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Ananta Narayana
Student Master of social work,
Department of Humanities and
Social Sciences, Motilal Nehru
National Institute of Technology
Allahabad, India

Tauffiqu Ahamad
Research Scholar, Department of
Humanities and Social Sciences,
Motilal Nehru National Institute
of Technology Allahabad, India

Need of environment conservation for sustainable development with special emphasis on millennium development goals 7 - in India context

Ananta Narayana, Tauffiqu Ahamad

Abstract

The environment of our earth is degrading at an alarming rate because of non-sustainable agriculture, urbanization, and industrialization. Unsustainable trends in relation to environmental change and climate imbalance, threats to public health, poverty and social exclusion, demographic pressure and ageing, mismanagement of natural resources, biodiversity loss, and land degradation etc. This paper aims at focusing on need of environmental conservation through MDG-7. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight international development goals that were established following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000, following the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. All 189 United Nations member states at the time (there are 193 currently), and at least 23 international organizations, committed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, rooted in the concept of sustainable development. The millennium development goals seek to solve world's biggest problem i.e. Environmental challenges and this position is inherent in the seventh MDG: Ensure Environmental sustainability by integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of resources, to reduce biodiversity loss, and to halve by 2015 the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. In this paper present status of India towards achieving MDG-7 has been analyzed and identified which will lead to environment conservation and sustainable development.

Keywords: Environment, Conservation, MDG-7, Sustainable Development, Agriculture.

1. Introduction

The effects of environmental degradation and climate change threaten the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The poor in developing countries are especially vulnerable and the least able to adapt to the effects of environmental degradation. There have been only modest improvements and many setbacks in meeting the targets of this goal. Progress on this MDG is extremely varied both in terms of geographic region and individual targets. Global deforestation—mainly the conversion of tropical forests to agricultural land—is slowing, but it continues at a high rate in many countries. Greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change continue to increase, which causes more extreme weather events such as heat waves, tropical cyclones, floods, and landslides. These conditions leave the developing world the most vulnerable.

The MDG target of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million who live in poverty-stricken areas has been met. Between 2000 and 2010 more than 200 million people in developing countries living in poor areas received access to improved water sources, sanitation facilities, durable housing, or sufficient living space. Improvements to these areas are not keeping up with the growing number of urban poor: the number of urban residents living in poor areas increased from 767 million in 2000 to 863 million in 2012.

Even though the world met the MDG safe drinking water target in 2010, five years ahead of schedule, 768 million people still do not have access to safe drinking water, with 83 percent of them living in rural areas. Deforestation continues relatively unstopped, and biodiversity continues to decline. Greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change continue to increase, and there is increased migration to urban areas threatening the modest progress made in reducing the number of urban slums.

In a vacuum no life is possible materials and forces which forms its environment and form which it must derive its needs surround every living organism. It is survival, a plant, an animal

Correspondence:
Ananta Narayana
Student Master of social work,
Department of Humanities and
Social Sciences, Motilal Nehru
National Institute of Technology
Allahabad, India

or a microbe cannot remain completely aloof in a shell. For diverse fundamental basic requirements each living organisms has to depend and also to interact with different living/biotic, non-living/ biotic compounds or environment. The right to development is a fundamental human right. We along with other developing countries have to find alternative paths to an alternative good. A goal of development is ultimately is the true, if the goal of development of environment is sound and sustainable development.

1.1 Sustainable: The literal meaning of sustainability is “that can be maintained” or “keep goal continuously”. In ecological sense it refers to “Conservation of ecological balance by avoiding depletion of natural resources”. Thus, it is understand that it is as something, which has got to do with longevity of a resources, commodity, species, ecosystem, earth, environment like as.

1.2 Development: The literal meaning of Development is “The act or instance of growth, advancement”. So, the growth can be several types like as growth of population, growth of industry, growth of education, growth of forest and same as.

1.3 But what type of growth are we addressing to?

Here it is noted that one of the most sensitive issue of growing concern about improving the well-being of human beings. The Nation’s economic development should not stand upon the earth’s resources. Mahatma Gandhi a great social scientist rightly pointed out that “The earth provides enough to satisfy everyone’s need, but not everyone’s greed.”

1.4 Sustainable Development

The world Commission on Environmental and Development (1987) defined Sustainable development as development that meets of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Sudhir and Soundhary (2006) defines Sustainable Development as a process by which the socially and economically deprived classes can attain a remarkable and required level of basic health, nutritional status, educational achievements, access to resources and increase in per capita income. According to Moore and Ryne (1995) Sustainable Development refers to creating a style of economic development which is Sustainable within the context of the planet’s ecosystem and human society.

1.5 Need of Conservation

Conservation has main focus to meet the need and aspirations of future generation and sustain the benefits of present generation by using carefully natural resources land, water, air and other minerals setting individual perception.

Expanding human population resulted into expanding needs of man. With Scientific progress and technological development man started utilizing natural resources at a larger scale. Conservation is also concerned with complete elimination of some unique species for which there may no alternative at all. There is urgent need to check the degradation of the environment and to maintain or restore the balance of the nature is the single most important challenge with different kind of internal as well as external dimension to mankind. In the perspective of economical and technical development of the world always had been better today than yesterday years and will always be better than tomorrow then today. But the condition of the environment will always be poorer than

before. Hence, the concept of sustainable development raises particular questions for the present generation to answer.

2. GOAL 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight international development goals that were established following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000, following the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. All 189 United Nations member states at the time (there are 193 currently), and at least 23 international organizations, committed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, rooted in the concept of sustainable development. The millennium development goals seek to solve world's biggest problem i.e. Environmental challenges and this position is inherent in the seventh MDG (Goal7).

Sustainable development recognizes that growth must be both inclusive and environmentally sound to reduce poverty and build shared prosperity for people today and for future generations. India is on-track in achieving the MDG target for sustainable access to safe drinking water. Forest cover has increased to 21.02 percent and protected areas cover to about 4.83 percent of the country’s total land area.

The Ministry of Nonconventional Energy Sources is running several programs to provide better systems for cooking and lighting, like:-

- Joint Forest Management scheme
- The rural women living below the poverty line are provided with financial assistance to raise nurseries in forest areas.
- The Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikiran Yojana

2.1 Target 7.A:

Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

Forests are a safety net for the poor, but they continue to disappear at an alarming rate.

Global emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) have increased by more than 50 per cent since 1990.

In the 26 years since the adoption of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, there has been a reduction of over 98 per cent in the consumption of ozone-depleting substances.

Afforestation and the natural expansion of forests have reduced the net loss of forest from an average of 8.3 million hectares annually in the 1990s to an average of 5.2 million hectares annually between 2000 and 2010.

2.2 Target 7.B:

Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss

Protected ecosystems covered 14 per cent of land and coastal marine areas worldwide by 2012.

2.3 Target 7.C:

Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

The world has met the target of halving the proportion of people without access to improved sources of water, five years ahead of schedule.

Between 1990 and 2012, 2.3 billion people gained access to improved drinking water sources.

Over a quarter of the world’s population has gained access to improved sanitation since 1990, yet one billion people still resort to open defecation.

The vast majority – 82 per cent – of people practicing open defecation now live in middle-income, populous countries.

In 2012, 748 million people remained without access to an improved source of drinking water.

Despite progress, 2.5 billion in developing countries still lack access to improved sanitation facilities.

2.4 Target 7 D

Achieve, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

The target was met well in advance of the 2020 deadline. More than 200 million of these people gained access to improved water sources, improved sanitation facilities, or durable or less crowded housing, thereby exceeding the MDG target 863 million people are estimated to be living in slums in 2012 compared to 650 million in 1990 and 760 million in 2000.

3. Progress on the 7 MDG

3.1 What Do We Want To Achieve?

Incorporate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and reverse the loss of environmental resources decrease biodiversity loss. Reduce the number of people without access to safe drinking water and sanitation by half improve the lives of at least 100 million people who live in slums by 2020

3.2 What Have We Already Achieved?

In 2010, 89% of the world’s population, about 6.1 billion people, had access to safe drinking water. In 2015, that number will increase to include 92% of the world’s population We have improved the lives of more than 200 million people living in slums 1,800 people have gained access to basic sanitation

3.3 What Challenges Remain?

2.6 billion People remain without access to healthcare 17,000 species of plants and animals are endangered

The atmospheric levels of substances that destroy the ozone layer could increase 10-fold by 2015

3.4 India’s progress on the 7 MDG

On basis of -:

- Δ: Moderately/almost nearly on track considering all indicators
- Θ: Slow/almost off-track considering all indicators
- ΔΔ: On-track or fast considering all indicators

Target No.	Target Description	Progress Signs
1.	Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	ΔΔ
2.	Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	ΔΘ
3.	By 2020, to have achieved, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	Φ

4. Mitigation Strategies & Recommendations

4.1 Stronger capacity to address environmental challenges: Better management practices are required for maintaining and

operating new programmes related to watershed development, soil conservation, and reforestation are all helping reduce soil erosion and vulnerability to flooding.

4.2 Improved community conservation and increased access to safe water and sanitation

Building the capacity of local governments and communities to manage water services more effectively, including the establishment of some water with access to sanitation services, and hygiene education committees

4.3 Enhanced management of natural resources

Allow participation of households for working on initiatives such as tree planting and building structures to reduce soil erosion and retain water and successfully support natural resource management by increasing productivity.

4.4 Growth & Development of Agriculture

Focus on implementing biodiversity cropping patterns in place of the current focus on ‘industrial cultivation.

4.5 Economic growth environmentally sustainable

Overdependence of growth on reckless exploitation of non-renewable natural resources can foreclose future outcomes. Moreover, the resulting environmental damage hits the poorest the hardest. With the “Make in India” initiative there appears to be a national consensus on embarking on a path of manufacturing resurgence.

5. Conclusion

Environment includes physical, social, cultural and psychological components, which are responsible for the growth and development of human kind. Conservation has main focus to meet the need and aspirations of future generation and sustain the benefits of present generation by using carefully natural resources land, water, air and other minerals setting individual perception. There is urgent need to check the degradation of the environment and to maintain or restore the balance of the nature is the single most important challenge with different kind of internal as well as external dimension to mankind. Millennium development Goals 7 is the only way to do so would be to further intensify our efforts in ensuring uniform distribution of natural resources, accessing & developing assistance activities for potential risks and opportunities with respect to environmental sustainability.

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