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GREEN GROWTH IN INDIA: OBSTACLES AND SUGGESTIONS



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ABSTRACT

India's stellar economic performance during the past decade has brought immense benefits to the people. Employment opportunities have increased, enabling millions to emerge from poverty and has raised the income levels of millions more, but growth has too often come at the expense of the environment. The planet has paid a very high price with degraded ecosystems. Exponentially expanding population, extravagant consumption patterns, rising green house gases-these are just some of the environmentally alarming trends delivered by the existing model of economic growth in India. It was these concerns that gave birth to the concept of green growth in India. The carries the promise of a new economic growth paradigm that is friendly to the Earth's ecosystems and contribute to growth and development of nation .So here we focus on the need of green growth and also glance at

obstacles in the way to green growth.

KEYWORDS: Population Pyramid, degraded ecosystem, GHGs, alar* ming consumption.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Danny, Liu and Joseph found that Zero energy buildings concept become a choice able concept throughout the world as this concept based on the use of efficient energy resources and promote less use of



energy. This concept promotes construction of building by using of renewable energy resources. Such practices can be better way towards the way of inclusive green growth

GGGI propounded that green growth is the new revolutionary development paradigm that sustains economic growth while at the same time ensuring climatic and environmental sustainability. It focuses on addressing the root causes of these challenges while ensuring the creation of the necessary channels for resource distribution UNESCAP: growth that emphasizes environmentally sustainable economic progress to foster low-carbon, socially inclusive development.

Hall and Moss propounded that biomass energy is a dominating energy source in developing

countries and this can be a good solution to tackle the energy resources problems in developing world. Such resources should promote as these resources not only affordable but also favourable for environment. These can helpful for sustainable development.

Matthew studied that Green Growth is panacea for all aliment in an unsustainable economy. The economies of the world should promote go green technology techniques in their countries industries. Such technology which promote green growth not only easily applicable and affordable but also encourage sustainable development for an inclusive growth. Such techniques not only helpful for growth of the economy but also for development. Urbanization means more industries more pollution so it should also be ensure that go green techniques must be popularize in the industries so it become essential for each economy to promote green growth.

UNESCAP says that the growth that emphasizes environmentally sustainable economic progress to foster low-carbon, socially inclusive development.

OECD regards that fostering economic growth and development, while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies.

World Bank defines green growth as the growth that is efficient in its use of natural resources, clean in that it minimizes pollution and environmental impacts, and resilient in that it accounts for natural hazards and the role of environmental management and natural capital in preventing physical disasters.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PAPER

This paper mainly deals with the concept of green growth. The main objective of the paper is to present obstacles which come in the way to green growth .This paper tries to introduce briefly and precisely the obstacles to the path of green growth in India. Also an attempt is made to give some suggestions to remove the obstacles.

METHODOLOGY

This paper is based on secondary data. The secondary data will be collected from organizations as well as publications such as journals, newspapers, magazines, books, internet and other studies taken by the governments or other independent organizations such as WB, OECD, and Emersion Climate Technologies India.

INTRODUCTION

India is the second most populated country in the world comprising high levels of consumptions and new demands emerging every day. And in the present age of globalization, India is facing huge competition in the market. To meet the demands of increasing population and meet the competition in the world market, we are making huge investments and using our natural resources excessively. This has made us think over the degrading environment and adopt green growth policy. Green growth has become a familiar buzz word among economic policy makers in rich and poor countries. It has its origin in Asia and Pacific regions. Green growth is a term to describe a path of economic growth which uses natural resources in a sustainable manner. The Earth's natural capital should be used in the ways that are economically efficient. The government should recognize that social, political and economic progress of nation should not be on the stake of environmental degradation. Growth of economy is required but it should be ensured that growth emphasizes on environment and social simultaneously.

OBSTACLES TO GREEN GROWTH IN INDIA:

There are some obstacles that come in the way to green growth in India:

Population pyramid in India

India is the second most populous country in the world after China with 16% of the total world population and only 2.4% of world's area and 1.8% of world's income. The population in the country is increasing by leaps and bounds and it is expected that it will surpass that of China by 2050. The increasing population means increasing wants and demands of people. And our government cannot meet the demands of the increasing number. There comes wide gap between the demand and supply schedules of the country. To meet the excess demand we are required to use the natural resources drastically. The trends in population growth rate can be shown as under:

Decadal Year Population(crore) Increase growth population(crore) rate (%) 1891 23.60 1901 23.84 +0.241911 25.21 +1.37+5.751921 25.13 -.08 -0.31 27.90 +2.771931 +11.001941 31.87 +3.97+14.221951 36.11 +4.24+13.311961 43.92 +7.81+21.641971 54.82 +10.90+24.801981 68.33 +13.51+24.66 1991 +23.8784.64 +16.302001 102.87 +18.23+21.542011 121.02 +18.15+17.64

Table - 1 Growth of Population in India

Source: census of India.

Thus in the above table we can see that population of India is increasing at a very high speed. It was only 33 crore when we got freedom in 1947 and more than 121.02 crore at present. But as much we progress, our population is growing at a drastic speed. Its decadal growth rate is still in double digits of 17.64%. The question that struck in the mind is how to fulfil the increasing demands of the increasing population with limited land provided. Very few Indians have access to safe drinking water, toilets, fresh air, minerals, land and other natural resources. There is huge imbalance between demand and supply of natural resources. So the excess use of these sources is taken for granted. But the sustainable development requires the availability of resources not only for the present generation but also for future generation but if present generation is unable to access the resources then how the future generation!

Increasing number of MNCs in India

After the introduction of LPG program in 1991, the globalization process started in India also with a new era. India witnessed a dramatic increase of multinational corporation activity, giving

tremendous economic development of country. From provision of services to manufacturing, MNCs play a big role in almost all the economic sectors in India In the beginning these MNCs were provided high support by our government in the name of subsidy, removing of tariff rates and capital (both human and physical capital) hoping that the MNCs will provide employment and variety of goods to the countrymen. They provided us employment, new goods, new techniques and new ideas etc. but the harmful effects of MNCs are noteworthy. They are exploiting our capital and natural resources simultaneously. These MNCs are not working according to the green norms. In late 1990s PepsiCo was investigated for its involvement in production and disposal of plastic in India. Recently in October, 2013 Ministry of Environment and Forest fined Mundra group for violating green laws. There is long list of such groups and firms which violated the laws time to time.

Emission of Green House Gases

A Green House Gas is a gas in an atmosphere that absorbs and emits radiation within infrared range. GHG are the major barrier in the way to green growth. The primary sources of GHG in the Earth's atmosphere are water vapors, CO2, methane, nitrous oxide and ozone. GHG greatly affect the temperature of Earth. Global emission of CO2, the main cause of global warming, increased by three per cent last year. Burning of fossil fuels and extensive clearing of forests has contributed to a 40% increase in atmospheric concentration of CO2. Use of fertilizers and pesticides also has contributed to the emission of harmful gases. The emission level of CO2 in India is increasing day by day. India has become one of the main contributors who are producing so much green house gases which are enough to make world warm up with harmful gases.

Country CO₂ emission (thousands Emission of CO₂ Per Capita tones) (in tones) World 34,500,000 4.9 U.S.A. 5,190,000 16.4 1,770,000 Russia 12.4 10.4 Japan 1,320,000 7.1 China 9,860,000 1,970,000 India 1.6

Table-2 CO2 emission (2012)

Source: www.wikipedia.com.

Pollution made by human and industrial waste

It is never denying the fact that India is a developing country with the population of more than 121.02crore, second after china. Dr. Robin's theory of scarcity (D.S), unlimited wants and limited sources applies here. The demand here is for everything that comes in the market but sources to produce are not on the same proportion. Number of industries is increasing day by day, millions of a tons waste is produced everyday that is giving birth to pollution whether it is air pollution, water pollution or land pollution. The waste extracted from the industries is either thrown in the rivers or thrown in the open areas that causes air and water pollution both. Now turn to the human waste in India. People here are poor, illiterate and unaware. They do not have proper facilities of sanitation and garbage management. They perform their daily natural duties in open; throw their household garbage in open areas. This increasing pollution creates a number of diseases to the people. Over 160,000

metric tons of municipal solid waste is generated daily in the nation. Per capita waste generation in cities varies from 0.2-0.6kg per day depending upon the size of population. Over 8 million tons/year of hazardous waste is generated in India. About 60% of these wastes per year is estimated to be recyclable and remaining 40% remains non-recyclable.

Lack of policy implementation

The biggest lacuna to green growth is the effective implementation of policies framed . Every policy is useless and meaningless, if it is not implemented effectively. Half the work is done if the policies framed for environmental protection are governed perfectly both at the upper and primary level. In India countless projects are framed for the welfare of the people but they lack behind in their implementation. Lack of good governance and policy implementation does not lead to the path of green growth in India. One thing more to focus is to renew or modify the existing policies. In India policies are not modified for years. Government should modify the policies such as "grow first, clean up later" convert into "environment first, and grow later". New tax policies project clearance policies should be introduced. People for violating the policies and laws should be fined by the authorities. So the need of the hour is a strong, transparent and proactive regulatory authority for regulating and implementing the environment laws.

SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION:

We see that there are a number of barriers in the way to green growth in India. But green growth is the need of hour for any nation. Green growth is required for the sustainable development of any nation. So we must remove these obstacles. An attempt is made here to suggest some measures to remove these barriers.

- Firstly, we should adopt bottom-up approach, planning from below, (not the top-bottom approach) in order to have realistic and specific measures because local community is more aware about the need and development aspect of environment. Chipko movement, Narmada bachao movement and save Ganga movement are such remarkable examples that are sufficient to prove that we should begin with the local level.
- Secondly, there should be investments on rehabilitation of natural resources like forests and hillsides. Damage to the ecosystems has been significant and restoration would reduce the adverse effects and enable the resumption of the environmental functions.
- Thirdly, the policy-makers and public should also recognize the economic and social value of the environment, that conserving such as clean air, water, forests etc. have positive externalities which are valuable for meeting basic and human needs besides having their intrinsic environmental worth.
- Fourth, the over-exploitation of natural resources and related wastage is promoted by the low prices of natural resources-based products like water and wood. The regulating authorities must take over the under-pricing of these types of resources. They must add the cost of adverse side effects during and after the production of these products. In general, prices should better reflect the environmental values, including the costs of adverse effects. However it should in a manner that does not penalize the poor and ordinary people, especially when the products and services concerned are essentials.
- Fifth, the natural resources should not be taken as God-gifted. There should be made proper provision of taxes, charges or fine. Big corporate houses should be fined if they are found guilty of the violation of green norms. High rates of taxes and duties should be applied on the products which cause more pollution.

- Sixth, we must take eager steps to check the increasing population of India.
- Seventh, we must control the emission of GHG. There should be control on the increasing number of vehicles on the roads. We must adopt cycles for a short distance.
- Lastly, we must remember to use efficient energy sources which consume less power and produce more output. Renewable resources such as solar energy, wind energy, hydropower and biogas should be used. Many examples from all over the world came into light where these sources have become main sources energy like Brazil that is using solar energy for household activities, Nimbia using solar energy for charging mobiles. When these nations are using solar energy in a successful then why not India!

Finally, we can conclude that India should focus on the concept of green growth by having a control on increasing population and increasing pollution. There should be effective implementation of policies framed for environmental protection. We must begin with the local level to save the environment. Using of efficient and renewable sources of energy should be promoted.

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