fulfill all his purposes. Although nature has its own system of recovery of maintenance of eco-balance, but when over exploitation is done it fails to recover. Thus, several environment problems have emerged. Now the whole world is facing the problem of environmental degradation due to technological and scientific development on the one hand and burgeoning population, urbanization and industrialization on the other.

Pollution through Industrialization

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Nowadays the rapid rate of industrialization has resulted in more and more air pollution. Various industrial processes release almost all types of pollutions into the air. Some industries like cement, iron and steel, fertilizer, petrochemical etc. are such examples. Without air, man and animals cannot live as air provides us oxygen. If the air is polluted there is no use of this air. Without air there would be no clouds, no winds no rains, no snow and no fire. In other words, there would be no life on the earth.

Unorganized Mining

Mining is one of the most important economic activities. Because of the growing knowledge of the mineral resources as well as due to technological and scientific developments, now mining is performed on a very large – scale. The ultimate result of this large-scale mining is that it has created a threat to the environment. There are two types of mineral resources viz. non-metallic minerals, mineral fuels. All these are useful.

Therefore, mining operations are expanding without taking into consideration the impact on the environment. The result of mining areas is destruction of land. In USA alone about 1,50,000 acres of land has become wasteland due to mining. In India, one can already see the

destruction of land caused due to mining in the states of Bihar, Orissa, MP and Rajasthan. Unplanned and unorganized mining is dangerous to the environment. Some measures like leveling of mining areas, re-use of waste material proper management and planned, regulated mining can solve many problems.

Rapid Deforestation

As the population increased more forests were cleared for various uses. Apart from this the main cause of the deforestation is over exploitation of forests. There was a time when 29 percent of the land area was covered with forest and now the total forest cover has shrunk to 16 percent only. In countries like Indonesia, India, Thailand etc. the rate of annual cutting of forests is very high and it has created a great problem to the environmental safety, particularly in India. Deforestation is going on at a very fast rate in India. Rapid expansion of industries, excessive mining, river valley projects and urbanization etc., have been instrumental in over exploitation of forests. The following measures can be helpful in solving this problem to some extent.

- i. Actual growth of trees be supervised.
- ii. We have to develop an alternative for wood; moulded plastic, etc., for furniture and other articles.
- iii. Development of National Parks and game sanctuaries.
- iv. Social forestry be developed.
- v. In fact, forests can be protected by everyone through public movement.

Depletion of Ozone: The presence of the ozone layer is an essential factor in man's environment. Ozone is normally present in the atmosphere about 0.05 ppm at sea level. It is produced naturally in the atmosphere by the action of electrical discharges on oxygen. The ozone layer

provides a cover to the earth's surface and protects the earth from the ultra violet rays. But ozone layer has emerged from synthetic chemicals called chlorofluorocarbons. Recent scientific studies indicate that if this chlorofluorocarbon increased continuously then it makes holes in ozone layer. These chemicals are increasing because of the demand of products such as deodorant, hair sprays, and countless other consumer cosmetics.

Rapid Urbanization: The result of rapid pace of urbanization in cities like Mumbai, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras, Bangalore etc., has been worsening of living conditions there. Even minimum shelter is also not available. Due to uncontrolled urbanizations in India, environmental degradation has been occurring very rapidly and causing for shortages of housing, worsening water quality, excessive air pollution etc. today there is a need to intensity cooperation between different levels of government local, regional and national and each one responsible to protect the urban environment.

There is also tremendous surge in private vehicles in urban areas so more cars causing smog like pollution. i.e., effecting the eyes and causing conjunctives. Smog is the result of vehicular pollution.

Over-Population: The growth of human population is a continuous process and in the last 10,000 years the population of the world has increased over a thousand-fold; to about 4.5 billion and the process of this growth continuously going on. India is the best example of the relationship between population and environment. With the rapid growth of population this balance between man and nature has not only been disturbed but it is responsible for the degradation of the environment. India's population has very rapidly grown, over the past few decades. The average rate of population

growth has been roughly about 2.5 percent annually. This rapid population increase has put strain on natural resources which result in degradation of environment. Advance medical Technological facilities has increased mortality rate which result in increase in life span. Hence, over-population means more demand for food, shelter, clothes and homes to millions of people.

Air pollution: in India is a serious issue with the major sources being fuel wood and biomass burning, fuel adulteration, vehicle emission and traffic congestion. Air pollution is also the main cause of the Asian brown cloud, which is causing the monsoon to be delayed. India is the world's largest consumer of fuel wood, agricultural waste and biomass for energy purposes. Traditional fuel (fuel wood, crop residue and dung cake) dominates domestic energy use in rural India and accounts for about 90 per cent of the total. In urban areas, this traditional fuel constitutes about 24 per cent of the total.

Fuel wood, agri-waste and biomass cake burning releases over 165 million tons of combustion products into India's indoor and outdoor air every year. These biomass-based household stoves in India are also a leading source of greenhouse emissions contributing to climate

change. On per capita basis, India is a small emitter of carbon dioxide green house

Natural causes: things like avalanches, quakes, tidal waves, storms and wildfires can totally crush nearby animals and plants groups to the point where they no longer survive in those areas.

Conclusion

There is a need of sustainable growth i.e. growth which is not harmful to environment. The eco-friendly development can solve the problem of environmental degradation. As the adage goes "technology as produces the crisis and technology can solve it", so the problem of environmental degradation can be remedied with the help of technology

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PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN

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Babuddin Khan

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