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1. Human Rights to Consume Pure Water for Health, Environmental Protection: Present and Future

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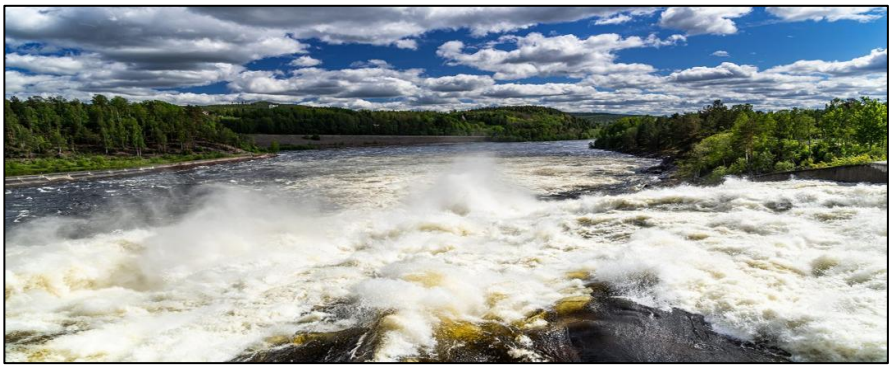

Figure 1.1: Water Sources

Abstract:

The aim of the paper is to interrogate a variety of arguments about human rights and environmental sustainability. The term sustainable human development may be defined as the capacity of all human communities, including the most deprived, to meet their fundamental needs for accommodation, drinking water, food, satisfactory conditions of health and hygiene, participation in decision-making and cultural expression. The need for the protection of environment becomes a necessity. In fact, environment is a totality of human life; it means that it is sources of food, clothing, and shelter. When air is polluted by toxic fumes, people who breathe those fumes are injured, perhaps even killed.

When water becomes contaminated, people who drink that water may become sick, and pregnant women who drink it may pass the contaminants on to their unborn babies. In sum, anytime the natural environment is seriously harmed, people that depend on that harmed environment are inevitably harmed as well. However; the effort to protect the environment faces different challenges like the issue of justifiability, conflict between developmental efforts and environmental protection. This paper gives an overview of such challenges and suggestions for ensuring and protecting sustainable environment.

Keywords:

human right, sustainable and hygiene.

1.1 Introduction:

The degradation of environment namely land, air and water has become a serious problem in many areas of country. The consequences of such degradation of environment have resulted in ecological imbalance all over the globe. Therefore, it has become imperative to judiciously manage and protect the ecology of environment[27].

Due to this purpose the Safe Drinking Water Act charged the EPA with responsibility for developing drinking water (Figure 1.1), regulations to protect the public health. In 1975, the EPA published the interim primary drinking water regulations and the secondary regulations become effective from January 19, 1981. The international standards were first published by the world health organization[26] (WHO) in 1958.

Water is a precious resource on this planet, which is essential for multiple purposes. It is an essential constituent of all animal and plant materials[6]. It is also an essential ingredient of animal and plant life. Its uses may include drinking, domestic, industrial, agricultural and waste disposal, etc. The quality of water is a vital concern for mankind because it is directly linked to human health. The water policy has been ranked for the requirement of drinking water drinking purpose prime. It is estimated that about 50 billion litters of municipal water are required every day based on the population figures of urban India which is about 360 million[7].

The urban population may exceed over 800 million by the year 2050 and the resultant municipal water requirement will be of the magnitude of over 110 billion litters per day. Besides, the requirement for rural population (1.1 billion) shall be about 44 billion litters per day for the year 2050.

In developing countries 95% of the used water is not subject to cleansing treatment before it's released to surface waters. So, we must look into all aspects of water uses to ensure the quality of water available for all the present and future needs.

Owing to population explosion pressure, pollution of water resources is increasing[3]. At least 30000 human deaths are caused daily by contaminated water and poor sanitation[16]. More than 1.7 billion people have no direct access to potable water, this number is likely to double within the next 25 years (ICMR, 1975).

We need water every day for domestic, irrigation and drinking purposes and due to industrial and agricultural revolution, water resources are highly polluted. So, it was not suitable and safe for domestic, irrigation as well as drinking purposes. Water is polluted due to various phenomena[4]. Due to the rapid growing population and improved living standards, the pressure on the present water resources is increasing day by day[15].

In Industrialization there are no provisions of proper treatment of wastages, and effluents as well as excessive applications of fertilizers and pesticides for agriculture purposes and those are the main reasons of water pollution (NEERI, 1981).

1.2 Conceptual Framework:

According to WHO, World Health Report, 1998, over 1 billion people do not have an adequate and safe water supply of which 800 million are in rural areas. The contamination of drinking water by pathogens causing diarrheal disease is the most common. In many developing countries, cholera and typhoid are still known. These diseases are spread from contaminated water containing fecal matter with pathogenic organisms[15]. Therefore, it is essential to prevent fecal matter into water sources and following general hygiene of treating the drinking water and hand washing etc. Water born diseases caused by pathogens, including bacteria, viruses and parasitic protozoa constitute a significant burden on human health in the developing part of the world and have resulted in a number of outbreaks in industrialized countries, where they also influence the endemic background level of disease[18].

The earth's expanding human population and industrial growth have been known to cause serious environmental disasters. At the end of 2011, India's population reached 1.21 billion and its economy is growing at 8.5%, the fastest after China. Due to the population pressure, India pushes ahead with aggressive industrial development.

Consequently, thousands of industrial clusters nationwide produce enormous amounts of untreated toxic waste that often end up in rivers, lakes, forests, and landfills. Even though India has sufficient environmental laws, weak enforcement and the lack of funds and manpower are most often the stumbling blocks for the pollution control boards[14]. The issues of environment are the effect from the human's activities that have no civic conscious and only think the profit without concern about the impact towards the environment and their future of life. The long-term effect from the environmental pollution can be seen when the ecosystem is not able to endure the pollution[11].

Present India is facing many important environmental challenges which currently threaten both the development of India and the outlook for its future. India's rapid growth is driving equally rapid environmental destruction[1]. An argument often put forth in developing countries is that it is unfair to ask people to make environmental sacrifices during a period of growth and industrialization when Western countries did not have to make the same choices[22]. Yet, as we get a glimpse of above, India, as a dense country of 1 billion people, faces unique challenges that need unique responses[12]. Here arises the need for environmental regulations and for confirming compliances of these regulations[5].

The Government of India has established an environmental legal and institutional system to meet these challenges within the overall framework of India's development agenda and international principles and norms. The constitution of India came into force on 26th January 1950. At that time, it did not contain any specific provision dealing directly with environment. Only provision which was of some significance was Article 47, of the Directive Principles of State Policy which states that, The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and standard of living of its people and improvement of public health as among its primary duties. The Department of Environment was established in India in 1980 to ensure a healthy environment for the country. This later became the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 1985. The constitutional provisions are backed by a number of laws-acts, rules and notifications. The Environment Protection Act, 1986 came into force soon after the Bhopal Gas Tragedy which was a major leak of toxic chemical gases occurred from the Union Carbide chemical plant in the city of Bhopal in 1984 and is considered an umbrella legislation as it fills many gaps in the existing laws. Therefore, a large number of laws came into existence as the problem began arising. The Bhopal disaster underlines the problem governments confront in formulating a response to disaster situations when poverty levels are high and health infrastructures and government resources are severely limited. This brings into focus the need for private multinational industries to take some responsibility towards the environments and populations they are located in.

1.3 Methodological Approach:

The bulk of the data used in this paper was derived from archival sources and content analysis of different research findings in relation to environmental problems due to impacts of human production and consumption activities in India.

1.4 Environmental Protection Management:

Dynamical economic growth and irrational use of natural resources 70th of the last century, have influenced the emergence of global structural crisis in energy and raw materials. Key environmental areas of interest include climate change, water supply and waste water, air pollution, waste management and hazardous waste, and land use issues such as deforestation[9]. Environmental protection is a practice of protecting the environment, on individual and governmental level, for the benefit of the natural environment and humans. Environmental protection management as a new management concept in everyday life companies[23].

Environmental management involves the wise use of activity and resources to have an impact on the world. In order to reduce the harmful effects of production processes on the environment, and in response to the social responsibility of companies, are defined and specific environmental standards ISO 14000 which must adhere to managers. The ISO 14000 Standards are a set of environmental standards designed by the International Organization for Standardization 1994 to assure that businesses are environmentally responsible. ISO 14000 Standards were created to help meet the objective of "sustainable development". ISO 14001 was first published in 1996 and specifies the actual requirements for an environmental management system. It applies to those environmental aspects which the organization has control and over which it can be expected to have an influence[13].

1.5 Conclusion:

It is beyond doubt that after the Independence of India, number of laws enacted by legislature but the State has failed to discharge its responsibility. Lack of implementation of environmental protection laws is the main reason for non-implementation of the principle of Sustainable Development. Number of Environmental protection laws have been passed by legislature according to the Constitutional demand but in reality, the principles are just on papers[2].

Lack of incorporation of Sustainable Development in India is one of the reasons for deterioration of the environmental status in India. No goods can be achieved without effective participation of public and law enforcing agencies.

Supreme Court played balancing role between environment protection and development. The Court expressed the view that State's endeavour is paramount consideration and we can always minimize the pollution level by adopting scientific measures and without hurdles on developmental activities[10].

Environment and development are the two sides of the same coin. Any one of these cannot be sacrificed for the other. On contrary, both are equally important for our better future. Thus, the responsibility lies on the Supreme Court, the various High Courts and now the National Green Tribunal have to deal with these cases with caution of high degree. From this study, it may be concluded that the pollution in ground water and surface water has been increased. As a result of these investigations the following tentative suggestion may be offered to safeguard the quality of ground water and surface water of the Hapur city.

- There should be some restrictions on all industries not to dispose of their solid or liquid waste directly into the sewage.
- The heavy load of industrial waste tends to make the lands barren. Specific lands for the disposal of these wastes should be compulsory.
- It is suggested that, except few parameters most of the parameters are within the permissible limits of BIS standards but could exceed any time. So careless disposal of the water should be discouraged and there is a need for each industry to install a waste treatment plant with a view to treat wastes before being discharged into the sewage.
- Develop a workable model for treatment of both effluent and emissions starting from source up to the final approach.
- Programme like safe water Project should be started by municipality so that local people will be aware about the pollution and safeguard the quality of water.
- As not only government but every citizen also could play an important role in abating contamination in ground water and surface water. So, the problem of contamination required closely coordinated series of legislative, administrative and technical measures.
- It is very necessary to control water contamination, if not, then in future we will not have a drop of pure fresh water. So that people may understand the value of ground water and surface water
- Public awareness programmes about the pollution should be launched with strong emphasis on the effects of pollution on personal and community health. Periodically

industrial pollution information must be published by environmental public organizations.

- Utilizing audio and video media, hording, workshops, seminars and presentations by the experts for informing the common people about contaminated water diseases so that they take precaution to save themselves from these diseases.
- The government has to ensure that all new and existing industries have adequate sites facilities for treatment and removal of toxic material from the contaminated water or effluents.
- Water and sewerage pipelines should not be in close vicinity to prevent cross contamination and there should be no leakage within the distribution system and no mixing of drinking and sewerage water.
- More treatment plants are needed, which should be located at shorter distances from the consumer's end, and water treatment plants should be run by experts and well-trained persons.

1.6 Aims and Objectives of The Study:

- To emphasize the importance of safe drinking water to the public by the government authorities which can responsible to supply water.
- To give emphasize for the awareness in common people about water quality and its related diseases.
- To explore better and safe condition for the treatment of environmental condition.

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