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Equality through Positive Discrimination in Education: A Utopian Dream of India

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Abstract

Positive discrimination is an institutionalized way of enabling those historically disadvantaged by a political system to participate in public life. Also known as *Reverse Gender Bias*, it precisely means to positively discriminate against members of a dominant or majority group or in favor of members of a minority or historically disadvantaged group. In other words, it is a criterion of selecting representatives of different groups as a way of addressing the existing social inequalities

The Egalitarian theory of 'equality among equals' is well found in the jurisprudence of Indian Legal System. But the theory of Positive discrimination gives a legal sanction to push down someone with more capabilities, and its worse when it is in the arena of education.

The question of stringent impact of positive discrimination policies in education sector have not only enraged the youth in India but also have attracted debates among veterans in different spheres. This comes as a surprise that positive discrimination as a whole and in education in particular is a much argued upon issue in India and the amounts spent to promote education for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is the largest budget of the *compensatory discrimination* policies.

The most striking part is that policy of positive discrimination has not only penetrated deep into current education industry but also is digging deep into employment sector, with the reservation in promotional designations in public sector as well. That in turn, slams down a million time more potential candidate, who is put down only because he doesn't fall well within the umbrella of reservations. Favoritism on the grounds of caste, ultimately doing injustice to someone more desirable and potential is highly unacceptable.

The paper shall detail out the Positive Discrimination policy's long history in India, which surprisingly date from the Colonial period. In the other section of paper, we shall deal with the impact of the reservations in education, which consists in two main policies. The first one is free secondary education for members of the targeted groups (along with various schemes of scholarships), and the second one is seats reserved in higher education institutions.

The paper shall finally discuss that how making of reservations as "*compensatory discrimination*" in India does not look to eradicate the caste system; it simply aims to boost some oppressed castes, whether at the bottom or the middle of the caste ranking, and is thus not an effective tool.

Keywords: Education, Positive Discrimination, Reservations, India

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Creating a Successful Organizational Business Model on the CSR Framework

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Abstract

The Five pillars that have been emphasized in this paper are as follows:

‘Corporate Social Obligations – Markets – Equity - Stakeholder Interests - Legal Issues’

Our research paper intends to highlight upon a contrarian view to the corporate social responsibility (CSR) debate. Since the late 1960’s CSR has grown in relevance across corporate cultures and today it has elevated its status to a level where it is no more one of the ways to appease government organizations to set your business growth but is fast becoming a way of life for them. The model that we have been able to create will provide 5 major pillars to the theory, and will integrate them to make the core business fundamentals, based on the CSR framework on an antithesis level. Basis this, organizations can build their business models for growth in lines to building a better equity on a short / long-term parameter.

This article attempts to examine the concept and practices of CSR and further tries to understand and define CSR in a more precise manner. Each and every firm has an obligation to use its resources in such a manner that it benefits the society, give full committed participation as a member of the society and strive for the welfare of the society independently of the direct gains of the company. Activities in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) range from single-issue events to integrative triple-bottom-line approaches. Considering the latter provides a multitude of innovative tools with differing intentions, qualities and application scopes. The present paper is conceptual in nature and focuses on different CSR innovative tools implemented by the organizations.

Today, the challenge that organizations face is to develop a short / long-term self-sustaining model that can deliver on this framework on a sustainable basis. However, our research has shown that organizations, which are ready to innovate, have managed to ride over this obstacle, with partnering approach emerging as one of the ways to create value for both businesses and society simultaneously. Partnering approach focuses on key areas of impact between the front and back end mechanism, with emphasis on creating innovative solutions that draw complimenting capabilities of both ends to address major challenges that affect each partner in this purpose. In our research, we build on pillars with partnering approach to provide a practical way forward for entrepreneurs to make decisions based on the CSR knowledge base.

We have taken a step forward in integrating these silo areas into business advantage points, which makes it interesting for business owners to invest upon this theory

Keywords: Corporate Social Responsibility, welfare, society, Research Innovation

Human & Social Rights in the Context of Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Good governance and human rights are mutually reinforcing. Human rights principles provide a set of values to guide the work of governments and other political and social actors. They also provide a set of performance standards against which these actors can be held accountable. Moreover, human rights principles inform the content of good governance efforts: they may inform the development of legislative frameworks, policies, programmes, budgetary allocations and other measures.

On the other hand, without good governance, human rights cannot be respected and protected in a sustainable manner. The implementation of human rights relies on a conducive and enabling environment. This includes appropriate legal frameworks and institutions as well as political, managerial and administrative processes responsible for responding to the rights and needs of the population.

By linking good governance to sustainable human development, emphasizing principles such as accountability, participation and the enjoyment of human rights, and rejecting prescriptive approaches to development assistance, the resolution stands as an implicit endorsement of the rights-based approach to development. It¹ expressly linked good governance to an enabling environment conducive to the enjoyment of human rights and "prompting growth and sustainable human development." In underscoring the importance of development cooperation for securing good governance in countries in need of external support, the resolution recognized the value of partnership approaches to development cooperation and the inappropriateness of prescriptive approaches.

The interconnection between good governance, human rights and sustainable development has been made directly or indirectly by the international community in a number of declarations and other global conference documents. For example, the Declaration on the Right to Development proclaims that every human person and all people "are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development"². In the Millennium Declaration, world leaders affirmed their commitment to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law as well as to respect internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development. According to the United Nations strategy document on the MDGs³, entitled "The United Nations and the MDGs: a Core Strategy, "the MDGs have to be situated within the broader norms and standards of the Millennium Declaration," including those on "human rights, democracy and good governance."

Keywords: Human rights, accountability, development, fundamental freedoms

¹ Resolution 2000/64

² Article 1

³ Millennium development goals

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Tools and conditions for justice in environmental matters: A consideration of the India story

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Abstract

The main objectives of this paper are to assess the efficacy of the existing regulatory framework and to outline recommendations that should help in overcoming these obstacles. The research will be descriptive and analytical in nature. Furthermore, a deductive approach will be followed in the paper wherein the research will be conducted by taking certain generalized notions into account of environmental concerns and drawing specific inferences in the light of the fact situations. The form of interpreting data is Secondary Data. Primary reliance has been based on internet sources. A uniform mode of citation shall be adopted and followed consistently throughout this project.

Today, we live in times where the conservation, protection and regulation of the environment are of utmost importance and significance to all of mankind. The tenacity required to protect the physical environment as well as the biological environment is of value to us more than ever. The way we deal with the environment around us, does in large ways impact the global environment. Therefore, there is a necessary requirement to operate in a prudent as well as in a stringent manner. Access to justice in general refers to the framework of legal procedure involved in governing the actions of individuals in society. In particular to environmental matters, it primarily includes internal as well as external dispute resolution mechanisms entailing judicial as well as non judicial institutions.

Access to justice can be defined as the right of individuals and groups to obtain a quick, effective and fair response to protect their rights prevent or solve disputes and control the abuse of power, through a transparent and efficient process, in which mechanisms are available, affordable and accountable. 'Access to justice' is a fundamental right guaranteed to all the citizens of India under Article 14 of the Indian Constitution. It seeks to provide every individual a right to redressal, to be exercised when there is a reasonable cause of invoking the legal process in order to ensure equity and justice in the dealings within the society. Environmental Justice concerns itself with the equal protection of people from environmental risks and the participation of people in the decision making process on environmental issues.

The definition can be further broken down into different categories. Firstly, access to justice in case of environmental matters deals with the legal and regulatory framework which guarantees the citizens a protection of rights at the domestic courts as well as the international courts. Secondly, the term entails Institutions, Human Resources and Infrastructure which ensure the necessary physical supply and existence of justice institutions, including human resources, infrastructure and the practical functioning of such institutions, to effectively uphold guaranteed rights.

Along with elaborating the essence of the above give definition of 'Access to Environmental justice' comprehensively, I shall conclude the paper by critically evaluating legal remedies, judicial and non-judicial, available under Indian law to victims of environmental law abuses and infringements. The researcher also aims to compare the approach of the Indian legislature on ensuring and procuring justice to victims with respect to other Common law jurisdictions. The paper shall deal with the constitutional perspective of Environmental law subject to enforcement. The different legislations and policies existing in the current framework of law shall also be addressed comprehensively.

Keywords: Environmental Law, Judiciary, Public Interest Litigation

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A Comparative Study of Kautilyan Theory and Buddhist Concept on Good Governance

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Abstract

The concept “Good Governance” becomes a popular word with the emergence of globalization. Globalization has significantly influenced the political atmosphere around the world. In contemporary global context, every country depends on each other and even there are conflicts within a country for political and social reasons. Therefore the corruptions and malpractices by authorities and powerful people can't be hidden. As a result of that, UNO and the developed countries as well as the organization like IMF, can't find the inner democracy in countries around the world. It is not possible for them to help countries who are severely affected in this situation. These developments have led to scholars and policy makers to think about “Good governance”. When someone tries to understand what good governance is, he will realize that it is not a new concept. We can find the concept Good governance during the period of Buddha and his teaching and in the sutta. The objective of this study is to find how the concept good governance was emerged and discussed in the Buddhist literature. A comparative study between Kautilyan theory and Buddhist concept is conducted in the research, as the limitation. As the Agganna sutta and Kautilyan theory were in the earliest canonical literature, a textual analysis is conducted in the study as the research methodology. The Pali cannon embodies numerous statements made by the Buddha with reference to the kinship and the governance, while there was no such attempt regarding the republican system. His mission on putting the monarchies on the correct line was reformist, but not revolutionary. It has been observed that any definition of the state is not found in pre-Kautilyan Indian literature and that Kautilya gives a complete definition of the state in his Arthashastra for the first time. The famous Kautilyan definition of the state is termed as “seven element theory” or “Organic theory”. This paper studies comparatively how they pioneered towards the good governance in early stages, while governments believe they apply concepts of good governance making decisions, cultural differences can cause conflict with the heterogeneous standards of the international community.

Keywords: Aggannasutta; Arthashastra; Canonical writing; Kautilyan theory, Organic theory

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Human Rights and Good Governance in India

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Abstract

Good governance and human rights are mutually reinforcing. Good governance promotes human rights in a number of ways. It encourages public participation in government, inclusion in law-making and policymaking, and accountability of elected and appointed officials. It enables civil society to become actively involved in policymaking and leads to the wide representation of societal interests in decision-making. In this manner, disadvantaged groups, including women and minorities, are empowered to defend their rights. The result may be laws and policies that better respect cultural diversity, contribute to the resolution of social conflicts and tensions, and address the challenges of inequality and poverty.

Poverty - is in fact - the biggest violator of human rights. It's much more than an economic indicator – a reason for the widening gap between the haves and the have nots. It adversely affects all such basic amenities like health care, safe drinking water, adequate nutrition, educational facilities, etc. Poverty can be traced to inadequacies and inequalities in the distribution of opportunities – economic, social, cultural and political - between women and men, across regions, within communities and between rural and urban areas.

The right to enough, assured and quality food to live an active and healthy life with dignity is in principle also an essential component of the fundamental right to life, because life itself is impossible without food. Yet state authorities are conventionally not held responsible when a person loses her life because she cannot access sufficient food for her survival - in the same way as a person who dies because the state directly takes her life without resort to the due process of law. The death of a citizen by starvation is seen as a moral failure of the state, but rarely one that entails direct punishable criminal or even civil liability of public authorities who were charged with the responsibility to ensure that every man, woman and child in their jurisdictions have access to sufficient food for their survival with dignity.

A legally enforceable regime of socio-economic rights can lay the foundation of human existence and dignity. It establishes the scaffolding for humane governance, which sets limits to the enormous avoidable human suffering entailed by want of food, a roof to protect one from the extremes of climate, and health care when one is afflicted. It demands state officials to be accountable both for what they do - and not do - for the most vulnerable and defenseless in society. It affirms that no human being is dispensable - regardless of age and wealth, gender and ability - and of what they are deemed to produce and contribute to society.

Good governance is not possible unless it is free from corruption. No country can afford to close its eyes to this malaise. The Right to Information Act 2005 has come up – in India - as a powerful and effective tool in the hands of ordinary people to raise a voice against corruption. The activists and NGOs have been using RTI to question Government policies and their implementation. It has put officials on guard.

Democratic government and the protection of human rights are cornerstones of political freedom. Democratization is expected to improve accountability, though this is not guaranteed, particularly where information is limited - and opportunities for public engagement are lacking. Perhaps the most fundamental aspect of accountability is government protection of people's basic civil liberties and responsiveness to vulnerable groups. Over the last several decades more and more governments have committed to UN conventions and covenants, and national institutions have evolved to safeguard human rights. International pressure definitely has had a role - particularly after the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights - but the growth of a global consensus for universal education has reflected the need for deeper political processes at home – at the domestic level.

Keywords: Accountability, Corruption, Democracy, Rights, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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Corporate Social Responsibility: A stride towards protecting environment

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Abstract

Corporate Social Responsibility is fundamentally about good business by maximizing profit along with pleasant relation between social and environmental responsibility and commercial interest. Corporate sector refocus their attention to human right obligation, towards consumer, investors, employees and sustainable development issue. This paper seeks to address the raging debate between development Vs environment. A large section of the society, namely the corporates who are involved in mining and infrastructure projects, argue that deforestation and large scale human displacement are collateral damages that one has to pay for development. But the green activists believe in a fine balance between the two. The development should be sustainable. Otherwise disasters will happen. This is where the conflict happens. Posco/Vedanta/Singur, all are examples of this conflict. Do we have the right to displace thousands of people from their habitats, turn agricultural land into factories, forests into plains? This paper is an attempt to find a solution to all these unsettled issues involved in this raging controversy. The main aim of the research paper is to realize the role of Judiciary in checking out the corporate entities with respect to environment pollution. This research paper examines whether internationally agreed environmental principles and nationally applicable environmental liability regimes justify progressive change with in corporate governance law. It is to examine the alternative trend of states to introduce civil liability requiring corporate entities to contribute directly towards the establishment of either an international compensation fund for environmental damage or compulsory insurance schemes for such damage

Keywords: Corporate, Social responsibility, Judiciary, civil liability

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The Impact of Political and Economic Corruption On Sustainable Development and Human Rights – The Way Forward

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Abstract

Across the world, an invisible enemy resides amongst us: corruption. While a watertight definition has been elusive given the amount of literature outpoured by experts of diverse backgrounds, it is acceptable that some of the ingredients are common: the use of public resources for private gain or benefit. Even though this ailment has been condemned by national institutions as well as global intergovernmental bodies as evidenced by the prohibition of corruption and the adoption of a United Nations Declaration on the Prevention of Corruption, very little has been done to give these instruments effect.

Conspicuous to any keen observer is the slow pace of development. In fact, when the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were drafted and adopted, little emphasis was stipulated on the toll of corruption as well as the resultant necessity to fight and curb this malaise. The failure to do so has stagnated political and economic development. In fact, with less than three years to assess how many of the MDGs have been accomplished, early reports serve as a signal that the achievements on many areas are not on-track, and the global community at large has not been able to fulfill its commitment. As Dieter Zinnbauer of Transparency International opines, [T]he extent to which corruption negatively affects the prospects of achieving the MDGs is a key area of empirical inquiry and there is a growing number of research contributions that speak to different aspects of that question. Given the breadth and diversity of the MDGs, it is not surprising that few empirical studies attempt a sweeping exploration of the corruption-MDG relationship. Instead, the related empirical literature and research landscape consists of a wide array of very different contributions.

See *Anti-Corruption News*, Issue 4, October 2010, p. 2.

The content of civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights, are defined by international instruments. Yet, the realization of these rights, as well as the right to sustainable economic development with measurable outputs has been significantly retarded by political and economic corruption. The right to education, health, political participation, transparency and accountability of holders of public offices as indispensable ingredients of good governance and the pre-requisites for socio-economic and political development remain utopic as long as a corrupt system is in place.

This paper, bifurcated into two parts, considers the following: first, the effect of corruption on sustainable development. Secondly, it makes the case for elevating corruption to an international crime. Beyond fostering dialogue between stakeholders such as academics, senior policy-makers and practitioners, the paper proposes a multi-disciplinary strategy that will trigger intense debates and bring the desired changes to the economic, sociopolitical and institutional domains, it also identifies and addresses some practical challenges that have been encountered in the promotion and achievement of sustainable political and economic development.

Keywords: Political and economic corruption, Sustainable development, Human Rights. International crimes

Women and Reproductive Health Rights in Nigeria

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While motherhood is a thing of joy, it is a source of sadness to many households as many women lose their life giving birth in Nigeria. Every single day, Nigeria loses about 2,300 under-five year olds and 145 women of childbearing age. Discussions on reproductive and sexual health rights which had hitherto been a 'taboo' in traditional African societies are on the increase amongst African scholars. While the right to health has been an internationally recognised human right, reproductive health rights gained formal acceptance only in 1993 and the need for women to have access to quality reproductive health services such as medical care, planned family, safe pregnancy, delivery care and treatment and prevention of sexually transmitted infections, such as HIV/AIDS is increasingly gaining recognition in Africa at large and Nigeria in particular. This article focuses on reproductive health as a human rights issue and discusses the right of women to reproductive health information, education and services. The paper also looks at the right of women to safe motherhood, choice of fertility, contraception, protection against rape, sexually transmitted disease and female genital mutilation. Nigeria ranks amongst countries with the highest rate of maternal mortality and morbidity and in spite of the global recognition of the right to health as a human right, Nigeria is yet to embrace the concept as there is no specific legislation on the right to health in Nigeria. Chapter IV of the 1999 Constitution which provides for the fundamental human rights makes no provisions for the right to health in spite of the fact that the right to life is only meaningful to a person who is healthy and the right to freedom of movement has no value for a person who is rendered immobile by a preventable disease. Provisions for healthcare are contained in Chapter II of the Constitution which embodies the economic and social policies of the country. Section 17 (3) (c) provides that the State shall direct its policy towards ensuring that there are adequate medical and health facilities for all persons. However, the provisions of Chapter II have been excluded from adjudication by the courts, thus, no right of action can ensue from the breach of the provisions of the said chapter by the government. Further, there are statutory, cultural and religious factors militating against women's reproductive health rights and they have been a major cause of women's continued oppression. Issues in reproductive rights from the point of view of gender equality are also discussed. The paper concludes that promoting reproductive health and rights is indispensable for economic growth of and poverty reduction in the society.

Keywords: Access, Reproductive Health, Rights, Women

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**Towards the Evolution of Legal and Institutional Framework for the Protection
of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria**

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Abstract

The Refugee Convention (RC) 1951 and its 1967 Protocol (the current international legal regime on the protection of refugees) do not guarantee any legal protection for the category of persons who have been forced to migrate outside the boundaries of their countries due to incidences of inclement weather, famine, flood, earthquake and other natural disasters. To come under the protection of the RC, a person must have been forced to leave his home country "...owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion..." Persons who have been forced to leave their homes, homesteads, towns, cities, farms and familiar terrains due to incidences of inclement weather, famine, flood, earthquake and other natural disasters; but are trapped or displaced within the boundaries of their countries are often in more dire situations. These persons usually referred to as "Internally Displaced Persons" (IDPs) do not come under the protection or welfare of any internationally binding agreements. Apart from the 1998 UN Guiding principles on Internally Displaced Persons which is at best regarded as guiding and not binding and the recently adopted AU Kampala Convention, there is no internationally binding legal framework for the protection of IDPs. Unfortunately, most states have no municipal law to cater for their wellbeing. In Nigeria, for example, this category of persons is left to the whims and caprices of a local regulatory agency; the National Emergency Monitoring Agency (NEMA). This agency more often than not is not proactive in the welfare of such persons. The effect is mass human rights abuse often suffered by this class of persons most especially the children and the womenfolk as they often become beggars and objects of pity in the locality which they have been forced to migrate to. The recent and continuing incidents of flooding experienced in Lagos, Bayelsa and Kogi States of Nigeria, which has displaced millions of the inhabitants of such states from their homes coupled with loss of lives and damages to properties brings to the fore, the urgency of the need for legal and institutional framework for the protection of these persons in Nigeria. This paper assesses the emerging trend of legal protection for internally displaced persons in the African continent especially the very recently adopted African Union Kampala Convention on Internally Displaced Persons. It observes that the obligations imposed by the Convention on its member states is not limited to guaranteeing the welfare of IDPS only but also legislating and taking necessary administrative and incidental steps towards eradicating the causes of internally displacement in the African continent. The overarching objective of the paper is to prove that the non justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights as well as environmental rights in Nigeria is both a causal factor as well as one of the factors militating against adequate protection of IDPS in Nigeria. The paper demonstrates that the non justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights as well as environmental rights in Nigeria continues to impede good governance and sustainable development in the nation. The international implication is that this type of forced migration is a direct flow towards mass migration outside the boundaries of the country of origin of the IDPs. The effect is thus rebounding on nations' international neighbours. The resultant effects task the social, economic and political resolve and foreign policy of such neighbours. The paper seeks out some recommendations and public policy implications which may be of international acceptance for addressing this issue within and outside Nigeria.

Keywords: African Union, Climate Change, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Internally Displaced Persons, Kampala Convention, Nigeria, Refugees

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Justice and hurdles and panacea : In special reference to Bihar

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Abstract

Bihar is a state attempting to deal with the hurdles of establishing the framework and processes of democratic rule. That is a gargantuan and daunting undertaking in underdeveloped struggling state of India. The focal point of this research is “access to justice for the poor people of Bihar”. And when we say “access to justice” we mean access to both the social system of justice and the state's justice system. The study examines the ground reality of poor people who are in need of proper solutions to their problems which has to be dealt by the institutes outside their immediate family. “Access to justice” does not merely means access to the institutions, but it also means access to fair laws, procedures, affordable, implementable and appropriate remedies in terms of values that are in conformity to constitutional values and directives. Other issues affecting access are social phenomenon, lack of education and legal knowledge of people of Bihar.

Through few case study, it can be concluded that poverty and food insecurity creates an environment for social conflict and crime. Unequal distribution of land, therefore becomes a major topic for competition and social tension, which in turn has a great impact on the social framework within the rural villages and settlements as well as on the managing ability of the formal justice system. This study also reveals the possibility of the food insecurity which is putting strain on the gender and family affairs, thus making the general conditions of the society even more vulnerable. It is therefore seen that there is an ardent need for the justice to change ground realities of people otherwise they will create an extra-state institutions and remedies for their immediate needs which can result into the “gunda raj” in Bihar. The results of this study are aimed at assisting the Law Commission. We hope that the rich information gathered in this research piece and recommendations will also be of satisfactory relevance in deciding how social and state institutions could work in harmony in bringing justice to the society which is struggling for meeting its own urgent needs, causes and reasons.

Keywords: Justice, Courts, Delays and Solutions

Emerging Issues in CSR: A Stakeholder's Perspective

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Abstract

This article attempts to examine the concept and practices of CSR and further tries to understand and define CSR in a more precise manner. This research is doctrinal in nature and incorporates various theoretical approaches towards the emerging concept in CSR. Each and every firm has an obligation to use its resources in such a manner that it benefits the society, gives full committed participation as a member of the society and strive for the welfare of the society independently of the direct gains of the company.

This paper includes the stakeholder's perspective of CSR. A critical evaluation is also represented along with the justification of the concept behind CSR on various grounds such as stakeholder's theory and other legal principles. Emphasis is laid on the philanthropic activities of the industries as their role is very important in the present corporate structure.

Along with the above said topics, the paper lays great stress on the legalization and the legal aspect involving the concept of CSR.

The article talks about the four levels of commitment to the Stakeholder Approach, viz. Level 1- Basic Value Proposition; where , the entrepreneur or manager needs to understand how the firm can make the customer better off, and simultaneously offer an attractive value proposition to employees, suppliers, communities, and financiers. Level 2- Sustained Stakeholder Cooperation; where managers must have a deep understanding of how these trades-offs affect each stakeholder, the amount of sacrifice a given stakeholder will accept, and how these current sacrifices can be compensated. Level 3- An understanding of broader societal issues; where managers may need to take positions on issues that apparently are not purely business related, and Level 4- Ethical Leadership; where we need to study connection between ethical values and positive firm outcomes such as sustained profitability and high innovation.

It also attempts to state the 10 Principles of Company Stakeholder Responsibility, which are as follows:

1. Bring stakeholder interests together over time.
2. Recognize that stakeholders are real and complex people with names, faces and values.
3. Seek solutions to issues that satisfy multiple stakeholders simultaneously.
4. Engage in intensive communication and dialogue with stakeholders—not just those who are friendly.
5. Commit to a philosophy of voluntarism—manage stakeholder relationships yourself, rather than leaving it to government.
6. Generalize the marketing approach.
7. Never trade off the interests of one stakeholder versus another continuously over time.
8. Negotiate with primary and secondary stakeholders.
9. Constantly monitor and redesign processes to make them better serve stakeholders.
10. Act with purpose that fulfills commitments to stakeholders act with aspiration towards fulfilling your dreams and theirs.

Keywords: Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Responsibility, Relationship, Stakeholder, Sustainability.

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Withdrawn

Indian Judicial Activism on the 'Right to Environment': Adjudication & Locus Standi

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Abstract

The federal Constitution of India imposes duty on both the citizens and the State to protect and preserve the environment, however the same is non-justifiable, i.e. not enforceable in the Courts of law. However, the active Indian judiciary has extended the scope of judicial review even when such duties are not discharged in the manner they ought to be, as they adversely affect the positive right of others to have an immaculate environment, thus issuing writs against the government. This paper analyzes notion of Indian judicial activism on the fragile issue of environment protection and evolution of environment jurisprudence in the contemporary India. The paper further highlights the commendable efforts of the Indian Judiciary in acting as a *sentinel on the qui vive*, maintaining an equilibrium between progress and environment, promoting sustainable development.

In the preceding decades, the doctrine of *locus standi* and *standing* has undergone phenomenal advancements. Now public spirited individuals can file writ petitions in the High Courts and Supreme Court as Public Interest Litigation without following the mandate of *locus standi*. For that matter, even the procedural requirements have been relaxed, in the interest of justice and benefit of the masses. The Supreme Court while exercising its epistolary jurisdiction has often treated letters written to it as writ petitions, granting remedies to that aggrieved strata of the society, who are otherwise incapable or procuring justice for themselves. However, malicious and vexatious petitions are dismissed with heavy costs.

The contents of the paper are divided into 6 parts. This paper has been prepared through doctrinal research methodology. Reference have been made to various books, articles, law journals, news papers, case laws etc. The Ist part explains the extended interpretation of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, i.e. Fundamental 'Right to life' and the scope of Judicial Review in safeguarding these rights. However special emphasis has been made to the Right to life *vis-a-vis* right to clean environment. Part II of the paper highlights the growth of Judicial activism in India on environmental matters with an endeavour of sustainable development. Besides explaining the stages of growth of judicial activism, a brief comparison of Indian judiciary has been made with the English and the American Judiciary. This segment also highlights the active role of Special Environmental Courts and Benches established to deal with such matters. Discussion regarding the scope and ambit of Writ Jurisdiction of the High Courts and Supreme Court under Article 226 and 32 of the Constitution of India in the field of environmental access to justice has been enumerated under Part III of the paper, while Part IV lays special emphasis on Writ Jurisdiction *vis-a-vis* Public Interest Litigation(PIL). It highlights the new dimensions of the doctrine of standing in the realm of PIL, and emergence of same as an effective and efficacious remedy in the matters pertaining to environmental degradation. Part V of the paper describes the jurisdiction of the Sub-ordinate Judiciary in the matters of environmental concern. It explains all possible ways by which the jurisdiction of the lower judiciary can be invoked for expeditious relief, both civil and criminal jurisdiction. Consequently part VI highlights recent, active instances of the Higher Judiciary with special reference to sustainable development in the field of atomic energy. The study has dealt with the active role of Indian Judiciary in framing of environmental jurisprudence in the Country.

Keywords: Environmental Jurisprudence; Judicial Review; Locus Standi; Standing; Sustainable Development.

Environmental Crimes and Human Rights Violations

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Abstract

Environment, Development and Human Rights are key issues posing a continuing challenge to the establishment of an order, which confirms with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Universal Declaration underscores full importance of legal expression of human rights and establishing a legal framework that provides effective remedies. This paper investigates the need to bring out a similar framework pursuing the demands of sustainable development. There is a legitimate concern of this generation for protection of environment, preserving the interests of future generations. This can be fused into the legal framework by mutually agreeing upon components of our right to a healthy and flourishing environment. For many years, perception of environmental problems has been limited to a specific geographical area, the industrialized countries, and reduced to the simplest term, pollution. This paper aims to go beyond the limited periphery that circumscribes environmental degradation and tackle the issue from a universal angle, adding human dimension to the quandary of cross-border environmental damage. Whenever and wherever eco-crimes are committed, gross human rights violations take place. Within this context, this paper focuses on the following three issues: Firstly, environmental crimes must be advocated as crimes under international law. International law, and law of some regional integration organizations such as the European Union, is increasingly contributing to mandate the enactment and punishment of environmental crimes. However, their legislative tendencies should be increased. International treaties should be endowed with a richer set of provisions, dealing with punishment of environmental offences through criminal law. This needs to be dealt with *de lege ferenda* perspective, a matter where no consensus has been possible yet in the international fora. As a result, willful and severe damage to the environment will result in consequences flowing from breach of obligations *erga omnes* or of imperative norms of international law. Secondly, we should advocate on the emergence of an international consensus on the definition of international environmental crime and on ways and means to provide for its punishment at appropriate levels. Finally, environmental crimes are closely linked to human rights, in the sense that severe and massive violations of environment quite always amount to massive violations of fundamental human rights; for this reason, protection of environment against environmental crimes is also a condition for effective protection of human rights. Thus, the international law instruments and mechanisms devoted to protection of human rights should be used to denounce and prosecute massive and large-scale attacks against the environment.

Keywords: Cross-border environmental damage, European Union, International Law, Sustainable Development, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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Resource Curse, Staple Thesis and Rentier Politics in Africa

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Abstract

The new oil finds have been discovered in as Kenya, Ghana, Somalia and Uganda, in addition to new finds in natural gas finds in the East African Coastal region. According to the U.S Geological Survey, the coastal region, stretching out from Seychelles holds 441.1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, 50 percent more than in Saudi Arabia and can produce 23 billion cubic meters a year. These massive offshore gas discoveries in the East Africa may bring billions in investments that could transform the regional economies from Kenya to Mozambique. However, the institutional and governance challenges presence the dark sides of the new finds as foreign investors scramble for their shares as well as deepening evidence of corruption loomed in the region. The old fashion competing narratives in Africa are that the existence of valuable resources is more of a curse rather than a blessing since many countries with valuable natural resource endowments are yet to benefit. Moreover, the benefit to the rentier state depends on the willingness and ability to tax the staple and also claims participation in the staple's performance. In addition, the ability to tax the enclave is also not a sufficient condition to vigorous economic growth unless it is accompanied by the ability to invest productively and the possibility of any fault investment becomes a leakage to the system. State that only concentrates on how to tax the staple may be very far from making effective contribution to development outcomes. A country may diversify its staples towards agriculture and manufacturing to avoid the "paradox of plenty." It is also argued that the extent to which a country suffers from the "resource curse" depends on its policy choices. The common narratives are that institutional and governance qualities, as well as building political coalitions are necessary to promote productive public investments and entrepreneurial abilities of the government. With the new oil discoveries, Uganda now faces a litmus test in avoiding the "paradox of plenty" as it advances its development agenda. While the government favors using the oil revenues to improve on its infrastructure and spur industrial development, observers believe that country has high degree of vulnerability to the "resource curse," given the institutional and governance inability, social fragmentation and the lack of political inclusiveness. The country experiences deteriorating governance conditions and corruption, signaling inadequate capacity to tax and invest from the oil revenues in a productive manner. As evidenced in the Production Sharing Agreements between the government and the oil companies were kept confidential and not opened for public scrutiny. The ability to negotiate instrumental contracts in the staple has now been applauded by development opportunists as now move towards the exploitation of the natural resource endowments. Using the staple thesis analysis, this article examines the development outcomes in a comparative perspective of relative successful countries such as Botswana, Ghana among a few to Uganda's new oil finds. The argument is that Uganda lacks prior proper institutional quality and governance capability as well as political inclusiveness as preconditions to avoid the "resource curse". It is therefore necessitates examining development in this resource boom country from the view point of staple thesis and linkage perspective. While most propositions in the African context countries are in favor of focusing on fiscal linkage "revenue" from oil exploration, basing mainly on forward linkage of 'technological alien.' Following Hirschman methodology, this study will first start by describe the development process from staple thesis and linkage perspective, crediting view point that the realization of fiscal benefits depends on the performance (income and multiple purposes) of the staple.

Keywords: executive accountability, governance, development outcomes, transparency, civil society,

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**Dilemmas of Legal Pluralism in State Formation: A Comparative Analysis
of State's Craftiness in Uganda and Ghana**

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Abstract

The construct of legal pluralism in state formation has remained problematic in the history of state formulation in the context of highly centralized powerful kingdoms in relation to the central government. This article presents a comparative analysis on Uganda and Ghana, with specific reference to the role of land and identity politics in state formation. In Uganda, Buganda's land question remained unresolved within the discourse of state formation. The unresolved land question originates from the *Kabaka's* crisis of 1966 and the subsequent abolition of federalism system of governance through the introduction of unitary system by 1967 constitution, in which the central government significantly reduced the central role of Buganda Kingdom in Uganda's politics. The Kingdom's assets were confiscated by the central government including land, and this has remained a contentious to the presence day. Whatever happened after the 1966 however did not change the structure of land holding and distribution established under colonialism and confirmed in the Independence Constitution. As stated in Article 15 of the 1900 *Buganda* agreement, the Kabaka and his notable chiefs were rewarded with *mailo* system of land ownership, an exclusive form of private ownership that was passed to their generations. While the agreement guaranteed British sovereignty and also privileged the status to Buganda Kingdom, dividing the Buganda's land equally between the British and Buganda chiefs, in which many of whom now hold land in private ownership and can leased plots to tenants under the system, it herald a scenario whereby land issues and state formation are inseparable from the national development and governance. Through the agreement, Buganda Kingdom was privileged to acquire additional territories in Bunyoro Kingdom, a Kingdom that was hostile to the British colonial authority and the Buganda Kingdom, in exchange for the political loyalty and collaboration with the British colonialism was rewarded with territories in Bunyoro's Kingdom, a historical mistake that undermine the current national reform debate. The politics of contemporary land reforms have been based on bringing specific interests of significant groups into the laws and these have been rooted in the post independence land reform laws, however did not adequately address the problem of land and identity politics. This article intends to learn from Ghana's experience in managing land and identity politics since it also had a powerful Kingdom, the Asanti chiefs that have not featured as problematic in the discourse of state formation compared Buganda's question in Uganda's politics. In comparison, both countries shared the social contradictions and reality in the state initiated land reform interventions, especially in *customary* ownership where more than 80 percent of land in both countries are owned under the customary institutions. The process of introducing market paradigm through registering has been very problematic and subsequently retarded the process of securing tenure security and land financing. This process of registering communal land has made very little progress as customary owners perceive land as an inheritable not a commodity. This article compares land and identity politics in state formation in Uganda and Ghana, interplays of access politics, the spatiality of customary land access, the social contradictions and reality within the discourse of land and identity politics in state formation.

Keywords: Identity politics, land, political economy, neo-customary, state formation

The Right of Prisoner's in India

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Abstract

Criminals should be treated as patients in hospitals and jails should be hospitals admitting such patients for treatment and care⁴. The poor, illiterate and weaker sections in our society in our country suffer day in and day out in their struggle for survival and look to those who have promised them equality- social, political and economic, a very large number of under-trial prisoners suffer prolonged incarceration even in petty criminal matters merely for the reason that they are not in a position, even in bailable offences, to furnish bail bonds and get released on bail. The practice of discriminatory treatment of political prisoners, which was instituted during the colonial period, continues in independent India. The prison as an institution has become a site of contention between the privileged and the deprived. The prisoners in India are also denied their basic rights which also include human rights. The prisoners are even denied basic health care facilities which lead to their death in custody and it shows the casual approach of the jail administration. The prisoners also face torture in the prisons as Prof. Baxi rightly pointed out that torture is institutionalized, custodial violence or torture is an integral part of police operation in India. The worst phase of police torture is witnessed during emergency when prisoners went through inhuman treatment. Shocking figures came from the NHRC report which states that in 2006-2007 it received 1,597 cases of custodial death of which 118 deaths were in police custody, 1,477 in judicial custody and 2 in the custody of defense and paramilitary forces⁵. There was no effective law as such to improve the condition of the prisoners or give them rights. The Supreme Court of India came to their rescue and widened the scope of Article 21 of the constitution and included many rights and that are now considered as fundamental rights. The right of prisoners is also included in this article.

The judiciary adopted the activist approach in pronouncing the judgment on the issue relating to prison and right of prisoners which led to the foundation of the rights of the prisoners in India. The whole scenario changed after the Maneka Gandhi judgment and later Supreme Court through various judgments gave prisoners many rights viz, speedy trial, long pretrial confinement, legal aid, handcuffing etc.... The Supreme Court went to an extent that a letter was considered as PIL and orders were passed against the pathetic conditions of the prisoners. The Supreme Court also came down heavily on custodial torture despite this not much has changed. Law Commission in its 113th report recommended amendments to the Evidence Act, 1872 so as to provide that in the prosecution of a police officer for an alleged offence of having caused bodily injuries to a person while in police custody, if there is evidence that the injury was caused during the period when the person was in custody, the court may presume that the injury was caused by the police officer having the custody of that person during that period unless the police officer proves to the contrary. The onus to prove "the contrary" must be discharged by the police official concerned. The Supreme Court recommended "appropriate changes in the law not only to curb custodial crimes but also to see that such crimes do not go unpunished. The courts are also required to have a change in their outlook, approach, appreciation and attitude, particularly in cases involving custodial crimes and they should exhibit more sensitivity and adopt a realistic rather than a narrow technical approach."

However, to ensure the humane treatment of prisoners in custody, the apex court has allowed access to convicted prisoners in jail so that society at large would be appraised of the reasons behind their detention and the conditions in which they served their sentence. These judgments have really helped the prisoners in getting their rights and to make the conditions humane. This paper will deal with all these rights of the prisoners and mainly focus on the role of judiciary to help the prisoners.

Keywords: patient care prisoners, judgment, torture, institutionalized violence

⁴ Mahatma Gandhi

⁵ Nitya Ramakrishna, 2013, In custody law impunity and prisoner abuse in South Asia, India, sage publisher

Uganda in the 1990s and HIV: a “zero grazing” policy

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Abstract

In the late 1980s, Uganda was widely viewed as the most HIV/AIDS-affected country in the world. Within a year, AIDS, then known as “slim”, was diagnosed in three Ugandan cities and by 1989, all districts of Uganda were affected. With a population of over 20 million, divided into several tribes and languages, the national HIV prevalence was 18 percent in rural areas and 30 percent in major urban areas (“UNGASS Country Progress Report – Uganda” 3). The majority of the reported AIDS cases occurred among people between sixteen and forty years of age, with a unexpected high number of babies born HIV positive (Lauer 21).

Accordingly, government health officials initiated an aggressive nationwide campaign to prevent the spread of the disease among the Ugandan population. This governmental campaign aimed for the promotion of early awareness and behavioural change through public education programs, including television and radio, as well as local press warnings in English and local languages. This campaign focused on the argument that the AIDS breakdown in Uganda was caused by grossly promiscuous sexual activities. The dominant message of early HIV prevention campaigns, led by President Museveni, encouraged individuals to be faithful to their partner and to have ‘zero-grazing’ behaviour (Hogle et al. 7). The latter comes from the agricultural practice of tying livestock to a post, restricting them to a zero-shaped section of grass. Overall, Uganda’s abstinence and faithfulness campaign launched in 1987 promoted behavioural change by encouraging young people to delay the initiation of sex and urged sexually active adults to reduce their number of sexual partners.

This paper examines Uganda’s policies towards the rapid spread of HIV//AIDS in the country. Using the theory of causal stories developed by Deborah Stone, this paper develops a framework that aims to explain why the causal story of sexual promiscuity was more successful than the causal story of institutional failure in Uganda. In detail, this paper focuses on the independent variables of each causal story, highlighting their influences on the success of one argument over another. For the purpose of this paper, success occurs when a causal story becomes the dominant belief and the guiding assumption for policy makers. It is measured by the allocation of public funding and public campaigns. Overall, this paper argues that the causal story of sexual promiscuity was more successful than the causal story of institutional failure due to its agreement with previous policies and cultural values, support from international donors, protection of the pre-existing political and social order, and support from the scientific community.

Keywords: Health policy, HIV/AIDS, Policy choice, International aid, Uganda

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Starving India: Food security vis-à-vis right to food in Indian context

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Abstract

Hunger and malnutrition are the twin problems that plague the world at large and continue to be a blemish on the graph of development. Though many countries have pledged their allegiance to the task of eradicating hunger, so far it has proved to be a utopian dream. Even though food is the most basic requirement for survival, it still seems to be a luxury which millions barely have access to. The only way that hunger can become a thing of the past is to make food security a reality, and to respect every individual's right to adequate food and ensuring that no one is denied the same. Right to food and Food Security is the need of the hour. The law of our land, that is the Constitution of India, has paid tribute to the Right to Food by giving it the status of a fundamental right and encompassing it within the purview of Right to Life guaranteed under Article 21.

This paper begins with explaining as to what constitutes hunger and malnutrition and showcases the grim scenario prevailing all over the world by depicting estimates provided by the FAO. It then goes on to delineate the concept of food security and exhibits how food insecurity is rampant in every nook and corner of India. Despite being touted as one of the fastest growing economies in the world, India is still lagging behind most of the other developing countries in the radar of the Global Hunger Index. An attempt has been made to explain the concept of right to food and the difference between the right to food and food security has been brought about. The paper then traverses through various international conventions, declarations and summits which endorse the Right to Food and enunciates the importance of incorporating the same by the countries in their national legislations. The various constitutional provisions safeguarding the right to food have been highlighted in the next segment followed by the positive role played by the judiciary in taking this right to the next level. The Supreme Court has done some commendable work in this regard and the PUCL case is one such example which has been dealt with in detail by the paper. The next part of the paper exhaustively deals with the various schemes enacted by the government to further this right to ensure that the under-privileged sections of the society can exploit its full potential. Furthermore, these governmental schemes have been critically analyzed to weigh their pros and cons and it has been observed that there is still a long way to go which is not an easy taskmaster owing to the rampant corruption. Towards the end, the authors have tried to give suggestions which might come in handy in curbing the menace of hunger and starvation in India. This paper has been prepared through theoretical methodological approach wherein various journals, books and newspapers have been referred to.

Keywords: Food Security; Hunger; Malnutrition; Right to Food, People's Union for Civil Liberties

Virtual Victimization of Women: Need for Specific Cyber Laws

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Abstract

Social Media is on rise with its both good and bad effects. Cyber crimes against women have become a spiteful and malign trend worldwide and it is hurtful and defamatory for every woman who faces it. Several cyber crimes like adult bullying, stalking, defamations, indecent photography on platform like Facebook, twitter, YouTube are very often. The digital era witnessed new phase of feminism whereby women who belonged to more orthodox patriarchal societies were now enabled to practice self dependence norms through electronic shopping, “digital awareness camps” (blogs and open forums) for healthcare and baby care, higher education, modes to transform leisurely passions into profitable professions, et cetera. Ironically, this digital freedom also made women unknowingly / knowingly open Pandora’s Box and explore the evil side of the Internet. Cyber crime against women was largely ignored therefore, not truly addressed and hence no proper laws were made for a long time. Most of the cyber crimes against women happen due to lack of recognition of women’s rights and zero or less laws to protect women’s interest in the cyber space. In the absence of Cyber Law Awareness in India, very few women are aware as to where to file a Complaint or how to pursue a Cyber Crime Case in India. Even if we have some cyber laws to resolve the given problem, still a question on their implication always arises. Section 66 and Section 67 of Information Technology Act are not effective enough to combat against various serious cyber crimes and are also gender neutral, whereas today’s society wants specific law totally based on cyber crimes against women because in majority cases women are targeted in the cyberspace and offenders use different method to attack them in the cyber space. There are important gender differences when it comes to cyber crime victimization. “Males are more likely to commit offences, while females are more likely to be victimized”, says Debarati Halder. After all the security provided by social media cyber crime still happens. It is because of lack of awareness towards law and uncooperative attitude of police. Hence, the basic aim of this piece of work will be to examine Cyber crimes and recent laws on it under Indian Law. Also, an emphasis will be made on the urgent need for specific cyber laws for women in India. To overcome the problem, case studies on different kinds of cyber crimes against women will be made and will be critically analyzed. The authors have used an analytical research method. The researchers have relied both on primary and secondary sources. Lastly, this paper would be recommending propositions and possible solutions to deal with this contemporary problem.

Keywords: Cyber Crime, Gender neutral, Information Technology Act, Lack of awareness, Social media.

Elections as a Tool of Democratization in Africa

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In recent years, there has been a new wave of democratisation process globally and the African continent is witnessing a new drive towards the promotion of democracy and good governance. From the North, to the East, South and West of Africa, authoritarian regimes are giving way to democratic governments. The new drive towards democracy and good governance is currently sweeping through Africa like a wild bushfire and many African countries recently transitioned from authoritarian to democratic forms of governance in consonance with the global trend. Elections have been an integral part of the democratisation process globally as they are an institutionalised attempt at actualizing the essence of democracy, that is, rule of the people by the people and for the people. However, many of Africa's democratic elections have been marred with extreme controversy and violence. Corruption, massive rigging, ballot box snatching and political violence, and the winner takes all syndrome has impacted negatively on the democratic process. In many African countries, violent protests mark the proclamation of election results. Peaceful handover to opposition parties by the ruling party is rare, while many rulers have become life presidents. There is a general apathy of the electorate to elections as a majority of the people especially those in the rural areas view the state as having little or no relevance to them. This is resultant from the failure of the state to provide social security or any form of social citizenship and has thus alienated a majority of the populace. Committed to the promotion of the universal values and principles of democracy, good governance, human rights and the right to development and determined to promote and strengthen good governance through the institutionalization of transparency, accountability and participatory democracy, the African Union adopted the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (the Charter). This paper appraises the role of elections in ensuring credible and sustainable democratisation process in Africa and the role of the African Union in achieving credible, free and fair elections towards sustainable democratic governance. The paper observes that in spite of the Charter, the ideals of democratic concept have been continually flouted by most African states without appropriate sanctions by the African Union. The paper argues that the Charter though laudable is incapable of ensuring democratic governance in Africa without the political will on the part of the AU. The paper concludes that conducting free, fair and credible elections is *sine qua non* to democratic consolidation and institutionalised democracy in Africa.

Keywords: Credibility, Democratisation, Elections, Good Governance

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Companies Act 2013 and CSR in India: Prospects and Challenges

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Abstract

Corporate Social Responsibility is an evolving concept that is gaining importance and corporates are realizing it as a business opportunity. It has relevance since ancient ages as in Kautilya's Arthashastra, **Yogakshema** which literally means well being and is used in context of a social security system. In the present day context it can be equated to corporate social responsibility.

Corporate Social Responsibility can be explained as:

Corporate - means organized business

Social - means everything dealing with the people

Responsibility - means accountability between the two

There is no single commonly accepted definition of corporate social responsibility. It can be defined as: Corporate social responsibility is operating a business in a manner which meets or exceeds the ethical, legal, commercial and public expectations that a society has from the business. Corporate Social Responsibility is nothing but what an organisation does, to positively influence the society in which it exists. It could take the form of community relationship, volunteer assistance programmes, special scholarships, preservation of cultural heritage and beautification of cities. The philosophy is basically to return to the society what it has taken from it, in the course of its quest for creation of wealth.

According to **Brown H.R.**, social responsibility is defined as the obligation of businessmen to pursue those policies, to make those decisions, or to follow those lines of action which are desirable in terms of objectives and values of society. Business entity is expected to undertake those activities, which are essential for betterment of the society. Every aspect of business has a social dimension. Corporate Social Responsibility means open and transparent business practices that are based on ethical values and respect for employees, communities and the environment. It is designed to deliver sustainable value to society at large as well as to shareholders. With the understanding that businesses play a key role of job and wealth creation in society, CSR is generally understood to be the way a company achieves a balance or integration of (a) economic, (b) environmental, and (c) social imperatives,

According to Sir Adrian Cadbury, The broadest way of defining social responsibility is to say that the continued existence of companies is based on an implied agreement between business and society. In effect, companies are licensed by society to provide the goods and services which society needs. The freedom of operation of companies is, therefore, dependent on their delivering whatever balance of economic and social benefits society currently expects of them. The problem for companies is that the balance of needs and benefits is continually changing and there is no generally accepted way of measuring those changes.

CSR and India

CSR is not new to India, companies like TATA and BIRLA have been imbibing the case for social good in their operations for decades long before CSR become a popular cause. In spite of having such life size successful examples, CSR in India is in a very nascent stage. It is still one of the least understood initiatives in the Indian development sector. It is followed by a handful of public companies as dictated by the very basis of their existence, and by a few private companies, with international shareholding as this is the practice followed by them in their respective foreign country. Thus the situation is far from perfect as the emphasis is not on social good but rather on a policy that needs to be implemented.

New Companies Act, 2013 and CSR

The 2013 Act has introduced several provisions which would change the way Indian corporates do business and one such provision is spending on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities. CSR, which has largely been voluntary contribution, by corporates has now been included in law.

This paper analyses how concept of corporate social responsibility has evolved over the period of time in India, the newly brought companies act 2013, prospects and challenges in CSR funding thereof. It also cites some successful case studies in pre act era which can be taken up to draw the future course of action.

Keywords: Corporate Governance, Corporate Social Responsibility, Good Governance

**Motivating Child Development and Eradication of Child Labor
by Prompt Efforts by Us, Society and Government**

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Abstract

One of the menacing curses that our nation is facing today is child labor. Lack of economy and basic education has been monitored as a cause for majority of child labor activities. It is being generally realized that, child labor especially in hazardous occupation is one of the worst social evil and has to be eliminated at the earliest. Government has been taking various pro-active measures to tackle this problem. However, considering the magnitude and extent of the problem and that it is essentially a socio-economic problem inextricably linked to poverty and illiteracy, it requires concerted efforts from all sections of the society to make a dent in the problem. To eradicate child labor we have our plan which involves educating children, providing them financial support, spreading awareness among their parents, making them mandatory to go to school. Our plan aims to stop the activity of child labor completely.

Our plan of action includes the eradication of child labor by taking a target area and implementation of our idea. Our idea basically involves the participation of college and university students. Since the families which are involved are mainly those having income around 50-60 rupees per day, hence they have no other alternative other than forcing each member to work, in order to satisfy their basic needs. For this our plan includes collecting donations and financial support from college, university students and common people who are interested in the upliftment of these underprivileged families.

Our plan includes a policy, '**adopt a child policy**'. "According to our '**adopt a child policy**' we collect financial assistance from volunteers who are willing to support our cause, we also include faculty members and other students to donate as per their will." The money we assimilate, we distribute it amongst the children by helping them to buy books, daily needs, and also helping their parents by providing financial help to buy groceries and other daily need product.

Other than this we aim to spread awareness among the localities and families involved. This is also done by visiting government aided and private schools, via newspaper and media so that prohibition laws from the government are regulated.

In this regard we also aim to provide other facilities to the children and their parents. It has been observed that child labor owes its existence due to lack of education at primary level. Hence our idea includes setting up of schools for primary education having well equipped facilities within every 2-3 km range. The fund for the constructing of schools need to be provide by the state or central government. The NGOs and industrialists can make an active contribution in this regard. We aim to make these children skillful by imparting professional education such as computer education. This would enable them for certain alternative employment like data feeding in certain government offices, computer designing etc. Girls can be involved in activities like designing of handicrafts, pottery making arts paintings and other artistic talents that could provide them with an alternative source of income. Hence, measures stated above if successfully implemented can play a vital role in eradication of child labor.

Keywords: menacing, child labor, government, illiteracy, eradication

Middle-East Women: Failed by their Guardians, Failed by the Arab Spring

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Abstract

Nearly two years after the start of uprisings in the Arab World, women are confronting the reality that toppling the dictators was only the beginning of their fight for freedom and equality. Women are still battling deep-seated conservative cultural norms and efforts by the new order to deprive them of the only rights granted to them by their predecessors. The position is such that one of the scholars in the field calls 'Islamic feminism' an oxymoron. The development of the Arab Spring across the Middle East was not a gender based issue, yet it was the issue of women's rights, which sought to define it in the perception of the 'West'. While the revolutions were not defined by the role of women there was a general call by both men and women for regime change and revolution - but significantly the gender identities of the revolutionaries was not the focus of the revolutions.

Arab women are "the victims of eternal Arab-Islamic patriarchy" and despite their heavy involvement in the Arab Spring, they are facing a "rollback of their rights and under-representation in emerging political institutions." Although the situation of women varies across the region, threats to their human rights converge. Women are now confronting attempts to exclude them from the social life, as well as acts of discrimination and violence are being perpetrated against them by the extremist groups and security forces. Orientalism still continues in its most aggressive forms, whether it is the patriarchy or the overlooking of the demands of the women who helped set up the current 'regime'. Women in the region are still depicted as backward and in need of a saving grace. This cultural conundrum is one of the most interesting parts of the Arab Spring. We see little to none of incorporating women in the formal decision-making in the post-Arab Spring scenario. There is continued dependency of women on men, while that on foreign aid has changed. It seems that women would need another uprising to get their rights from the government they protested for. Despite the initial thoughts that the Arab Spring would bring a democracy and a strong commitment to the rule of law, the disappointing part is that the demands of the women for equal rights have gone largely unfulfilled.

So, what did the Arab Spring do for women? It amplified their voices across the Middle East, their demands for a better future for themselves, their families and their countries and their demand to end to injustice, brutality and corruption. However, it won't be wrong to note that the women sustained the Arab Spring, but the Arab Spring miserably failed them.

This paper shall focus on the role played by women in the Arab Spring and how the Arab Spring has, if at all, benefitted them. Partly being descriptive in nature, it shall give the timeline of events along with a brief outline of the historical-cultural background of the uprisings. The authors' opinions shall be reflected in the recommendations, laying down certain measures of equality to be implemented, including withdrawal of all reservations to CEDAW (Convention to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination Against Women) and cooperate with the UN mechanisms protecting women's rights. The paper is divided into three parts – the first one very briefly dealing with the historical-cultural background of the revolution, the second dealing with the role and portrayal of women during the Arab Spring and the third with the current scenario of the rights of the women. (579 words)

Keywords: Arab Spring, CEDAW, Islamic Feminism, Middle-East, Women's Rights.

Sustainable Development: Defining a New Paradigm

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Abstract

With all the latest development, civilization today stand at a defining moment in history. At a time when global unemployment levels exceed 200 million, one in three workers lives in working poverty and 5.1 billion people are without access to essential social security could exacerbate the weakening of social cohesion and rising instability in number of countries. We are confronted with a perpetuation of inequality between and within nations, escalating poverty, hunger, ill health and illiteracy, and the ongoing deterioration of the ecosystems on which we depend for our well-being. The environmental and social challenges are inextricably linked. Economic growth, job creation and incomes depend on-and can degrade-natural resources and systems. However, they can also restore and augment environmental sustainability. Given the scale and the exigency of challenges, it is clear that the world has neither resources nor time to tackle them separately or consecutively. They need to be concentrate on collectively in a comprehensive and complementary manner through sustainable development. The idea of sustainable development is that the claims of future generation must be treated as cardinal and paramount. Sustainable development is not a blind or a preposterous dogma. It endorses the view that resources should be utilized in an expedient manner reducing inequalities and catering to the need of future generations.

This paper aims to, firstly delve into the need of the emergence of concept of sustainable development and highlight the four domains of sustainable development i.e. environmental, economic, socio-political and cultural. Also it explores the intricate links between environment and development and the importance of Sustainable Development. It further identifies the major environmental evils and analyses the sustainability of the current economic development model along with the globally acceptable principles of sustainable development. Secondly the paper explores the various challenges and drivers of change and transmission channels for the shift to green economy, and considers their implications for economic activity, employment growth and social outcomes, notably as regards to key economic sectors. It also identifies successful policies and good practices, to ensure that green economy is characterized by gains in job quality, reduction in poverty and improvements of social inclusion with a prime focus on Agenda 21. Thirdly the paper compares the different program undertaken to achieve sustainable development with the objective of bringing out the lacunas in the strategies and making them more comprehensive. The last part of the paper examines the evidence on net employment effects, highlighting the importance of taking a comprehensive approach to addressing the challenges. An approach that recognizes the interplay between environmental policy on the one hand and labour market and social policy on the other. The paper also draws attention to the importance of social dialogue as a mechanism for achieving sustainable development for all perspective.

Keywords: Inequality, labour, policy, unemployment, workers

Human Rights and Duties: Essentials for Good Governance

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Abstract

Human rights are almost a form of religion in today's world. They are the great ethical yardstick that is used to measure a government's treatment of its people. Human Rights are indeed a sine-quo-non for the development of human personality and an indispensable ingredient for the physical strength and mental fortification of humanity. As a matter of fact, human rights are an expression of dignity, freedom of conscience, and a civilized means of subsistence. The genesis of the concept is to be found in the classical liberal traditions reinforced by renaissance that made a passionate defence of the principles of competitive individualism and rule of law aimed at the realization of individual dignity, liberty and freedom.

Human Rights and Good Governance are intimately related and has gained a lot of importance nowadays. Good governance promotes human rights while human rights are a source of good governance. The basic purpose of good governance is to promote human dignity and status. The human rights are indisputable rights of every human being that enable a person not only to live but also to live with dignity. But human rights invite a number of preconditions for the realization of the same. It is now being realized that protection of human rights at the domestic level is possible only when good governance prevails. The provision of good governance works as precondition for human rights' protection and growth. Since good governance can help in the realization of different human rights from the right to life to the environmental rights and other economic, political and social rights, demand has been made to declare right to good governance as the most basic human right.

Human rights principles provide a set of values to guide the work of governments and other political and social actors. They also provide a set of performance standards against which these actors can be held accountable. Moreover, human rights principles inform the content of good governance efforts: they may inform the development of legislative frameworks, policies, programmes, budgetary allocations and other measures. On the other hand, without good governance, human rights cannot be respected and protected in a sustainable manner. The implementation of human rights relies on a conducive and enabling environment. This includes appropriate legal frameworks and institutions as well as political, managerial and administrative processes responsible for responding to the rights and needs of the population.

Good governance is a fundamental right of a citizen and democracy. Such governance includes factors such as transparency and accountability. It also includes values such as justice and equity. It must ensure that the citizens', especially the poorest, basic needs are met and they have a life with dignity. Good governance implies an administration that is sensitive and responsive to the needs of the people and is effective in coping with emerging challenges in society by framing and implementing appropriate laws and measures. It includes strict rules of accountability. It could be centered on community groups or individuals and based on a notion of rights as inherently comprising duties.

The paper is an attempt to analyze the conceptual background of these two concepts. As without the creation of good governance, the human rights development might not be possible and adopting appropriate approach to fortification of good governance can be the best model for human rights development the result of this paper would pave the way for the policy- making related to human rights development.

Keywords: Accountability; Government; Good Governance; Human Rights; transparency.

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Can the ICESCR be an Alternative for Environmental Protection? Analysis of the Effectiveness of the ICESCR in Holding State and Non-State Actors Accountable for Environmental Degradation

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Abstract

Businesses, human rights, environmental protection - areas which at first sight might seem to have little in common, are in fact greatly intertwined and as businesses become more internationalized, the need to have clear-cut laws regulating the relations among these areas becomes inevitable. The growth of interest and scrutiny of various expert groups on the one hand, and the engagement of the civic groups on the other hand in the ways the businesses impact communities and the environment in which they operate makes it even more pressing to have regulations and norms not only during the process of the business project realization, but also in the stage of consideration of project financing.

Today, when the environmental degradation is no longer a warning by ecologists, but an everyday encounter by many, efforts of each individual to lessen their impact on the surrounding environment by recycling, preferring bicycles to cars, consuming less electricity and water seem insufficient. Companies and transnational corporations nowadays have greater impact on the environment all over the world through their activities, such as logging forests for mining purposes and in this way changing the biodiversity, the quality of air etc, creating tailing dumps which threaten the rivers, planting non-native species and displacing the native ones in this way as well affecting the biodiversity, overusing and wasting water in the oil and gas sector, etc. All these activities eventually affect not only the biodiversity, but also human well being.

Thus, one method for tackling the problem of environmental degradation is creating universal mandatory norms to which all corporations would adhere. At the same time the institutions funding projects should as well follow certain compulsory guidelines aimed at determining which projects can be approved for funding based on prior social and environmental impact assessment and their sustainability. Another method, however, which is considered in this work in more details, is the approach to the issue of environmental degradation from the human rights perspective, particularly from the perspective of each human being having the right to live in a healthy, clean environment. As the reflection of this right is found in the state binding UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), we consider this indirect approach to the environmental protection as a possible effective method for addressing the issues of environmental degradation.

Therefore, in this work we first justify our choice of approaching the environmental protection from the perspective of state's human rights obligations, rather than from the perspective of voluntary guidelines adopted by corporations and financial institutions. We then analyze the relevant articles in the ICESCR and the corresponding General Comments addressing the issue of environmental degradation. After this analysis we identify main obstacles which may hinder the fulfillment of the Covenant provisions. Based on the observations, we summarize, whether the ICESCR can be an alternative forum for environmental protection, acting as a temporary measure, until the guidelines adopted by the corporations and financial institutions aimed at protecting human rights and the environment become universal and mandatory.

Keywords: Corporations, Environment, Financial Institutions, Health, ICESCR

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Do the conditions set for liability for complicity in human rights abuses strike the right balance between competing considerations of legal policy?

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Abstract

While there are cases when the business and their representatives are directly responsible for human rights abuses, situations also occur when the businesses are accused of indirect or implicit abuse of the rights which often occur in cooperation with another actor such as the state. Human rights organizations, activists, international policy makers use the term “business complicity in human rights abuses” for such situations to describe the undesirable business involvement in such abuses.

When a corporation assists another entity, whether it is a state, a rebel group, another company, an individual, in committing international crimes, the rules for determining responsibility under international law will be the rules developed in international criminal law. However, there are also cases, when the corporation is alleged to have assisted a government in violating customary international law rights in circumstances which do not amount to international crimes, but rather to violations of civil/common law, which in its turn assumes that the corporation must have been aware of the circumstances making the activity of the assisted state a violation of international human rights law, or the assistance must have been given with a view to facilitating the commission of such violation and so it contributed to the violation.

Although there is no international forum yet with the jurisdiction to prosecute a company as a legal entity, and the practice has been bringing the corporate officials to trial for crimes under international law at the international level, still there are examples in national criminal law which provide for criminal liability of legal entities and in particular, companies.

In this work we go further trying to identify whether the liability for complicity in human rights abuses is dealt in corresponding instances and legal fora, we explore a few cases of business complicity in human rights abuses, we then examine the legal policies applied to them, and accordingly determine whether or not the approaches applied in these and similar cases have justified themselves as proper tools for holding the businesses accountable for the abuses in the future.

Keywords: Complicity, Corporations, Human Rights, Legal Policy, Liability

Inequities towards Health Needs of Vulnerable Social Groups: Strategies to Serve this Disadvantaged Population

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Abstract

In 21st Century, we are confronted with economic, environment and social crisis on a global scale. In the Indian context, the government guaranteed to all the people of India the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights for their realization by all sections of the polity without any kind of discrimination. Despite progress in improving the access to healthcare services, inequalities by socioeconomic status, age, gender, disabilities, geographical location continues to persist which give rise to vulnerable social groups. Moreover, due to poverty, they are harassed on grounds of customary, social practices and cultural factors and equal opportunity has been denied to these groups. While the existence and extent of poor health outcomes for these "vulnerable population" are well documented, research attempts to explain why such inequities persist and how they might be resolved¹. Based on secondary data using a variety of methods, the aim of this paper is to focus attention on health conditions of such groups and factors responsible, that leads to inequity in healthcare services. The ultimate goal of this paper is to design strategies that might better serve this disadvantaged population through right-based approach. Population stabilization is a multi-sectoral endeavour that requires constant and effective dialogue among a diversity of stakeholders, convergence of service health delivery at village levels and coordination at all levels of the availability of affordable maternal and child health services, participation of women in the paid work force, together with a steady, and equitable improvement in family incomes will facilitate early achievement of the socio-demographic goals. Due to epidemiological transition, India is presently having double burden of disease accounting 53% of deaths due to NCDs and 33% are contributed to communicable diseases, maternal& perinatal diseases and nutritional deficiency disorders². This is the population who is in greatest need of healthcare but their health services are least likely to be met, high OOP expenditure is the main contributing factor and 39 million people are being pushed into poverty every year due to increased healthcare expenditure further exacerbating inequity. To prevent the discrimination, need of the hour is to address all the health policy makers to pay attention on all sectors of the population. This does not mean that everyone should be treated in exactly the same way, but rather that health system must recognize, and provide for, the differences and specific needs of groups within the population who experience a disproportionate level of mortality, morbidity and disability as health and development are two sides of same coin. Health care professionals need to become activists for the social and economic transformation of society into an environment in which those disadvantaged population can experience substantive equality. It is the duty of the majority groups' of the world to desist from such practices and to extend a helping hand towards the development of the human rights of these people³.

Keywords: (Five words in alphabetical order): discrimination, inequity, right-based approach, vulnerable social groups.

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Human Rights and the Ethics of care in the perspective of Health Research

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Abstract

Health research plays a vital role in addressing injustices and human development, but to attain these objectives the research must be based on complete scientific and ethical principles. For now it is accepted that ethics play a significant role in health research in developing countries and it has focused on debates surrounding internationally sponsored research and has taken place largely without adequate participation of the developing countries. There is an extensive gaps in health status, access to healthcare, quality of care and provision of health related services are increasing in the context of Globalization. In the face of evident disparities between the health status of the “haves and have not”, health professionals in developed countries must consider the impact of such disparities on the ethical manner of health research. This paper tries to investigate how an ethics based on caring and responsibility can guide clinical research in a manner which is consistent with human rights and justice in the face of global disparities. It examines of two paradigms for moral reasoning- the morality of rights and the morality of care with respect to applying the theory of human rights to health. The morality of rights depends on the concept of justice to guide behavior, the morality of care seeks to guide decision making in a way that takes care of others, it examine real world conflicts and mechanisms to resolve moral dilemmas. For such instance, it can enhancement the thoughts of justice, protection and benefit to provide ethical guidance in a wide variety of circumstances. It examine how the two moral paradigms play an important role in a contemporary bioethical challenge the case of research related to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and AIDS in the developing world. This paper suggests that the integration of a morality of care into the approach to health care research can depend the ethical discourse, micro strategies for research planning and identify that is more approachable to both health disparities and changing needs. A more suitable and caring ethical perspective will offer a better guidance to researchers and health care providers when faced with difficult situations and ever present disparities in the period of globalized health research. Human rights in these context, it is primarily individual rights in relation to governments. The human right context emphasize that there are some things government should not do for such instance promote slavery and allow torture. Main objective of the human rights movement is to confirm that people around the world survive and have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. Clean water, ample nutrition, and education, health care and basic freedoms are requisite for individual and communities to display. It is a link between human rights and health research ethics by turning to specific issues. And at last this paper seeks linkages between health and research issues with “Equity”. Objective of research in developing countries is to improve the health status of the whole population, thus reducing the equity gap with more industrialized countries, while applying bioethical principles which will support the process. The injustices in global health and resource allocation are not compatible with the goals of justice, and neither regulations nor guidelines can overcome the differences. Here the clear goal should be in all these activities must be the reduction of global inequities in health. May be it will take time but it is the only way to bring about true change in the ethics of global health research, but instead of having an apparent debate on the language of regulations. It may be argued that it is more ethical to test medicines on patients who may be benefit than on healthy volunteers, but it could be advantageous in doing initial trials on healthy volunteers. In healthy volunteers there is less physiological variations and their responses are like to be more identical. Healthy persons are usually better able to collaborate in more difficult experiments, and the ethical dilemmas of treatment with an insufficient dose, or of withholding potentially effective treatment, do not arise, Whereas harmful effects of a medicine may be expected at therapeutic dose levels, there is a contradiction in claiming the use of healthy volunteers as ethical, with certain drugs, such as those for cancer or leukemia, it is necessary to undertake initial trials on patients who might benefit. So there should be necessary medical justification for health research just because of healthy volunteers and it is required to gain knowledge of human biology and psychology because it is important in its own right and also for increases understanding of disease.

Keywords: Clinical research, Ethics, Equity, Human Rights,

Impact of Judicial Activism on the Sustainability of Multiculturalism and Social and Human Development of Canadians

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Abstract

The paper examines whether religious freedoms in Canada are equated with religious autonomy. This concern arises out of the judicialization of politics occurring in Canada, wherein the Supreme Court of Canada is used to settle *Charter* disputes. The purpose of this paper is to use religious freedoms as a variable to determine whether the presence of judicial activism in the court prevents sustainable social and human development of religious minorities.

Many theories have been advanced to explain the dynamic relationship courts, multiculturalism, and religion share within Canada. Scholars like Christopher McCrudden, advance that the world is in a post-multicultural phase wherein, culture and religion are seen as two different things and states are more reluctant to shelter religious practices than cultural practices for they harm the rights of women and same sex individuals. Neil Valance in *The Misuse of "Culture" by the Supreme Court of Canada*, analyzes various court decisions and argues that the discussion of law's relationship with culture is exceedingly minimal. On the contrary, Robert J. Currie posits the thesis that the interpretation of law changes to reflect new realities. Questionable stances on the status of culture/religion and the role judicial activism plays in shaping the lives of Canadians, gave rise to the concern of whether judicial activism is beneficial for religious minorities.

To gain a deeper understanding of the dynamic relationship courts, multiculturalism, and religion share in Canada, this paper conducts a case study of prominent *Section 2 (a) Freedom of Conscience and Religion* cases. The case study uses cases from the past twenty years as they help illuminate how the judicial understanding of multiculturalism has deviated from its traditional theorization.

In this paper, I advance the argument that religious freedoms are not equated with religious autonomy in Canada, largely because the Canadian judicial system subverts ideological objectives of the *Charter*.

To support this claim I propose three findings. Firstly, the Supreme Court of Canada justices exhibit the debilitating view that religious tolerance should be subjected to spatial limitations. They restrict the actualization of religious autonomy by limiting the level of religious tolerance acceptable in public spaces. This section argues that the justices' understanding of the role of religion in the public and private sphere, and the viability of long term vs. short-term accommodation of religion negatively impacts religious practices in public. Secondly, there is a discernible consensus among justices that religion conflicts with individual growth and development. This section argues that in matters pertaining to religion in the private sphere, the rights of religious individuals are weighed unfavorably, due to the fact that secular households are equated with progressive identity development. Thirdly, I argue that courts exhibit a lack of interest in enforcing religious accommodation within civil society. This is because when ruling in collective religious rights claims, justices do not aim to facilitate the needs of the group but give importance to perpetuating what is deemed acceptable in a secular and liberal society. In essence, religious accommodation is seen to be used against the principles of neutral state, public interest and social benefit.

It is evidenced in this paper that religious freedoms do not result in religious autonomy in Canada. This disparity emerges largely because the Supreme Court of Canada justices impose their own views while interpreting the scope of religious freedom, thus hindering the actualization of Section 2 (a) rights. This paper has addressed other inherent inquiries present in Canadian society. It has been exemplified that multiculturalism is in a decline, for religious minorities are not given the opportunity to situate their beliefs within Canadian society. Additionally, it has been shown that orthodox and conservative religious individuals face more obstacles in actualizing their religious rights in comparison to their more liberal counterparts.

The questions and inquiry addressed in this paper are of importance to the international community as many nations are experiencing a judicialization of politics. The negative impact of judicial activism on religious minorities is not well documented and by starting such dialogue alternatives methods to overcome the inherent flaws in the current system can be conjectured. The international community needs to understand constitutional rights is only one step towards social and human development, simply having rights does not ensure proper actualization of those rights, rather they need to shift their energies in implementing structures that will enable unbiased decision making and inclusion. It is hoped that by showing Canada's troubles with religious accommodation leaders of the developing world will be warned of the negative impact judicial activism can have on law and justice, which is a crucial component in social and human development.

Keywords: Judicial activism, minority rights, multiculturalism, judicialization of politics, Canada, religion, *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, human development

Good Governance and Sustainable Development in India

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Abstract

Good Governance has been defined as the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented). Moreover, it has also been considered as a prerequisite step towards sustainable development. It means that all those factors which undermine the growth of good governance, like corruption, bureaucratic inefficiency, inefficient and corrupt law enforcement agencies, would also affect sustainable development. Increasingly, 'Good Governance' requires 'people's informed participation', 'rule of law' including independent judiciary, transparency, responsiveness, consensus, equity and inclusiveness, effectiveness and efficiency, and accountability. Obviously, all these requirements would only be possible if the citizens are educated, well informed and, enjoying the basic necessities of their life. So far as India is concerned, it is the judiciary which has played significant role in ensuring good governance by widening the scope of right to life and personal liberty. Indian judiciary has endorsed the requirements of good governance in every sphere of our life including environment, human rights, gender justice, education, police reforms, etc. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in its many judgments, has recognised that right to life includes right to live with dignity, right to live in healthy environment, right to humane conditions of work, right to education, right to shelter and social security, right to know, right to adequate nutrition and clothing and so on. In this paper, the role of Indian judiciary in sustainable development has been discussed. The researcher also focuses on other elements of society which strengthen the capacity of public institutions to facilitate good governance for sustainable development. While analysing the present legal framework, the researcher suggests that the traditional models of governance of public institutions are needed to be modified and developed to tackle new sustainability challenges.

Keywords: (Good Governance, Sustainable Development, Rule of Law, Human Rights, Gender Justice)

Democracy and Good Governance: The Role of Lokpal

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Democracy is preferred to any other system of governance because it pursues rule of law, fair dealing, predictability, stability, transparency, enforceability and good administration among others. It is opposed to arbitrariness, unreasonableness and mala fide use of power. It is cherished form of government as it limits regime within the framework of law and augments the rights and liberties of the citizens to the extent where individuals can flourish to their potentials. But democratic government by itself does not guarantee good governance unless it ensures enforceability/accountability to and transparency for officials' actions and policies to the people.

To achieve the motto of good governance in India both political and legal control are imposed on the functionaries of the government. Political control is exercised by parliament and legal control by the courts. But mechanisms of control and remedies instituted by Indian parliament through its committees, debates, question-answer, various motions etc are considered to be inadequate in terms of enforcing accountability, curbing the menace of corruption, fairness and so on. Similarly, Indian courts proceedings are worldwide well-known for elitism, prolonged and delayed procedures and costly affairs. All this can lead to inordinate delay in the dispensation of justice which eventually denies justice to the aggrieved.

Moreover, Indian anti-corruption agencies have basic structural deficiencies because of which they are incapable of doing any fair investigations. These are lack of independence, powerlessness, multiplicity of agencies, lack of transparency, accountability and so forth. Therefore traditional instruments of control both political and legal are not only inadequate to assert control over the administrative apparatus to make the system accountable and transparent, but also ineffective in protecting citizens' rights and liberties. An extraordinary institution, Ombudsman (Lokpal) emerged first in the Scandinavian countries has been playing very effective role in facilitating good governance.

The concept of a constitutional ombudsman was first proposed in parliament by Law Minister A K Sen. The first Lokpal Bill was introduced during 4th Lok Sabha in 1968 and passed in 1969, but did not pass through the Rajya Sabha. Subsequently, Lokpal bill was introduced more than 10 occasions but failed to make any headway. Again in 2011 Anna Hazare fought hard to get this bill passed but regrettably Lokpal bill met with the same destiny. This is right time to raise important question whether the taxpayer should be forced to bear the burden of creating this behemoth of an institution called Lokpal. In this background the paper argues that the device – Lokpal can cater the citizens' demand of accountability, transparency, fairness in public dealing. Since, the countries that have established Ombudsman seem to be satisfied with its performance. Furthermore, this office has earned respect and confidence in the minds of people as a shield against abuse of power, and protector of their rights against excess of administration.

Keywords: Accountability, Democracy, Good Governance, India, Lokpal.

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Environmental induced Internal Displacement: A New Challenge for Human Security *vis-a-vis* Internal Security-A Literature based Appraisal

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Abstract

The relationship between human security and a safe and habitable environment is fundamental and for which Sustainable development is inevitable. From last few decades Humans have been over exploiting the environment and their byproducts. For Every such greedy act, nature takes price for it and that result in Natural and Human-induced environmental disasters, Slow-onset degradation, Higher temperatures, More extreme weather, Rising sea levels, Increasing cyclonic activity, Earthquake, Floods and Draughts. Due to revenge by environment the lives and livelihoods of those reliant on the natural environment are either jeopardized or even destroyed. Environmental insecurity is forcing masses of people to flee environments that no longer sustain life. Such movement can be within or between countries.

Environmentally induced internal displacement is becoming one of the major policy as well internal security challenges of this century and India too is facing the same. All in all, large numbers of environmentally induced internal displaced people (EIDP) are supposed to threaten the human security as well as internal security of any state. Such people put stress upon resources of land where they reached and often indulge in Survival crimes. EIDP's also prone towards crimes on them. Further these create complex environmental, humanitarian, and non traditional internal security challenges.

This paper proposes to discuss relationship between environment insecurity, internal displacement and how it threatens human security as well as internal security of a country especially in India. EIDP's require special assistance, protection and development aid which are most of the time ill addressed by the governments concerned. The issue of EIDP's have legal, humanitarian and human rights dimensions, and author will try to explore protection gap between all of these issues through the lens of earlier literatures.

Keywords: Human Security, Internal Security, internal displacement, Environmentally induced internal displaced people (EIDP), Environmental insecurity.

Criminology and Criminal justice with International relations: in context to Juvenile delinquency

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Abstract

This research paper on Criminology and Criminal justice with International relations: in context to Juvenile delinquency. Criminology and Criminal Justice, which encompasses all study of criminal behavior, has long been concerned with the roots of juvenile delinquency. In many cases, juveniles with a history of delinquent behavior graduate into adult career criminals, and many researchers and sociologists believe that crimes in all over the world can be reduced by addressing the causes of juvenile delinquency. Unfortunately, there is no single universally accepted theory of juvenile delinquency. Rather, juvenile delinquency appears to occur at the convergence of numerous causative factors. Some form of delinquency is a normative part of adolescence for a majority of teens, yet the consequences of risky behavior and juvenile justice involvement can be severe. This paper also focuses on important aspects of adolescent delinquency and criminal justice processing. It examines the cognitive factors which develop during adolescence, which illustrate that adolescents appear to perform comparably to adults by about the age of sixteen. Following this, it examines psychosocial factors of susceptibility to peer influence and future orientation and their continued development in the adolescent period. It also reviews the developing challenge of regulating emotions and affective responses that continues well into young adulthood. Finally, placing adolescents in their ecological context, it makes an attempt to describe how unique relationships between adolescents, parents, and the state present challenges for adolescents that no other age group faces in the legal system.

“If every saint has a past then every criminal has a future”

.....***Mahatma Gandhi***

So in the case of a child offender, special care should be given to his future for it is yet in a budding state and is not beyond repair.

Juvenile delinquency refers to the antisocial or criminal activity of the child (below 16 years of age for boys and 18 years for girls) which violates the law. In true context, that same activity would have been a crime if it was committed by the adult. Juvenile delinquency is gateways to adult crime, since a large percentage of criminal careers have their roots in childhood causing serious problems all over the world.

Today, it has become a topic of great concern and needs to be discussed at a serious note. Juvenile delinquency is a problem which, despite different and varied cultural backgrounds, is found with common characteristics universally. In our part of the world, the family is still the basic set up for child development. It is therefore most affected by the problem of juvenile delinquency. International criminal justice and criminology proclaims that the causes for juvenile crime are usually found at each level of the social structure, including society as a whole, social institutions, social groups and organizations, and interpersonal relations. Juvenile's choices of delinquency are fostered by a wide range of factors.

This paper also provides that information, communication, analysis, cause of juvenile delinquency, International criminal justice and criminology convention on juvenile delinquency and proposals concerning juvenile justice as well as children or young people who have social difficulties, behavioral problems or are in conflict with the law. The mission of this paper is to "contribute a international and inter-disciplinary vision of juvenile justice in order to create a future for minors and young people all over the world who are in situations of exclusion as a result of infringements of the law". This paper also aims at promoting international development strategies to create necessary policies, legislations and intervention methods with regard to global juvenile justice that is universally applicable in the world. It also focused to promote and works towards the provisions of major international conventions and laws regarding juvenile justice.

Keywords: Criminology, Criminal justice, international relations, juvenile delinquency

Ref #: 225/IND/13

Sexual Harassment against Women in India

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Abstract

Women across the world have tasted all flavors of life; from the glory and respect which she was ascribed in the Vedic period, to the denial and subordination in the post Vedic period and finally to the struggle for equality, recognition and survival in the contemporary world. But one thing that has been common throughout these phases is the disadvantaged status of the women. Women have been made to face all kinds of violence, physical abuse, denial of right to live, subordination and neglect. The acts of abuses like eve-teasing, molestation, sexual abuse and rape cover both physical and verbal abuses. However, they all are different parts of what is commonly known as sexual harassment or sexual misconduct. This paper covers a brief study of the various aspects of such offences which have led to the growing harassment of women.

The concept like eve-teasing gained nationwide attention in the 1960's but today eve-teasing has evolved as a huge issue in many metropolitan cities of India. A large numbers of Indian women have faced or are facing this menace. Another form of violence against women is that of molestation, or what is commonly known as 'sexual abuse' or 'sexual assault'. It is the forcing of sexual behavior by a man over the women. Further, rape is one of the most extreme forms of sexual violence committed against women. It is an act of physical violence and assault which is expressed through sexual means.

The research methodology adopted for this paper is doctrinal and secondary sources of information like books, articles, newspapers, websites, case laws, etc. are relied upon. Various statute books like the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act have also been referred.

The Indian Law dealing with offences of sexual harassment has been given under the Indian Penal Code, 1860. The relevant provisions which have been included in this research paper are those relating to rape (Section 375 and 376) and outraging the modesty of a woman (Section 509, 294 and 354). Also, an analysis of the recent Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 has also been included in the study.

This study includes the various causes which lead to an increase in the number of sexual abuses and rape against women. They include: lack of awareness, illiteracy, upbringing of the abusers, their inability to appreciate the feminine glory of women, etc. An emphasis has also been laid on the possible emotional, psychological and mental impacts which may be suffered by the women.

Finally, the paper also includes certain recommendations with respect to the role of the state, government, media, NGOs, etc in sensitizing the issues relating to violation of the rights of women and also to promote education and awareness with respect to the same.

Keywords: Eve-Teasing, Harassment, Physical Abuse, Violence, Women

Ref #: 226/IND/13

Environment and Transnational Corporations: Role of Civil Societies in Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Enlightened civil societies i.e. NGOs have played a crucial and important role in enforcing human rights including environment issues, as against TNCs. There has always been a discussion on the question that whether TNCs should have human rights responsibilities and what exactly are these responsibilities especially when TNCs are considered as on the one hand as 'engines of developments' and on the other hand as 'tools of oppression'. Moreover, the debate on TNCs and human rights also has broader implications as it sees one set of non-state actors i.e. human rights NGOs, working to define norms and legal obligations for another set of non-state actors i.e. corporations, with limited involvement of government. NGOs activities, mirroring the traditional NGO campaigning strategies of confrontation and protest against governments, have included high-profile boycott campaigns against clothing and shoe manufacturers and retailers, support for litigation against companies accused of involvement in human rights violations, environmental degradation, shareholder resolutions, protests outside company offices and reports highlighting company involvement in or complicity with human rights violations. The credit to a greater extent can be given to the NGOs for bringing significant changes in the debate around the human rights responsibilities of TNCs and the important role played by them in enacting UN *Norms on the Responsibilities of Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises with Regard to Human Rights*, campaign against the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), proposed by the OECD and other international instruments. In India, Civil Societies have played crucial role in protecting environment from transnational corporations whether it is a compensation to victims in Bhopal gas tragedy case, resistance against Cargill project in Gujarat or DuPont joint venture in Goa, Enron and Maharashtra Electricity Board project and Coca-Cola Corporation's exploitation of natural resource i.e. water in the Plachimada case or violation of right to water is the latest example in the same. The present paper is divided into three parts first part focuses on the importance of TNCs in world economy and how they are emerging as a necessary evil. Second part of the paper will be take into consideration the role of NGOs in framing international instruments and regulation for the compliance of human rights including environmental issues TNCs. And the last part of the paper will focus on the cases in India where civil societies has come forward to stop TNCs and their joint venture highlighting the environmental issues.

Keywords: Civil Societies, Environment, Human Rights, Transnational Corporations, Sustainable Development

Ref #: 235/IND/13

Withdrawn

Ref #: 242/IND/13

Impact of Model United Nations Conferences on India's Youth

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Abstract

Model United Nations is an academic simulation of the functions and organs of the United Nations system. It involves students taking up the role of diplomats while representing the different member countries of the UN. Model UN has been actively pursued by students in India since the late 1990s and today, India is host to over 200 annual Model UN conferences. Despite its popularity and relevance to the global world, the impact of Model UN on the economic, political and social remains as an unmeasured factor.

India's Youth, which accounts for over 50% of the entire population, is the driving force which will power India to global prominence in the 21st century. Model UN is an academic exercise which has been embraced by the Indian Youth with open arms and is transforming from the hobby of the elite to the practice of the masses. For the above mentioned reasons, the impact of Model UN on the Indian Youth is vital. This paper will seek to quantify the impact of Model UN on the Indian Youth in three levels viz. Economic Level, Political Level and Social Level.

On the Economic level, this paper will seek to establish the relation between Model UN and the Indian youth's role in the country's economy. With the surge in the number of economic and financial international organizations being simulated in Model UN, this also will help to reiterate the importance of globalization as well as the importance of the relation between India and the global economy in India's Youth. In the Political Level, this paper will seek to explain the impact of Model UN on youth's attitude towards politics and the government. As Model UN involves the representation of governments in an international forum, the youth are compelled to think like the legitimate government and hence there is a greater understanding of the political system of a country. Finally, the Social impacts of Model UN remain one of the most complex aspects of this academic simulation as it greatly influences the society. The concept of Model UN involves an important sociological concept of socialization: role play. When students take up the role of diplomats, they think and react as responsible people of power who represent a country and who think for the benefit of their country over personal gains. This role play instills a sense of public service, selflessness and social responsibility towards the society.

This paper will, hence, seek to establish the importance of Model UN in India and how Model UN will help India achieve sustainable and Good Governance while inculcating social responsibility into India's future Citizens

Keywords: Global Awareness, Good Governance, India's Youth, Model United Nations, Social Responsibility

Ref #: 251/IND/13

Good Governance and Human Rights in a Democracy

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Abstract

The concept of good governance emerged in the late 1980s to address failures in development policies due to governance concerns, including failure to respect human rights. Good governance is the foundation of a durable development, government and local government, which are undeniable to masses as their Human Rights.

The years 1995-2004 were designated as the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education. It has substantially enhanced awareness about Human Rights all over the world. Present scenario is of a more aware and active people towards their Human rights. This realization has directed increasing attention to the issue of good governance. Governance and good governance have attracted many definitions.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has defined the word "governance" broadly as "the exercise of economic, political and administrative authority to manage a country's affairs at all levels. It comprises the mechanisms, processes and institutions, through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences".

The growing power of executive authorities sometime causes serious violation of Rights of human. Human right dealt with the rights that every human being routinely qualifies for at birth. These cannot be denied because of the color of one's skin, religion, age or other personal factors.

The concepts of good governance and human rights are mutually reinforcing, both being based on core principles of participation, accountability, transparency, reciprocity and State responsibility. Human rights and good governance go along with and strengthen each other. Providing good human rights atmosphere also helps in achieving ultimate goal of good governance i.e. sustainable social and political development. Human rights and good governance are related to each other multi dimensionally. Where good governance aims to make government and other political institutions more transparent and distribution of power within such institutions it helps in empowering general masses with the basic human rights of being aware about the policies and legislation under formation for them.

Good governance aims at eradicating corruption and abolishing of deposition of wealth in a particular class thereby it promotes democratic government and therefore enhancing human rights.

When it comes to the rule of law, human rights-sensitive good governance initiatives reform legislation and assist institutions ranging from penal systems to courts and parliaments to better implement that legislation. Good governance initiatives may include advocacy for legal reform, public awareness-raising on the national and international legal framework and capacity-building or reform of institutions.

Present scenario needs a better implementation of good governance for participation, accountability, transparency, reciprocity and State responsibility. There is need of a number of reforms for good governance to protect and enhance human rights. These reforms range from eradication of social evils to changes in democratic institutions, from change in policy making to reforms in electoral process to elect policy makers and a better international framework to accelerate implementation of international policies on world scale diminishing boundaries of various sovereignties.

Keywords: Democracy, Globalization, Good Governance and Human Rights

Ref #: 254/IND/13

The Right of Prisoner's in India

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Abstract

Criminals should be treated as patients in hospitals and jails should be hospitals admitting such patients for treatment and care.ⁱ The poor, illiterate and weaker sections in our society in our country suffer day in and day out in their struggle for survival and look to those who have promised them equality- social, political and economic, a very large number of under-trial prisoners suffer prolonged incarceration even in petty criminal matters merely for the reason that they are not in a position, even in bailable offences, to furnish bail bonds and get released on bail. The practice of discriminatory treatment of political prisoners, which was instituted during the colonial period, continues in independent India. The prison as an institution has become a site of contention between the privileged and the deprived. The prisoners in India are also denied their basic rights which also include human rights. The prisoners are even denied basic health care facilities which lead to their death in custody and it shows the casual approach of the jail administration. The prisoners also face torture in the prisons as Prof. Baxi rightly pointed out that torture is institutionalized, custodial violence or torture is an integral part of police operation in India. The worst phase of police torture is witnessed during emergency when prisoners went through inhuman treatment. Shocking figures came from the NHRC report which states that in 2006-2007 it received 1,597 cases of custodial death of which 118 deaths were in police custody, 1,477 in judicial custody and 2 in the custody of defense and paramilitary forces.ⁱⁱ There was no effective law as such to improve the condition of the prisoners or give them rights. The Supreme Court of India came to their rescue and widened the scope of Article 21 of the constitution and included many rights and that are now considered as fundamental rights. The right of prisoners is also included in this article.

The judiciary adopted the activist approach in pronouncing the judgment on the issue relating to prison and right of prisoners which led to the foundation of the rights of the prisoners in India. The whole scenario changed after the Maneka Gandhi judgment and later Supreme Court through various judgments gave prisoners many rights viz, speedy trial, long pretrial confinement, legal aid, handcuffing etc.... The Supreme Court went to an extent that a letter was considered as PIL and orders were passed against the pathetic conditions of the prisoners. The Supreme Court also came down heavily on custodial torture despite this not much has changed. Law Commission in its 113th report recommended amendments to the Evidence Act, 1872 so as to provide that in the prosecution of a police officer for an alleged offence of having caused bodily injuries to a person while in police custody, if there is evidence that the injury was caused during the period when the person was in custody, the court may presume that the injury was caused by the police officer having the custody of that person during that period unless the police officer proves to the contrary. The onus to prove "the contrary" must be discharged by the police official concerned. The Supreme Court recommended "appropriate changes in the law not only to curb custodial crimes but also to see that such crimes do not go unpunished. The courts are also required to have a change in their outlook, approach, appreciation and attitude, particularly in cases involving custodial crimes and they should exhibit more sensitivity and adopt a realistic rather than a narrow technical approach."

However, to ensure the humane treatment of prisoners in custody, the apex court has allowed access to convicted prisoners in jail so that society at large would be appraised of the reasons behind their detention and the conditions in which they served their sentence. These judgments have really helped the prisoners in getting their rights and to make the conditions humane. This paper will deal with all these rights of the prisoners and mainly focus on the role of judiciary to help the prisoners.

Keywords: Criminals, offences, prisoners, political prisoners, prisoner's rights, custodial crimes

Ref #: 262/IND/13

The Indian Legal Regime on Climate Change- Need for Change in Green Laws

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Abstract

The focus of the paper is on the analysis of the existing laws in India and the requisite changes in them to have more Green Laws to save the earth. Climate Change is an inescapable environmental problem which is not confined to local, regional or National Level but it has become a global problem. Human activities are apparently responsible for causing the enormous climate change which have alarming consequences.

The main feature of the debate is development *Vis-a-Vis* environmental protection. Various laws have been enacted at the National and International level to mitigate the problem of climate change but they are proving to be inadequate because of the careless attitude and policies of both, the developing as well as the developed nations and none of them are ready to cut down the emission of greenhouse gases. The world is clearly ignoring any concrete action required to limit the climate change and reduction of various factors responsible for the same. The research paper focuses on the Laws enacted to deal with the serious impacts of climate change from various factors which are increasing due to insufficient, inadequate and not properly implemented existing set of laws. The recently enacted National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 of India has been critically analysed in this paper. The glaring gap between policy action in the immediate turn needs to be filled and strict law is required to be implemented to limit temperature rise by the end of the century and to stabilize atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases at or near current level. The paper suggests Establishment of an International Environmental Court that is empowered to take Cognizance of Green Criminology. Similarly, the Indian law on the same needs to be looked at with a critical eye. For instance, there is a need to make the punishment more stringent by making non-compliance with environmental laws non-bailable and cognizable offences.

This paper suggests various measures to counter this global problem. Measures for enhancing implementation of environmental laws such as a National Policy and Administrative framework, engaging Non-Governmental sectors, Proposal for a National Advisory Council, Corporate Environmental Responsibility, Environmental Governance qua environmental litigation and enhanced Court management, Environmental Ombudsman, Increased Administrative Transparency, Establishment of an International Environmental Court, Implementation of the human right to Health, stringent implementation of Public Awareness Campaigns and at the same time sensitisation towards problems of Refugees and Indigenous tribal communities as a result of Climate Change.

The struggle to save the global environment is in one way much more difficult than the struggle to vanquish Hitler, for this time the War is with ourselves. We are the enemy, just as we have only ourselves as allies. In the same light it is an attempt to make a proposal which is a far reaching and a concrete solution to this global problem and only a severe punitive measure is the need of the hour.

Keywords: Climate Change, Green Criminology, International Environmental Court, Corporate Environmental Responsibility, Environmental Governance.

Ref #: 267/IND/13

Food Security Human Rights and Justice: A Comprehensive Approach to Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Food Security is a contemporary issue which is not pertinent to any particular society or geographical area but is a common issue for all the countries. The aim of Food Security is to provide availability and accessibility of food to all people and to all times. The increasing problems of poverty, malnutrition and social and economic discrimination leads to a need for a concept that can secure Food Security for all. This paper focuses on an empirical approach by stating assertions and giving reasons with examples to substantiate any point for better understanding of the concept. The Food Security can find its roots in Human Rights under Right to Food and various provisions of different constitutions of the world. These constitutions have implicitly or explicitly has recognised the 'Right to Food' or Food Security'. This paper contains the study of Food Security in the form of inter-relationship between Human Rights and Justice. A thorough studies to establish interlink between Food Security and Human Rights have been done. In this piece of work I have tried to develop an inclusive approach to study Food Security. This paper explores the legal provisions available to secure the food to the individuals under the constitution. An approach has been made to look at the Right to Food as a Human Rights approach to deal with Food Security. It looks at different provisions available in Universal Declaration of Human rights and also the need for 'Right to Food'. It also look at an inter-relationships between Right to Food and other Human Rights so that we can understand the need for a rounded development of this concept. It includes the study of Food Security in India and tries to look its current instance from the point of view of National Food Security Act 2013: its salient features and challenges. It also look at Food Security from Justice point of view. How the concepts of Social, Economic and Political justice are in line with the concept of Food Security. Paper also tries to interlink it with concept of Distributive justice. The basic aim of the paper is to develop a holistic understanding of this concept by relating it with other related concepts. This Paper will try to establish a link between the concepts of Food Security to that of a sustainable development. Sustainable development is a major concern in current century, the excessive exploitation of resource which include food resources has made man thinks of the catastrophic effect of his activities on the future generation, therefore there is need to look Food security from sustainable point of view. The ultimate aim of giving Food Security is to meet the nutrition need of the individuals so there is a need to see not only the Food Security of present generation but also of future generations. Paper is relevant for the international audiences it tries to address the Food security from the point of generalize point of view with a little focus on specific areas.

Keywords: Food security; Human Rights; Justice; Right to Food; Sustainable Development

Ref #: 273/IND/13

Good Governance and Elections

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Abstract

As far as standard definition of public accountability and elections is concerned, various people define in their words differently as given below:

Public Accountability is defined as “Obligations of public enterprises and agencies (who are entrusted with public resources) to be answerable for fiscal and social responsibilities, to those who have assigned such responsibilities to them.” Processes of accountability – described as social interaction between two people in which one gives an account to another because he has to, or feels he has to – are commonplace in society. A lot of daily social relationships contain an element of giving an account. This study has a focus on public accountability. The label ‘public’ has multiple dimensions (Bovens & Schillemans, 2009a). First, public can refer to the object of accountability. Public accountability deals with public responsibilities, public money and actions of public institutions or institutions with public functions. Second, public can also signify ‘disclosed’. Accountability usually does not occur behind closed doors, but the forum is in principle freely accessible to everyone. Third, public accountability concerns the public matter. It seeks an appreciation by the citizens. Bovens et al. (2009a) describe it as follows: public accountability is about the public, in the public and for the public.

Accountability is one of those golden concepts that no one can be against. It is increasingly used in political discourse and policy documents because it conveys an image of transparency and trustworthiness. However, its evocative powers make it also a very elusive concept because it can mean many different things to different people, as anyone studying accountability will soon discover. This paper nevertheless tries to develop an analytical framework for the empirical study of accountability arrangements in the public domain. It starts from a narrow, relational definition of accountability and distinguishes a number of indicators that can be used to identify and classify accountability arrangements. Furthermore, it develops three perspectives to assess and evaluate accountability arrangements in the public domain.

Keywords: Good Governance, Democracy, Elections, India, Sustainable Development.

Ref #: 294/IND/13

**Corporate Social Responsibility:
Analysing its Role in the Social and Economic Development of the Society**

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Abstract

The Corporations of today are struggling to define a new role for themselves. World over the corporations are now being called upon to be accountable, transparent and to take responsibility for the ways their operations affect the societies and the environment surrounding it. Long gone are the days when the corporate could shrug away from the responsibility it owed towards the society. Since past few decades the corporate have been hard pressed to be accountable, to follow the principles of Corporate Social responsibility and to be responsible for their actions. Now, this call of duty has an added element of Sustainable Development. The reality being the fact that today these principles cannot be ignored by the organisations in conducting their day to day business. Globally, it is no longer acceptable for any corporation to experience economic growth in complete isolation from the political, social and other factors within which the corporate exists. Evidently, in order to succeed the firm must equally focus its attention on both the factors; increasing its profit share and in being a good corporate citizen by committing their financial obligations for the betterment of society, to reshape their framework, policies, rules and enhance their efforts to be socially responsible organisations. It cannot be refuted that the quality of relationships that a company has with its employees, key stakeholders like its consumers, investors, suppliers, public or governmental officials, NGO's, and the rest of the community; is pertinent for its growth and success. Legal frame work of the various countries world over has made sure keeping in mind, the need for a peaceful co-existence of man and machine that monetary gains do not flow in without paying the due share of the society. So along with the principle of corporate responsibility, the laws are slowly incorporating and strengthening the dire need for these corporate giants world to weave in the criteria of sustainable development in their business methods too. To make the corporate adhere to these rules many countries have come up with regulations ranging from being liberal to being very stringent in nature. This paper is a humble attempt of the researcher to analyse the relation of corporate social responsibility and sustainable development in the world of a corporate and how and when is the law evaded or followed in the true spirit and the repercussions of such decisions on the society and to suggest the desired changes in the law for better and effective implementations of these two principles. Be it the laws of the western world or that of the developing nations, the importance of corporate responsibility which incorporates on the guidelines of sustainable development cannot be negated and neither can this be negated that lot of research has to be undertaken to plug in the gaps so that a model corporate structure can be established globally for the mutual benefit of the man and the society.

Keywords: corporate, corporate social responsibility, good governance, sustainable development

Ref #: 300/IND/13

Poverty and Right to Development under International Human Rights Law

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Abstract

Everyone is “entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized,” the groundbreaking UN Declaration on the Right to Development proclaimed in 1986 that development is a right that belongs to everyone. Like all human rights, the right to development belongs to everyone, individually and collectively, with no discrimination and with their participation. The Declaration recognizes the right to self-determination and to full sovereignty over natural wealth and resources. The pursuit of economic growth is not an end in itself. The right to development puts people at the centre of the development process, which aims to improve “the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution” of the resulting benefits.

The year 2011 marked the Declaration’s 25th anniversary. Yet many children, women and men – the very subjects of development – still live in dire need of the fulfilment of their entitlement to a life of dignity, freedom and equal opportunity. This directly affects the realization of a wide range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Widening poverty gaps, food shortages, climate change, economic crises, armed conflicts, rising unemployment, popular unrest, and other pressing challenges confront our world today. The right to development, which embodies the human rights principles of equality, non-discrimination, participation, transparency and accountability as well as international cooperation, can guide our responses to a series of contemporary issues and challenges. The right to development is not about charity, but enablement and empowerment. The Declaration identifies obstacles to development, empowers individuals and peoples, calls for an enabling environment and good governance at both national and international levels, and enhances accountability of duty bearers - governments, donors and recipients, international organizations, transnational corporations, and civil society.

Poverty is a problem of international human rights law. Poverty degrades human dignity which is the main precept of human rights. Human rights exist to protect the human from any deprivation with a legal context. Therefore, poverty under international human rights law, can be seen as violation of civil, political, economic, cultural, and social rights, which requires a legal commitment of each of the responsible actors and entitles the poor people as the right holders to pursue their rights. Despite textual ambiguities in the various instruments in which it finds expression, the right to development vests in individuals and communities who have yet to benefit from development. It imposes internal obligations on states in which they live to address conditions that contribute to their plight.

This Article advances an account of the right to development as a legal instrument that holds the international legal order accountable for its role in the production and reproduction of global poverty. It focuses on the human rights face of poverty by indicating the rights which are violated under such conditions and the resulting obligations of the duty bearers to eradicate poverty, both nationally and internationally. The paper concentrates particularly on human rights obligations under the United Nations on the basis of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, and Declaration of the Right to Development.

Keywords: Global poverty, good governance, human rights obligations, international human rights, right to development.

Ref#: 304/IND/13

**‘Religious Attack of Humanity on Environment:
An International and National Perspective of a Conflict amongst the Human Right to Religion and
Environment’**

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Abstract

‘If you think of God as a Creator then it surely befalls you to take care of his creation.’

Martin Palmer, General Secretary Green Pilgrimage Network.

Faith-based visits to holy sites and sacred places are the oldest and most common type of travel in human history. With the passage of time these religious visits are increasing with various motivations behind them like searching inner peace, enlightenment, satisfaction of the spiritual or material needs. But to satisfy the urge of these instincts people require traveling in different places/countries according to their religion and the religious sites they wish to visit. This spiritual journey may result in an interaction with the other and may change the perceptions of pilgrims, tourists and local people.

Such visits and journeys generally require serious thinking and planning, so as to prevent their negative impacts. Some major problems include that these trips are seasonal in nature and hence during the season they put undue pressure on the local administration leading to various causalities due to health problems viz-a-viz poor first aid, road accidents and other faces of mismanagement is often witnessed. The added issue is the waste management problem that has aggravated as science and technology grew to usher us into the 'era of plastic'. It has often been witnessed that during the pilgrimage season discarded plastic bags, wrappers, and shards of glass lie strewn underfoot. One of the worst impacts of religious tourism is seen on the environment of the area. Such visits lead to all kind of pollution including, noise, water, air, forest pollution. The water pollution of Jordan River for example, a religious site for Christians where Jesus is believed to be baptized, is a serious concern for Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian administration. Similarly, the city of Mecca for the Islamic Hajj, which is said to be the largest annual gathering of the people in the world with an estimate of 2.5 million pilgrims, is also a big concern for international environmental experts.

India is no exception. Being one of the most ancient civilizations of the world, India has been in contact with almost all the major religions of the world, and despite being dominated by Hinduism in the present context, religions like Islam, Buddhism and Christianity have also influenced a sizeable portion of the population, apart from other religions like Sikhism, Jainism etc., that grew as an offshoot to the major religious schools of thought. It has been time and again covered by national newspapers in the country the growing issues of religious tourism and their adverse impacts, especially during festival time. Hordes of people gather in various famous temples like Sabarimala Temple, Amarnath Temple, etc., to perform ritual ceremonies leading to various problems to local administration and the environment. Recently the Supreme Court of India took a suo motto notice, through a writ petition, of the growing number of deaths occurred during the Amarnath Yatra, thus citing them as violation of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

Hence, the present piece of research work will deal with international and national perspectives and problems of religious tourism. Nationally, it'll highlight the growing conflict between the practice of fundamental right to religion (Article 25), viz-a-viz right to live with dignity in a clean and safe environment (Article 21), with special reference to the above quoted judgment of the apex court of the country. The paper will conclude with certain suggestions.

Keywords: Environmental Rights, International Law, Human Rights, Religious Tourism, Right to Religion

Ref#: 305/IND/13

Effect of Armed Conflicts on Children with Special Reference to Child Soldiers

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Abstract

The world that we inhabit has a tendency to be both nurturing and cruel. However, it is sadly witnessed that more and more people in their lives now are becoming witnesses or victims to the loss of humanity around them. This holds especially true in the case of children. Children irrespective of their gender, form one of the most vulnerable sections of the society because of their nominal physical and mental development. This fact becomes even stronger in societies which have not witnessed peace and calm in generations, particularly the conflict-ridden societies or more specifically societies steeped in armed conflict.

These armed conflicts have huge potential to wreck havoc on the concept of human rights in any society with further devastating ramifications on the economic and social fabric of the concerned State. However, their effect is most acutely felt on the younger population, mainly the children of the concerned territory. This effect is not only limited to the children suffering physical and mental torture in the form of disability, depression, malnutrition, separation from families etc. but at times also extend to the practice of recruitment of child soldiers.

The Paris Principles on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, 2007, defines child soldier as someone below 18 years of age associated with an armed force or armed group, and who is, or who has been, recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity, including but not limited to children, boys and girls, used as fighters, cooks, porters, spies, or for sexual purposes. The Paris Principles have tried to provide the international community with a well meaning definition of the term, 'child soldier', but it is important to understand that the use of such soldiers to fight wars or engage in armed conflicts is much more rampant than can be envisaged by people untouched by such situations.

Children mostly from impoverished families are normally coerced into war by way of torture or are induced to join the armed forces or group under the garb of alleviation from poverty and suffering. In most of the cases the joining age is even before becoming an adolescent. As a result they are too immature to understand the cause for which they are made to fight or the consequences that they may have to face both from within their own armed outfit or from the opposite side. The females have it even worse, with most of them being sexually exploited by other fellow combatants. The loss of childhood, loss of innocence, loss of dignity and finally loss of lives are some of the consequences that they have to face.

Even though humanitarian law recognizes the use of children as soldiers in war or armed conflict as a war crime, no concrete step was taken to protect them until 1989, when the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted. Earlier the Geneva Conventions, 1949 and its Additional Protocols I and II dealt with children in situations of war and armed conflict but these instruments did not provide adequate protection to the children. In 2000, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, which came into force on 12th February, 2002.

Though the international legal regime with help from various regional actors has tried to protect the children from the savagery of war, but the reality is still not very encouraging. As the focus shifts from international armed conflicts to non-international armed conflicts, everyday millions of children lose reason to smile and enjoy a normal childhood. Hence, discussion on such a sensitive but a widely neglected issue becomes relevant in today's times.

Keywords: Children, Conflict, Exploitation, Rights, Soldiers

Ref#: 307/IND/13

Inequality in Naga Society

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Abstract

This paper explores the inequality in tribal society in terms of unequal development, economic condition, education, health services, communication, and other related development activities.

Social inequality is omnipresent, prevalent and resistant to social policies aimed at bringing about a substantial measure of equality in practice. Inequality is in fact inevitable and its presence is felt, not only in capitalist society where there is massive inequality of wealth and income, but also elsewhere in tribal society where there is no regulation of economic markets.

This study would also analyze how the advent of Christianity has led to the emergence of class divisions in certain context as there is generation gap of different tribes. Today, Naga society is polarized into sections of stratified positions of so called 'advanced' and 'backward' tribes in Nagaland. The designation of 'Backward Tribes' has been imposed on the people who inhabit the eastern districts of Nagaland which borders with Myanmar in the East. And thereby the paper focuses on the four districts in Eastern Nagaland namely Mon, Longleng, Kiphire and Tuensang. The paper is an attempt to look at how inequality have multidimensional angles and the elimination of one aspect often leads to an exaggeration of other aspects of social, political and cultural inequalities. The emerging polarised society in this small state is a question of ill-governance of how some sections of people used their hegemonic power over the subaltern subjects.

This study is primarily concerned with the contradiction between equality as a general value of modern society and inequality as an empirical fact of all human societies. The paper proposes to look into the demand of its separate state as a result of unequal access to developmental issues in Eastern Nagaland in India. Therefore, the question arises whether one needs to look at state's functionaries or other possible means to which this particular section of people succumbed to their rights to have access to development.

The classification within the Naga tribes has been made with the view to give preferential treatment to those tribes who were lacking in certain spheres. However, the idea of developing and having equal share in all perspectives with an overall and an inclusive manner has met with little success. Nagas in Eastern Nagaland continue to remain 'backward' and less developed when compared with other districts and tribes of Nagaland.

This study also focuses to understand the State policies keeping in mind that Eastern Nagaland does need some special treatment and considerations in the development context specially. While I attempt to explain that genuine state policies positively led to access equal opportunity in the distributive aspects. Ensuring the capability of the backward sections, the state should attempt to bring equal status of human living conditions at least to the possible ways.

Basically, the paper is interested to unfold three categories unequal development, how Christianity played a vital role in imparting education to advanced tribes and now how they are dominating the minority tribes as a result demanding its separate state in Eastern Nagaland.

Keywords: class division, state policies, tribal society, inequality

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Violence against Women and Sustainable Development

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Abstract

History has witnessed vast gender inequalities and development of society cannot be restricted to a particular section of society. When one talks about development and progress it brings within its sphere; well-being and security of society as a whole i.e. inclusive of both men and women. Economic development and progress of a nation is directly proportional to the process of transformation of a society towards its betterment. Gender inequality based on gender biasness is a determinant of power and priority privilege. The world is most unequal for women and girls; they are beaten, tortured and raped at the hands of male chauvinism. And sadly it not only exists within the boundaries of the nation. It is in its most brutal form in the 'no man's land.' In a country like India where the present-modern society is still under the clutches of patriarchal male dominance, focusing only on laws protecting women within the territorial boundaries of the State is not sufficient to aim towards global sustainability and development. The most atrocious crimes against women take place where the State boundaries end.

Can violence against women be called to be restricted during peace time or confined within the borders or does it spread beyond the boundaries. Vulnerability of the she-gender: is like being in a constant state of war against a woman's human rights, within the border or across and crossing all cultural boundaries. Crime against women is an existing and ongoing state of war against humanity, it cannot be clubbed in specific spheres, and it ranges from acts of sexual violence to domestic assault to cross border trafficking.

With the incidents as that of Delhi gang rape, raping and sadistically exploiting a 5 year old and Bijal Patel Rape case the focus has now shifted to re-evaluating and reframing protection of women under the present law based on recommendations from Justice Verma Committee, which was constituted to look into possible amendments of the Criminal Law within the State. The question that the present paper raises is till what extent can only laws protect and safeguard the citizens? With almost half the population feeling insecure can a nation really progress towards development? Can women be called safe in any part of the world? Be it within the boundaries of the State or beyond? Cross-border crimes not just affect the women of the particular Nations at war but it travels beyond the borders and becomes an issue of global concern. Is it the law that governs and safeguards it's people or is it the executive body regulating the enforcement mechanism that makes any law an effective law. The paper focuses on the various issues relating to sexual-violence faced by women within the boundaries and beyond. In addition to the laws laid down under the International Humanitarian Laws towards protection of women in times of war, the author tries to highlight the missing lacunas in the enforcement of these laws along with solutions to bring a change towards a better tomorrow.

Keywords: Gender Inequality, International Humanitarian Law, Justice Verma Committee Report, Sustainable Development, Violence Against Women.

Human Rights Dimensions: A Road Map to Good Governance in India

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Abstract: The values and contours of human rights differ from time to time and sector to sector. The sectorial differences cut across places, societies and masses. International documents envision human rights as fundamental freedoms originating from inherent dignity of man. When it comes to implementation, there are many intrinsic threats and obstacles like poverty and exclusion of human rights. Apart from that, new challenges are posed by science and technology like bio-technology and ICT. A democratic political system is accepted as the best for free exercise of these individual rights⁶. At the same time, democracy cannot be meaningful without recognizing human rights of its subjects. A good democracy ensures civil and political rights to its subjects and aims at achieving socio-economic rights. Indian constitution envisages the values which are mandatorily included in the governance of the country. The basic human rights jells with the constitutional principles and values and it is important to look at governance from the human rights perspective. Prof. Upendra Baxi⁷ points out human rights should be the grammar of governance.

Governance is defined and understood as a process by which governments are selected, policies are formulated and implemented and citizens are respected.⁸ When the government and its institutions are more transparent in their policy making and actions and accountable to people then, the governance will be more efficient. The responsiveness of the governance system to cater the needs of the public is also an important factor. When the interested groups are allowed to participate in the decisions making process and all behave under rule of law then the system is said to be following the attributes of good governance.

Good governance is essential to the realization of all human rights including elimination of poverty and ensuring a satisfactory livelihood for all.⁹ Good governance provides an environment contributing to ensure human rights.

India is a country which is a forerunner in accepting and recognizing the human rights of its subjects. The quality of governance in India is always criticized and people feel that it has been more to be improved. Corruption is a big challenge. Transparency International reports that about 40% of Indians had firsthand experience of paying bribes or using a contact to get a job done in public office¹⁰. India stands 74th out of 176 countries in the Corruption Perceptions Index in 2012¹¹. Apart from that the challenges of economic growth and development poses threats to protection of human rights in India. Hence it is a huge challenge to a country like India is to link the dynamic human rights to the dynamic constitutional principles¹² to accomplish good governance.

This paper is a study of issues relating to linking human rights with good governance. The paper also analyses the methodologies which can be adopted to make human rights a part of governance culture and concludes by examining how this can contribute to inclusive development in India.

Keywords: democracy, good governance, human rights, inclusive development, transparency

⁶ Speech by Secretary General, United Nations at World Conference on Human Rights, 1993

⁷ Upendra Baxi, *The Future of Human Rights*, OUP, 2012 at p. 18

⁸ worldbank.org

⁹ General Comment No. 12 UN Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights

¹⁰ <http://cpi.transparency.org/cpi2012/results/>

¹¹ Transparency International , *India Corruption Study – 2008*

Ref#: 316/IND/13

Good Governance at International Level for Protection of Human Rights

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Abstract

International human rights institutions in the idea of globalization are often viewed as a part of emerging global governance regime. It might imply the obligation of the institutionalization of the international global system is required for the protection and promotion of human rights. The human rights can be established at the global level, and it could be done with help of good governance by the international institutions. There's a prominent reason why states join such institutions in order to advance liberal norms that these organizations represent. This paper seeks to analyze the patterns of membership of United Nations Human Rights Commission. But, the criteria for membership for the democratic nations getting elected, has become easier than the states with poorer records of human rights. This research seeks to ratify the international treaties on human rights in the contemporary world. Good Governance is required in any institution; especially in an international organization which deals the vast subject of human rights Good Governance which within its meaning is very unsettled. The good governance can be achieved via focus on development and proper execution of the human rights by organizations like UNHRC, which have to take possession as a sovereign body in regard to humanitarian law. Also, the financial assistance shall be provided by the donors like World Bank and International Monetary Fund even to the nations which do not fall within the member states. As a symbol, of good-will for the global well-being in social and financial reformation in its commitments, to ensure good governance and welfare of the nation states. The paper also seeks to unravel the actions that are required by international organizations. Any humanitarian organization is a key to preserve the sense of humanity in a highly diplomatic world. For times of battles and warfare, these organizations have to be ready to formulate norms for the regulation of violation of human rights and instant action to combat against any such instances. The humanitarian law must also formulate a ground for nations in the making of legislation, which avoids any kind of violation of human rights, has been discussed. As a global effort is required for protection of minority and collective human dignity which is another such major issue, even at the domestic level. Thus, for the betterment of all nation states reformation and renovation of norms is essential for a better present and future in order to achieve an ideal state of good governance worldwide and for the interests of the human rights.

Keywords: Good governance, Human rights, International humanitarian law, International organizations,.



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Abstract

The world over Engineers have been trying to formulate workable solutions to keep construction project delay under good control. The activity networking technique initiated in the USA in late 1950s gained large popularity. This was followed by the introduction of computer and a large number of management software aiming at effective project control. The techniques are in wide use globally including the developing world. While these techniques have proved very useful, the real problem of effectively controlling the slippage on construction projects, particularly in the emerging economies like India, still remains largely unsolved. The author has done substantial work in India and other developing countries trying to find workable solutions to this burning issue and have achieved some success. Keeping in view this experience, the author has been actively pursuing further studies, research and detailed work in this area and his broad findings are outlined in this paper.

Keywords: Network technique, concurrent delays, developing countries, project slippage, project implementation profile, work breakdown structure, remedial measures.

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Sustainable green energies technologies and agriculture development

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Abstract

Sudan is an agricultural country with fertile land, plenty of water resources, livestock, forestry resources, and agricultural residues. Energy is one of the key factors for the development of national economies in Sudan. An overview of the energy situation in Sudan is introduced with reference to the end uses and regional distribution. Energy sources are divided into two main types; conventional energy (woody biomass, petroleum products, and electricity); and non-conventional energy (solar, wind, hydro, etc.). Sudan possesses a relatively high abundance of sunshine, solar radiation, moderate wind speeds, hydro, and biomass energy resources. Application of new and renewable sources of energy available in Sudan is now a major issue in the future energy strategic planning for the alternative to the fossil conventional energy to provide part of the local energy demand. Sudan is an important case study in the context of renewable energy. It has a long history of meeting its energy needs through renewables. Sudan's renewables portfolio is broad and diverse, due in part to the country's wide range of climates and landscapes. Like many of the African leaders in renewable energy utilisation, Sudan has a well-defined commitment to continue research, development, and implementation of new technologies. Sustainable low-carbon energy scenarios for the new century emphasise the untapped potential of renewable resources. Rural areas of Sudan can benefit from this transition. The increased availability of reliable and efficient energy services stimulates new development alternatives. It is concluded that renewable environmentally friendly energy must be encouraged, promoted, implemented, and demonstrated by full-scale plan especially for use in remote rural areas.

Keywords: Sudan, energy, consumption patterns, renewable energy potential, sustainable development, impacts on environment, mitigations.

Ref#: 003/IND/13

Tourism and Technology Evolution, a Symbiotic Relationship: Penang Experiences

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Abstract

Over the past decades, the travel and tourism sector has emerged into one of the most important sectors for developing and developed countries. Tourism incorporates many of the features of the information society such as globalization, mobility and information gathering and sharing. People from all nations, social ranks, professions and different walks of life are potential tourists. Tourism, as a global industry, links a worldwide supplier community with consumers on a global scale. Its physical and virtual networks enable worldwide travelling, bringing together very distant cultures and habits. The industry is diverse; the size of tourism principals varies from micro to global enterprises. Information systems in tourism have been among the pioneers of leading edge of technology applications. Tourism marketing systems typically represent the forefront of multi-media and virtual-reality applications. The World Wide Web is profoundly changing the production, distribution and consumption of touristic products. Information and communication technology is probably the strongest driving force for changes within the tourism industry. Both industries, the information and communication technology and the travel and tourism industry, are not only growing above average, they will also be among the most important industries in the next century. And both industries are closely interrelated and intertwined. This article presents a structural view of the **physical development**, identifying the different types of players, the nature of the tourism business and tourism product. It illustrates a general introduction to the relationship between physical and **social development** and tourism. The article explains a detailed account of the transformation of development which is interrelated to the travel and tourism market. The travel and tourism Industry has a significant economic impact, on a global as well as on a local level, which is underlined by statistical evidence from several official international and internal organizations. Travel and tourism constitute a higher portion of the value of exports in Malaysia than any other sectors excluding petroleum, petroleum products and other forms of manufacturing. This article identifies the central principle of development on different fields and levels of social and physical advancement. Lastly the paper discusses the impacts of development and its consequences. The conclusion of the articles is the assumption that there is a symbiotic relationship between **technology and tourism evolution** as these two elements intertwined in many aspect of social and physical development. To enable better understanding of the subject matter, Penang, Malaysia is chosen as the case study to demonstrate the symbiotic relationship between technology and tourism evolution.

Keywords: information and communication technology, physical development, social development, symbiotic relationship, technology and tourism evolution.

Ref#: 006/IND/13

Environmental Protection Vis-a-Vis Sustainable Development-A Global Challenge

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Abstract

“The more we exploit nature, the more our options are reduced, until we have only one to fight for survival” Man has played a very important part in shaping his environment. He has been responsible for degrading the quality of his environment ever since he appeared on this earth. At first he contaminated the atmosphere by the use of fire which added gases, smoke and ash to it. When he came out of the cave age and began to settle into villages, towns and cities, the situation gradually worsened.

Environmental pollution is one of the most serious problems facing humanity and other life forms on our planet today. With India's population at 1.2 billion people and counting, plus internal economic migration to urban areas from the countryside, the country's cities are bursting at the seams. Housing shortages, electricity and water cuts, traffic congestion, pollution and a lack of basic services are the reality for millions.

Ref#: 011/IND/13

Institutional and Cultural Constraints on the International Harmonization of the Polluter Pays Principle as a Sustainable Development Strategy in Indian, Chinese, and U.S. Environmental Law and Policy

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Abstract

The Polluter Pays Principle made its international debut in 1972 in a recommendation by the Council of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ("OECD") to OECD Member States on the international aspects of environmental policies. Fifteen years later, the World Commission on Environment and Development recognized it as an economic strategy for achieving sustainable development. The Polluter Pays Principle requires polluters to bear the costs of the pollution prevention and control measures imposed by public authorities to achieve or to maintain an acceptable level of environmental quality, including the costs of environmental restoration measures, with certain narrowly defined exceptions. Its goals are to encourage the rational use and better allocation of scarce environmental resources and to avoid distortions in international trade and investment by ensuring that the cost of goods and services that cause pollution when produced or consumed reflect the cost of the pollution prevention and control measures required by public authorities.

If the Polluter Pays Principle is to achieve its goals globally, then it must be adopted and implemented effectively by a critical mass of States, especially the States with the world's biggest economies or that stand out for the size of their current or likely future contributions to global environmental challenges such as anthropogenic climate change. India, China, and the United States all fall within this special group. The international harmonization of the Polluter Pays Principle in the environmental laws and policies of these three States remains elusive, however, which substantially undermines its goals globally.

In India, the Union Government identified the Polluter Pays Principle as an essential vehicle for integrating environmental considerations into government decision-making more than twenty years ago. It took the Indian Supreme Court, however, in a characteristically activist move, to recognize that principle as a feature of Indian environmental law a few years later, albeit in expanded form. The polluters in the seminal case succeeded in delaying the execution of the Court's final judgment for fifteen years, however, which highlights how India's unique legal culture and institutions can be as much a hindrance as a help in ensuring that even the Indian variant of the Polluter Pays Principle is implemented effectively.

In China, the Central Government has derived from the Polluter Pays Principle the principle of "who pollutes, who treats," which purportedly serves as one of the pillars of China's environmental law and policy regime. The fine structure of pollution discharge fee system that China has developed on the basis of this derivative expands the Polluter Pays Principle in some respects, but contracts it in others, the net effect being to neutralize its effectiveness as a sustainable development strategy. Core elements of the Chinese legal tradition, as reinforced by socialist legal theory, combined with an institutionalized devolution of power from the Central Government to local governments under China's 1982 constitution, have played crucial roles in creating this result.

In the United States, federal environmental laws and the policies expressed through them do not embrace the Polluter Pays Principle explicitly. Moreover, the United States' structurally fragmented law- and policy-making process, in which organized interests play a central role, in part for cultural reasons, has produced an environmental law regime that exempts certain types of pollution from some of its most important requirements for reasons that undermine the spirit if not the letter of that principle. Partly as a result, in the United States the Polluter Pays Principle has served primarily as an administrative rationale for setting the civil penalties imposed in administrative enforcement proceedings high enough to recapture from violators of certain federal environmental statutes the economic benefit of noncompliance, but only with respect to the types of pollution not exempted from the statutory requirements themselves.

As these examples suggest, harmonizing the adoption and implementation of the Polluter Pays Principle as a sustainable development strategy in a critical mass of States worldwide is at least as much of a political and legal challenge as an economic one, even taking into account the special economic circumstances of developing countries. The political and legal constraints that have stood in the way of this harmonization to date are State-specific, and have both institutional and cultural dimensions. The most likely prescription for overcoming these constraints is sustainability leadership, not in the form of the calls for economic rationality or the mustering of "political will" that often seem to dominate the international sustainable development discourse, but in the form of the acquisition and deployment of the institutional and cultural knowledge and skills needed to work each of the relevant municipal law- and policy-making and -implementation systems strategically in order to achieve the desired result.

Keywords: China, environmental law and policy, India, polluter pays principle, United States

Corporate Social Responsibility: A Need of Present and Future

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Abstract

Corporate social responsibility is the heart of business practices in today's era. It can be defined as "The persisting commitment by business to behave ethically and achieve its development by improving the standard of life of its labour force and their families as well as of the local community and society at large". We all have responsibilities towards society, community and country. Same forms the very base of corporate responsibility. It is a voluntary act of the companies. It can be said that main aim of a business organization is to keep people happy i.e. the Society. If this end is not achieved, it cannot survive for long. Today it is being exercised at both national and international level as merits of providing CSR programmes is being realized at large. It is not just only a responsibility of a company but, an effort to work upon sustainability of business operations and their dealings with their stakeholders on a voluntary basis. Then, there is also a concept of 'yield making', which is a crucial aspect in escalation of a firm. So, here emerges CSR, with which the gains of a firm are analyzed in combination with social riches for enhanced growth and sustainable development of the same.

Corporate social responsibility focuses on the duties of business organizations towards the interest of society rather than just towards its stakeholders and customers as it is a well known fact that a business corporation is dependent upon the society for the want of technical assistance, finance and market. By practicing corporate social responsibility, a corporation generates ways to gather both financial and social benefit and business which is socially responsible is much more stable. It is important that both internal CSR i.e. welfare of workers, stakeholders, investors as well as external CSR i.e. welfare of society and local community should be carried on hand in hand if sustainable development of CSR is to be achieved.

The core elements of CSR can be summarized as follows:

- (1) Companies should develop mechanism to respect the needs of stakeholders, customers and its investors.
- (2) They should not engage in business practices that are abusive, unfair, corrupt or anti-competitive.
- (3) Healthy, safe and hygienic conditions of work should be provided at workplace and no discrimination should be exercised on any ground in providing employment opportunities.
- (4) Human rights of company's labour force should be protected by company.
- (5) Such activities should be taken up by company which is conducive to the overall development of its workforce like educational, social, cultural welfare activities particularly targeting towards the disadvantaged section of society.
- (6) Measures should be taken by every company to check and prevent environment pollution. For this, paper bags should be used instead of plastic bags and waste should be properly managed and recycled.

Thus, in today's context, concept of Corporate social responsibility has been widened from mere a profit making formula to economic and social development of society and to encourage a affirmative bang through its behavior on the environment, consumers, employees, communities, stakeholders and all other members of the municipal field. Furthermore, CSR-alert businesses would advance the public concern by cheering community expansion and development, and removing behavior which can cause damage to municipal sphere and valuable natural resources, despite of legitimacy. CSR seeks to deliberately include public interest in corporate decision making so that company can easily and efficiently achieve its tri fold interest which are public, profit and planet.

Thus corporate social responsibility is enjoying a valuable status today but still in a country like India, it is at developing stage and has a long path to travel before they finish into tangible course of action. It is prototypical to build up the CSR principles appropriately and a legal machinery should be evolved which should be utilised to give effect to these principles in order to render them effective. Business is carried out for profits. There is scope for huge

profits and even if a small part of those profits is utilized for public benefit, society would surely be a better place to live in.

The aim of the instant paper is to expose the role of CSR in country's development and its association with legal and environmental issues. The paper also examines the concept of CSR in detail focussing towards the reasons for its introduction in India and its consequent benefits and co-related drawbacks.

Keywords: Corporate Social Responsibility, Social Development, Society, Welfare.

Ref#: 013/IND/13

Explosive Remnants of War: A Heavy Toll of Past Sins (A Global and An Indian Perspective)

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Abstract

This essay provides a comprehensive summary of the Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). There has been much dialogue on the need for their clearance as they not only cause casualties but also hinder reconstruction, return of refugees, delivery of humanitarian assistance and other essential activities such as agriculture. Despite treaties and legislatures, a more strategic and planned effort is required at the national and international level. The Article discusses possible solutions to mitigate the scourge at hand. A calibrated analysis specifically of India's collaboration with Protocol V, specifically, has been brought to light.

Keywords: Refugees, Humanitarian, Explosive Remnants, reconstruction

Sustainable Human and Social Development

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Abstract

The scarcity of natural resources impedes economic growth. Economic growth cannot continue unhindered when the environment is overexploited beyond its carrying capacity. The maximum use by the economic system that the environment bears is defined as the carrying capacity of the environment. Our dilemma is that we in the developing economies cannot afford to forego economic growth although the present economic growth causes environment damage. And irreparable environmental losses limit the prospect of future economic growth. What would be the solution to our dilemma? How can we achieve higher economic growth with environmental degradation? The answer to this could be found in the notion of sustainable development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own needs.

This definition emphasizes two important things. One, that natural resources are vital to every one of us- even to the urban future generations. That, it is a long-term concept. It does not narrowly focuses only on the present economic growth but it also takes into account the future economic growth. Thus, sustainable development is a kind of economic development that ensures the availability of natural resources even for the future use. If the economic development is sustainable then the present use of natural resources will not limit us from their use in the future. It will not make them scare. It involves the present as well as the future of the economic development. That makes it a long-term concept. The task of sustainable use of exhaustible resources is difficult in comparisons to that of the inexhaustible resources, yet it is not difficult. To same them for the future use we must conserve, save and use them efficiently. It should also be our utmost duty to try to find ways and means to substitute them by abundant resources especially the inexhaustible resources. Finally, it is also very essential for us to try limiting our wants which are the chief cause to natural resource depletion.

Like democracy and globalization, the concept of sustainable development has become one of the most ubiquitous, contested, and indispensable concepts of our time. Although the concept was first introduced in response to environmental concerns, it has been defined primarily by the mainstream tradition of economic analysis, which tends to marginalize the issue of ecological sustainability itself. Recently, however, scholars advancing various critical perspectives challenged the mainstream economic analysis of sustainable development.

This paper examines the presuppositions, logic, and major themes of mainstream sustainable development theory, primarily within economics, and explores the critiques of mainstream analysis offered by various poststructuralist cultural theorists and ecological Marxists. Although considered to be superior in their greater emphasis on ecological sustainability, neither of these critical approaches is deemed adequate in itself. The argument here instead leads to the conception that an adequate approach to sustainable development requires combining insights from various critical approaches and perspectives.

Keywords: Democracy, globalization, economic growth, mainstream

Ref#: 019/IND/13

Meeting energy needs by developing management practices to utilize marginal quality irrigation water on saline lands for sustainable bio-energy crop production

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Rationale

In the recent years, interest in biobased fuels is increasing globally. In the U.S., the congressionally mandated Renewable Fuels Standards (RFS2) goal is to use at least 136 billion liters of bio-based transportation fuels by 2022. US Department of Agriculture estimates that about 11 million hectares of land is required to meet the RFS2 goal. Meeting this challenge of increasing bioenergy production requires a comprehensive strategy of bringing additional area from different regions within the country under bioenergy crops. Conversion of existing agricultural lands to bioenergy is not economically or environmentally feasible. However, there are opportunities to grow bioenergy crops on marginal lands. In the southwest U.S. region, vast areas of previously irrigated lands have been abandoned due to elevated salinity. Bringing abandoned crop lands under bioenergy crops can be an attractive proposition to increase biobased fuels. While the region has adequate supply of land, finding reliable source of water to produce bioenergy crops is the main challenge. This challenge can be met by developing marginal quality water sources for bioenergy crops production. Use of marginal quality waters such as brackish groundwater, gray water, treated industrial and municipal wastewaters may prove beneficial, if the bioenergy crops can grow under elevated salinity and the effects on soil/shallow groundwater can be minimized by appropriate management. Since most of the wastewater treatment plants in the region are located close to rivers/canals and some are already disposing treated water into canals, the delivery system for this wastewater for agriculture irrigation is already in place and does not require significant additional investments for infrastructure development. However, there is limited information on the performance of bioenergy crops under elevated salinity. Another issue is identifying appropriate crop(s) for sustainable bioenergy production. Corn (*Zea mays*) is the current biofuel crop of choice but it is a resource (fertilizers, insecticide, herbicide and water) intensive crop. Meeting RFS2 goal by corn alone can impair soil and water qualities. Second generation bioenergy crops such as switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), energy sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor*), camelina (*Camelina sativa*), and canola (*Brassica napus*) require less intensive practices. Developing appropriate management strategies to utilize these abandoned lands and marginal quality waters will benefit the region while providing bioenergy for our growing population, improving productivity and increasing farm income.

Approach

Baseline soil properties including salinity in the abandoned lands were analyzed. Select chemical properties of marginal quality water were analyzed to determine its irrigation quality. Salinity tolerance of select cultivars of switchgrass, sorghum, canola and camelina were determined in the laboratory and greenhouse. Performance of salt tolerant cultivars of bioenergy crops were evaluated in the greenhouse using columns constructed using soil from salt affected lands with and without soil amendments. Changes in soil properties were monitored to evaluate the impacts of marginal water irrigation and to develop appropriate salt management practices for sustainable bioenergy production. Significance of treatment differences were determined by Analysis of Variance at $P \leq 0.05$.

Summary of Results

Among the different cultivars evaluated the most salt tolerant cultivars were “Alamo”, “Blade”, “DKL-30-42” and “Florida” for switchgrass, energy sorghum, canola, and camelina crops, respectively. However, camelina did not perform well under both greenhouse conditions. On an average, biomass/oil seed yields of switchgrass, energy sorghum, and canola on saline soils under marginal quality water irrigation were about 7, 22, and 0.9 Mg/ha, respectively. This compares well with the reported yields obtained under good quality irrigation water on productive soils. No significant differences were observed between bioenergy yields obtained under marginal water and control water, probably because marginal water had greater concentrations of nutrients. Soil salinity and sodicity differed significantly between water qualities but within the root-zone of crops, the levels were at manageable levels. This

suggested that with appropriate management practices sustainable bioenergy production could be maintained even on a saline soil irrigated with marginal quality water having elevated salinity.

Conclusions and Relevance to International Audience

Result of this study indicated that there is potential for using marginal lands and alternative water sources having elevated salinity to grow bioenergy crops without impairing soil productivity. UNESCO estimates that worldwide about 954 million hectares are salt affected and of which about 100 million hectares, including about 30 million hectares in India and US, are due to human induced secondary salinity in irrigated areas. A majority of the surveyed groundwater in India and water sources in arid parts of US have elevated salinity. Meeting the ever growing food, fiber and energy needs of the growing global population with reduced land & water availability requires development of management practices to improve land productivity in a sustainable manner. We hope that sharing of our study results in this conference can help in exchange of information and development of successful collaboration to continue this important research to increase farm productivity and increase farm income.

Keywords: Bio-energy, Salinity, Salt Management, Sustainability, Wastewater

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Affecting factors on empowerment of women who headed households
(Case Study Delfan city, Lorestan province in Iran)

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Abstract

Women's poverty exist as an issue of long time in all human societies, in recent years we have been witness the formation of new approaches under the empowerment approach in the field of social policy.

This approach is for providing the necessary mechanisms for empowerment of women and the role of economic revival, social and political them, in order to achieve the desired goals, strengthening the agency (talents and abilities) of women is considered. The main purpose of this study of social services, Imam Khomeini on the empowerment of women headed households is Statistical Society included all women under the Relief Committee headed households are Delfan city. 3053 population were based on Cochran formula is estimated 228 people. Survey for data collection has been used and then collect data using the software spss data analysis have been described.

Based on the results, including demographic data that the empowerment of women headed households had the highest effect, education, skills, employment status of women has been meaning to those women who had higher education or technical skills were the owner , in terms of being able to use their abilities to work were more powerful than other women.

Results also show that among self-employed loans, and psychological and economic empowerment of women was significant and positive relationship exists, only women are empowered with jobs and vocational skills and self-employment loans or aid committee used have. Can be concluded that the relief committee in relation to poverty, welfare has taken an approach and programs to empower seriously do not follow.

Keywords: Women headed households, empowerment, poverty, Imam Khomeini Relief Committee, Lorestan

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Human Rights Approach to Sustainable Development

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Abstract

The Present day consensus reflects three foundational aspirations. First, that human beings should be able to enjoy a decent quality of life, second, that humanity should become capable of respecting the finiteness of the biosphere, and third, that neither the aspiration for good life, nor the recognition of biophysical limits should preclude the search for greater justice in the world. In a planetary system of finite resources, human activities motivated by an attitude of rampant consumerism and unsustainable patterns of production and consumption have never been as inhuman and callous towards environment as in the modern era of scientific and technological innovations. Man's greed attacks nature, environment and ecology and wounded nature backlashes on the human future. During the past few decades numerous incredible and devastating events have focused the domestic and global attention to the impending danger of environmental devastation, the depletion of resources, and a massive extinction of species. Issues such as climate change, trends in global warming, ozone depletion, acid rain, deforestation, desertification, toxic wastes and loss of biological diversity have resulted in increasing global awareness of the problems facing the planet earth. An unprecedented rise in human population has overburdened ecological and social systems. The foundations of global security are threatened. The global concern has been aptly echoed in the preambular assertion made at the Earth Summit in the year 1992.

Humanity stands at a defining moment in history. We are confronted with a perpetuation of disparities between and within nations, a worsening of poverty, hunger, ill health and illiteracy, and the continuing deterioration of the ecosystems on which we depend for our well-being. Earth's resources are finite and there are ecological limits to growth which, unless we alter our ways, will sooner rather than later be exhausted. Environmental crisis involves social, political and economic aspects and also poses a philosophical problem. The most vital task is to build an environmental ethics that constructs an adequate theory of intrinsic value of nature as a whole. Many theorists therefore suggested that environment management be approached from a human rights perspective. It is undeniable that the ecological balance is disturbed by human activity, yet humans are the ultimate victims of such degradation and therefore approaching environment management from a human rights point of view would go a long way in tackling the ecological concerns. Additionally, such an approach would help solve the aforementioned problems as human rights represent a core space which the State is obliged to respect and help effectively realise. The concept of sustainable development was placed on the international agenda with the release of the report *Our Common Future* by World Commission on Environment and Development (*Brundtland Report*) in 1987, where it was envisaged that Human survival and well-being depends on success in elevating sustainable development to a global ethic.

While economic development should not be allowed to take place at the cost of ecology or by causing widespread environment destruction and violation; at the same time the necessity to preserve ecology and environment should not hamper economic and other developments. Both development and environment must go hand in hand, in other words, there should not be development at the cost of environment and vice-versa, but there should be development while taking, due care and ensuring the protection of environment. To resolve this issue, the experts worldwide have come up with a doctrine called 'sustainable development' i.e. there must be a balance between development and ecology. In the past several years the field of sustainable development has shifted to an integration of international economic, social and environmental law with the goal of reducing poverty in developing nations.

Ever since man came on this earth, there has been an in born and intrinsic tendency to save his person and property. Expressed differently, the protection of one's person and property is inherent in the nature of man. Human rights are those rights, which any human being on this earth must enjoy because of his being a human being. The most fundamental of all rights is threatened by environmental degradation and unsustainable development -- the right to life. Right to life being foremost human right implicates right to live without deleterious and perilous invasions of pollution, environmental degradation and ecological imbalances. Environment today is no longer a scientist's esoteric but one of the paramount legal concerns, jurist's curative commitments and focal agenda of modern socio-

legal order. A legal system, therefore, is expected to rise to creative heights to indoctrinate environmentalism, deep ecological values and eco-centrism to augur an equitable and sustainable socio-legal regime.

Keywords: environmental degradation, biophysical limits, health and literacy

Ref#: 032/IND/13

Role in Adult Education in Promoting Sustainable Rural the Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

Rural development can be conceived of as the process of improving the living standards of the masses in the low income population wherever they may be residing and making the process of their development self – sustaining. Sustainable development, in the same vein, can be said to mean the provision of adequate and affordable basic needs of life for the present generation without jeopardizing the prospects of subsequent generations. It is therefore a process in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investment, the orientation of technological development and institutional change are all in harmony and enhance both current and future potential to meet human needs and aspirations.

This paper examines the role of Adult Education as a critical factor in the development of rural communities in Nigerian. It deals with vivid description of the rural communities in Nigeria-highlighting rural-urban disparities in all facets of development. It prescribes a viable rural education package based on the national philosophy on education. Emphasis is put on human - central education in order to achieve a sustainable development.

Education, in this paper is seen as a significant motivator to action–nourishing bloodstream that courses through all aspects of rural community development. The types of education being conceived of here is quite different from the conventional schooling education designed for purposes of awarding certificates, diplomas and degree. Important though the award of certificates may be, we are concerned here with creation of an environment in which awareness is at its height. We are referring here to education for total liberation that promotes development of man by man and for man. It is an education that brings a learner to a situation where he can examine critically actions which he had previously accepted as “given”, begins to see that “reality” is not a closed world from which there can be no exit and perceives his own situation as one that he himself can alter. In this connection, education legitimately establishes a solid base from which we can bring to effect positive changes in all spheres of human endeavour be it social–economic, politico - cultural aspects of rural life. The real tenet of the paper hinges on the fact that to become a strong virile and self–reliant nation, the majority of the citizens particularly the rural communities must be properly educated in line with their socio–economic and cultural and political realities. They should have direct access to education which will enhance the realization of the individual potentials. Consequently, this type of education aims at bringing about attitude changes, gains in knowledge, and skills–acquisition leading to enhanced self–image and improved ability to solve problems individually or through social or community action. The paper concludes by offering some practical solutions to the almost intractable question of rural education and sustainable development in Nigeria.

Keywords: Adult , Nigeria, Promoting, Rural, Sustainable.

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Deforestation: A Present day chords.

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Abstract

Our conscious choice of preserving and maintaining our forest land today can lead to a better and sustainable future. Trees absorb the greenhouse gases that fuel global warming. Fewer forests mean larger amounts of greenhouse gases entering the atmosphere and increased speed and severity of global warming. The rate of deforestation has slowed somewhat over the past decade; yet each year, approximately 13 million hectares of the world's forest are lost or degraded. Forest contains some of our planet's more vibrant ecosystem, displaying wondrous kinds of animals, birds and plants. Clearing forests land directly affects biodiversity. Climate change is also having an effect as the result of the removal of stand of trees. The loss of biodiversity and renewable natural resources reduces stability and resilience, and leads to fragmentation, species loss, and the loss of ecosystem quality which all are vital for economic growth and human well-being. Poor and vulnerable people looking for livelihood for their families cut down trees to be used or sold as fuel-sometimes in the form of charcoal, or timber, while cleared land is used as pasture for livestock, plantation of commodities, and settlement. For infrastructure expansion and development, housing shortages as a result of urban sprawl are also drivers of deforestation. Even though, deforestation has negative effects on the environment, not all deforestation is intentional as related to money or people's catering for their families needs. Deforestation sometimes is caused by combination of human and natural factors like wildfires, and subsequent overgrazing, which may prevent the growth of young trees. This paper therefore explains and describes the main pressures driving deforestation, and analyses perspectives for the near future.

Keywords: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Deforestation, Poverty, Sustainable livelihood/development

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The Relevance of Growth Centre Strategy to Balanced and Sustainable Regional Development in Saudi Arabia

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Abstract

For almost the past thirty years, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has adapted a development approach based on what became known as the Growth Center Strategy to promote balanced regional development. However, regional inequality problems still surge as conformed by some recent research. This issue has started a wide debate and concerned regarding the usefulness of such strategy for integrating national space and fostering balanced and sustainable regional development. Therefore, a number of recent studies have suggested reexamining the relevance of some classical theories and models of regional development, specifically with reverence to developing countries.

The main objective of this paper is to address growth center strategy and its role in achieving balanced and sustainable regional development in Saudi Arabia. To achieve this adjective, an extensive review of related literature was carried out to determine the theoretical background and applications aspects of the growth center strategy. Based on the review a number of research questions were set forth to tackle topics related to the selection criteria of growth centers, the roles and involvement of central and regional officials in the selection criteria and implementations of growth centers, the distribution pattern of growth centers, and the constraints inhibiting their effectiveness.

To answer the study research questions, data were collected via questionnaire from two sampled groups. The first group includes decision makers and planning at the national (central) level, and the second involves members of regional (local) council of Alqaseem Administrative Region. Each questionnaire consists of four sections: the first includes respondents' socioeconomic and demographic characteristics, their administrative positions, and years of experience in the jobs. The second section covers the concept, function, and objective of growth center strategy. The third related to the selection criteria of the spatial disruption of growth centers. The fourth explores the responsibilities of both central and local officials in the implementation of the growth centers in various spatial levels.

The main results indicate that most officials at both central and local levels have almost a sketchy knowledge regarding the concept, function, and objective of growth center and their roles in regional development. There are differences between the two groups and within each group regarding the types of services and activities to be provided at the three levels of growth centers (local, regional and national levels). Similar conclusion was reached with reverence to the planning process that governs the selection and implementation of growth center strategy.

Those draw back suffered by current growth center strategy eventually led to impermanent in realizing its goals and objectives and perpetuation of regional disparity. It is clear from the results that the overriding issue is not whether the growth center strategy is relevant or not, rather with the officials sketchy knowledge of the growth center strategy itself. Hence, a number of practical recommendations were set forth to enhance understanding of various aspects of the strategy among central and local decision makers and planners.

Keywords: Growth Center Strategy, Regional Sustainability, Regional Inequality, Saudi Arabia.

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Ecological accountability of sustainable growth in India

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Abstract

Environmental policy is protecting and enhancing our natural possessions. Development is not a item for consumption but it is a course of action. Atmosphere deals with the inter relationship between environment and economic development. This paper intends to explain interrelationship between environment and economic development, challenges of natural system and development, conservation of natural resources and its method, role of sustainable development , role of NGO's, environmental protection strategies and economic development in India, and policy recommendation for development. The paper concludes that Effective Environment Management (EEM) and people self interest are the solution for environment problem and the sustainable development.

Keywords: Sustainable Development, Environmental Protection Strategies (EPS), Non-Governmental Organization (NGO's), Effective Environment Management (EEM)

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The Role of Visual Documentation in Sustainable Development Projects- A case study

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Abstract:

The documentation of any development project work is important for the future reference and analysis. Many Non Governmental organizations (NGOs) are involved in sustainable development projects. These projects need to have a constant review and analysis. The Audio Visual (AV) Documentation of the process from the initiation to completion of the project will be helpful in critical review. The visual documentation gives opportunity for the reviewers of multiple-interpretation. This will enhance the strength and application of sustainable development projects. This particular research is a case study of a tribal village development project.

Keywords: AV, Multiple-Interpretation, NGOs, Sustainable Development, Visual Documentation

**Appraisal of Knowledge of Youth towards Energy Conservation and Efficiency in India:
An Exploratory Research**

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Abstract

Sustainable development is a pattern of economic growth in which resource use aims to meet human needs while preserving the environment. Energy is central to improved social and economic well-being, and is indispensable to most industrial and commercial wealth generation. (International Atomic Energy Agency, 2005). India is currently facing an acute energy shortage (Central Electricity Authority, 2012). According to Ministry of Power (2012) “the country continues to have mismatch between demand and supply and energy shortages to the tune of 8.5% and 10.3% respectively during the year 2010-11. For achieving energy security, India’s energy strategy has a twofold scheme, focusing on increasing the total supply by implementation of renewable energy technologies and optimal utilization of available energy. Efficient energy management and conservation is found to be the most cost effective and environmentally benign option to augment the gap between demand and supply. Nearly 25,000 MW of capacity creation through efficient energy management has been estimated in India (Planning Commission, 2012).

For building momentum towards energy management movement, it thus becomes imperative to build capacity of masses so that they are capable of making decision and taking appropriate steps towards the implementation of suitable energy efficiency measures. According to the Population Council in India, (2012), “India is a young nation with 30% of the country’s population being youth. Building capacity of youth may help to reach next four generation, the message to conserve and protect the nature. In the given situation, assessing knowledge of youth can prove to be an effective endeavor towards developing a valid capacity building module for awareness generation regarding energy management and sustainable development.

The study was conducted in colleges in Delhi and NCR. The knowledge-testing questionnaire was administered to the students to understand their knowledge level. The tool covered the knowledge testing of respondents regarding the following concepts; sustainable development, climate change, energy conservation and energy audit.

Highlights of the study are:-

(a) The overall knowledge of youth towards energy management was studied. It was found that, 46.25% of the sample knowledge scores fell in the average category and 33.75% knowledge scores fell in the low category. Only 17.5% could score high. Therefore, it is noted that there was considerable lack of awareness and knowledge in the concepts covered by the study.

(b) The knowledge of respondents about sustainable development was found to be 72.5%. It was observed that 78.7% of the sample could correctly give the definition of sustainable development. The knowledge score of the sample about resource pollutants was 43% and 43.7%, were aware about the need of sustainable development. Only 45% sample could correctly respond with measures to mitigate sustainable indicating the application level of the sample and knowledge of the sample regarding sources of carbon emissions, which was 30%. Only 26% of respondents were aware about the technologies that would help to combat climate change.

(c) It was seen that 55% of the sample was able to enlist anthropogenic causes of climate change and 59% of the sample could correctly identify impacts of climate change, however, only 26% of respondents were aware about the technologies that would help to combat climate change and 29% correctly responded with mitigation strategies for the same. The respondent’s knowledge about sources of carbon emissions and ozone related facts was found to be 30% and 67%.

(d) It was further noted that, 57% respondents were aware about the concepts covered in energy conservation whereas only 10% of the sample could define energy efficiency. Also, just 41% of the respondents could correctly judge India’s reliance on the various energy sources. It was seen that 47% of respondents were aware of the BEE labeling program and 49% of sample was aware about the various solar powered appliances available. However, it is pleasant to note that the sample’s understanding of the different sources of energy categorized as renewable and non-renewable was 67%.

(e) Knowledge level of the sample regarding the concept of energy audit was 14%. Further, the understanding about the concept was found to be only 12%. It was also revealed that the sample had no knowledge and application skills with respect to energy audit for basic energy calculations and practical energy auditing skill.

The present study dealt with assessing the awareness amongst youth regarding energy conservation with a goal to design and validate the capacity building program, which can be used as a tool to train youth across the country. The paper presents the prevalent awareness and application level of the sample, which was found to be inadequate, and is seen as the first roadblock to overcome as change in behavior can only be based on existing knowledge and understanding in the group. Based on this criteria capacity building and training programme can be developed to generate awareness not only among youth, but also other stakeholders. Energy Conservation both supply side and demand side is dependent on acceptability by the consumers and a youth base which is aware about the implications of the choices will act as an asset for reaching the goal of sustainable development through energy conservation; by increasing demand and affecting supply side conservation in the near future. There is need to incorporate energy conservation in the value system of the country and capacity building of youth towards energy conservation and related concepts will be a leap towards the right direction.

Keywords: Energy Management, Capacity Building, Climate Change, Sustainable Development, Youth

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Solar Energy Policies in India: An Assessment of the Impediments

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Abstract

Energy is the prime mover of economic growth, and is vital to sustaining a modern economy and society. Future economic growth significantly depends on the long term availability of energy from sources that are affordable, accessible and secure. Today, India can well be identified as an energy guzzler. The demand for power is growing exponentially and the scope of growth of this sector is immense. In an effort to meet the demands of a developing nation, the Indian energy sector has witnessed a rapid growth. Despite impressive growth in the generation capacity since independence, India has always experienced shortage in terms of peaking capacity requirement as well as energy. The country lacks sufficient domestic energy resources, particularly of petroleum and natural gas, and must import much of its growing requirements. Given this scenario, it is of paramount importance that the country develops all possible domestic energy sources. However, India is still heavily dependent on fossil fuels to fulfill most of its energy demands. But continuation of the use of fossil fuels is set to face multiple challenges: depletion of fossil fuel reserves, global warming and other environmental concerns, geopolitical and military conflicts and of late, continued and significant fuel price rise. Renewable energy, and specifically solar energy, is the solution to the growing energy challenges as they are abundant, inexhaustible and environmentally friendly. Accelerating the use of solar energy is also indispensable if India is to meet its commitments to reduce its carbon intensity. Given the vast potential of solar energy in India, all it needs is comprehensive policies to be a global leader in clean and green energy. Government has taken a number of steps towards improving the adoption of solar energy at a large scale in the country and making the stakeholders aware of its benefits. Many programs and policies have been initiated at both the National and State level for promoting renewable energy, but the use and production of solar energy in the country is still limited. This paper makes an attempt to understand the stakeholders' perspective on the impediments associated with the governments' initiatives for solar energy in the country. On studying major initiatives of National government, in the rural and urban scenarios, it was found that there was a gap between the policies and the actual scenario. The awareness level among the beneficiaries was found to be very low. Another aspect tapped is the perspective of the Governments' officials in implementing the policies and programs, both in the urban and rural areas. Thus, there is an urgent need to generate awareness among the stakeholders regarding the government initiatives, so that solar energy is widely accepted and used.

Keywords: Awareness, Government Policies, Impediments, Renewable Energy, Solar Energy

LEED-EB implementation in India: An overview of catalysts and hindrances

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Abstract

Sustainable Development is one of the biggest challenges in today's scenario. Development cannot subsist on a deteriorating environmental resource base; the environment cannot be protected when growth leaves out of account the costs of environmental destruction. Construction is an essential part of any country's infrastructure and industrial development. The way we design, build, and operate buildings has negative impact on people and families as buildings use resources such as energy, water, generate waste and emit potentially harmful atmospheric emissions which are ultimately contributing to climate change. Buildings account for more than one third of total energy use and its associated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across the world. At the same time, this sector has the largest potential for cutting GHG emissions responsible for global warming. Thus, it is imminent to go in for green buildings which would bring in energy efficiency and reduce the carbon footprint of the building sector, thereby reducing the negative health impacts on families. In developing countries like India, there is a huge stock of existing buildings that are not so efficient and thus, there is an immense potential for energy efficiency measures in the country. Also, considering the current economic challenges, retrofitting an existing building can be more cost effective than building a new facility. Worldwide, a variety of assessment programs have been developed around environmental and energy impacts of buildings. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, provides a suite of standards for environmentally sustainable construction. The LEED for Existing Buildings (LEED-EB) is intended to provide the existing building stock an entry point into the LEED certification process. It has become an important benchmark of sustainable building operations and maintenance. But still, there are only a handful of people concerned about making their existing set-up green. The present paper, thus, throws light on the hindrances and catalysts associated with LEED-EB as a tool for greening of existing buildings in India. Case study method was adopted to have a better understanding of the processes involved in greening of existing buildings. The study was undertaken in India in two buildings, namely Paharpur Business Centre & Software Technology Incubator Park, New Delhi (registered under LEED-EB at the time of data collection) and L&T ECC Division – EDRC Building, Chennai, (certified under LEED-EB), and case studies were developed for the same. Hindrances and catalysts associated with LEED-EB were studied from the perspective of project managers, architects and green building consultants associated with the selected case studies. For the purpose of data collection, Questionnaire and Interview Schedule were used. The tool was administered on some other green building consultants who were not associated with LEED-EB projects to get a wider perspective on the hindrances and catalysts associated with the process as they have a major role in the construction of the building and it is imperative to take their viewpoint on the greening process in terms of the hindrances that they face or the catalysts, which they feel, can accelerate this process of greening the existing buildings. On analyzing the data, Prestige, image and reduction in operational costs were found to be major catalysts behind LEED-EB. Better rental value, social responsibility, Improved Indoor Environmental Quality emerged as catalysts with medium and minor importance. The major hindrances were found to be high renovation costs, difficulty in meeting prerequisites and unavailability of the required data for LEED-EB submission. Some hindrances with medium and minor importance were resistance to make changes in the existing buildings, lack of skilled professionals, difficulty in retrofitting, lack of awareness among the stakeholders, lack of technology and no immediate benefit. Adopting the green initiatives in the existing buildings, including homes, and taking the LEED-EB certification will prove to be a very useful tool in minimizing the negative impact of such a large number of existing buildings on the environment, and in turn, on the health of the people residing in them. The catalysts being revealed by the study need to be made overt and hindrances which have been brought forth by the study can be worked upon so that LEED-EB certification gains momentum and the stakeholders and families start taking initiatives to give the country a sustainable path towards a green built environment. The hindrances like high costs, difficult prerequisites and such can be made easier by more efficient technologies so that this process of greening of existing buildings gains momentum in the country.

Keywords: Existing buildings, Green buildings, Hindrances and Catalysts, LEED-EB

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The Need for Change in The Approach towards Global Climate Change & Environment Protection Plans to Secure Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Mahatma Gandhi once said ‘*The world has enough for everyone’s need, but not enough for everyone’s greed*’. The environmental problems plaguing the world today bear a direct resemblance to this. The selfish attitude of every individual State has led to collective problems, which equally affects everyone in the international community. As a consequence to the Westphalia Treaty, the world witnessed the birth concept of *sovereignty*, which was later expanded to mean *Absolute Sovereignty*. In the first part of this paper, it will be shown how sovereignty has been misused to the effect that challenges like that of the infamous *Tragedy of Commons*, have come to be. It will be dealing exclusively with why international cooperation where the environment is concerned has largely failed. From the perspective of the Environment, cooperation has become difficult due to the inequalities in the status and position of nations, with developing nations feeling a sense of injustice at having their developmental plans curtailed or criticized by already developed nations. This paper hopes to show that there is a need for nations to view themselves as a part of ‘*One Community*’ whereby the actions of one country have an intimate effect on the existence of other nations. This will foster a sense of inter-dependence and mutual benefit amongst nations, which will result in peace and cooperation rather than blame and dictation of terms.

The Second part of the paper aims to focus on the mechanism by which new international environmental agreements can be implemented (once cooperation is achieved). There are mainly two approaches to tackle climate change viz, “top down approach” and “bottom up approach”. However this paper will suggest the use of *Flexible Bottom-up Approach* as it intends at synthesizing the benefits of all the approaches that exist for international environmental protection to tackle climate change. This section also hopes to propose an alternate model or approach for fostering International Cooperation among nations where the need for rationalizing standards for environmental protection will come from both, grass root level and international level, the synthesis of which will be a source of international peace and security. The Flexible Bottom-Up Approach will, as shown in this paper, be the key for setting across equal and reasonable standards that will facilitate the economical development interests of countries while simultaneously ensuring environmental protection and conservation. The flexible bottom-Up Approach aims at working on the drawbacks of global comprehensive plans to tackle climate change and putting across novice attempts towards sustainable development.

Keywords: Climate Change, Global Peace & Security, International Cooperation, One Community, Sustainable Development.

Range Management and Computer

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Abstract: All areas of the world that are not barren desert, farmed, or covered by bare soil, rock, ice, or concrete can be classified as rangelands. Every piece of rangeland has a different set of physical and biological characteristics. This requires the manager to synthesize various information to get a right decision. So range managers need to use computerized technologies to assess rangeland, and selecting the best management practices. There are four examples of computerized technologies obtained from our research projects that can benefit better land management: 1- Photographic method for cover measurement: The method was tested in different vegetation communities in semi humid and arid regions. Interpretation of pictures of quadrats was done using Arc View software. Data analysis was done by SPSS software using paired t test. Based on the results, generally, photographic method can be used to measure ground cover in most vegetation communities. 2- GPS application for corresponding ground samples and satellite pixels: Application of Remote Sensing and Global Positioning System are essential in a range monitoring program. In two provinces of Tehran and Markazi, six reference points were selected and in each point, eight GPS models were tested. Significant relation among GPS model, time and location with accuracy of estimated coordinates was found. After selection of suitable method, in Markazi province coordinates of plots along four transects in each 6 sites was recorded. The best time of GPS application was in the morning hours, Etrex Vista had less error than other models, and a significant relation among GPS model, time and location with accuracy of estimated coordinates was found. 3- Application of satellite data for rangeland monitoring: Focusing on the long term variation of vegetation parameters such as vegetation cover and production is essential. Our study in grass and shrub lands showed that there were significant correlations between quantitative vegetation characteristics and satellite data. So it is possible to evaluate rangeland vegetation using digital data for sustainable utilization. 4- Rangeland suitability classification with GIS: Evaluation of the facilities and the limitations of a region for an application require investigations on all parts of the ecosystem. Range suitability assessment can facilitate sustainable management planning. Three sub-models of sensitivity to erosion, water suitability and forage production outputs were entered to final range suitability classification model. GIS was facilitate classification of range suitability and produced suitability maps for sheep grazing. Generally digital computers assist range managers to interpret, modify, calibrate or integrating information for better management. ; Computer, rangeland ecosystem, management, photographic method, GPS, remote sensing, GIS, range suitability.

Keywords: Computer, GIS, GPS, management, photographic method, rangeland ecosystem, range suitability, remote sensing.

Earthquake Mock Drill: A Multispecialty Hospital Response

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Introduction

The City Beautiful, Chandigarh located at the foot hills of Great Himalayas, seismologically lies in the high earthquake prone zone (Zone IV). The area have experienced earthquakes of magnitude 6 and above since historical times and is vulnerable to possible future. National and State Disaster Authorities facilitate for proactive, holistic and integrated approach of strengthening disaster preparedness, mitigation and emergency response.

Aim & Objectives

The present study is an attempt to evaluate a hospital emergency preparedness and evacuation exercise conducted in one of the multispecialty tertiary level hospital of North India.

Methodology

To conduct the drill, administrative block comprising all hospital departments was specifically chosen. The observation team comprised of two members from the Disaster Management Committee (DMC). Mock drill was executed in three phases viz. Pre disaster briefing, Emergency response practice and Post disaster evaluation.

Results

To make all the staff aware of the mega mock drill (of earthquake Mw 8.0; Dated 13.2.13); a day before prior to the drill, the whole staff was familiarized with preparedness plans and expectations. Hospital Faculty and staff members were conveyed through group message and official mails about the pre disaster brief. Prior planning and preparation are the keys to conduct effective emergency response practices and evacuation exercises and all participants were made to understand their roles and responsibilities in the drill exercise.

On the day of drill, warning siren was activated in the morning (10:32 AM) for one minute simulating period of shaking. Whole staff quickly left their chairs, hid under their tables or safer places, while staff on ground floor staff came out immediately. After one minute time, siren was put off; rest of the stuck staff ran out and moved away from building to the evacuation place. No person took the lifts. Within minutes rescue teams (police control vans, fire fighting vehicles and ambulances) arrived. Whole area was cordoned off immediately. The rescue team/police personnel lifted off the volunteers and put the injured in the ambulance, which carried the victims to the hospital. Later the rescue team entered the building and started the rescue activity as guided, where to go, which area to approach and other not.

The whole exercise went for three hours and 15 persons were rescued. One of the areas was designated where the fire has occurred due to some inflammable material. The fire fighting vehicle first put off the fire entered the rear of the building with ladder and the exercise to rescue the two blocked personnel was completed. Similarly, another person suffered electric shock. The electric engineering team was active; they put off the supply immediately. The person was given first aid at the site and later was shifted to the hospital for further management. Critical patients were given first aid at the site and later were shifted to hospital for further management. In a three hours exercise, a total of fifteen injured were rescued.

In the Post Disaster evaluation roles and responsibilities and feedback was taken from staff. Measures were started to plug the gaps found in the exercise.

Conclusion

Though, it is a first such drill conducted in a Hospital scenario in the region, such drills need to be conducted regularly based on an all-hazards approach and involving patients from patient care areas also.

Keywords: Drill, Earthquake, Exercise, Hospital, Preparation

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Importance of Dharas: A Sustainable Alternative for Management of Drinking Water Scarcity in the Urban Areas of Darjeeling Hills, West Bengal, India

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Abstract

The Darjeeling, *Queen of Hills* which receives mean annual rainfall of more than 2,739 mm in comparison to the Gangetic West Bengal of 1439 mm cries for drinking water every dry season. Though water is abundantly available in the form of surface as well as ground water, lack of scientific as well as sustainable management of available water resources of the region is enhancing only its depletion. Darjeeling Hill area comprises of three subdivisions, they are Darjeeling Sadar, Kurseong and Kalimpong with a total area of 2196 Sq. Km. Human encroachment, rampant deforestation, improper planning of buildings, sewages, transport lines, etc can be cited as few more reasons. The situation becomes graver in the urban areas as it is evident that the municipalities are unable to meet the ever increasing demand of drinking water with deficit ranging from 13,32,500 gallons/day in Darjeeling town, 5,02,750 gallons/day in Kurseong town and 3,00,000 gallons/day in Kalimpong town. Thus the problem of drinking water has rendered the people of Darjeeling "*Water Poor*".

Keeping the drinking water scarcity scenario in the background the paper mainly tries to highlight the importance of number of *Dharas* (local term for Natural Springs) that emerges to the surface within the urban areas in combating the problem to a great extent. From the field surveys it has been evident that there lies a huge significance and potential of such Dharas in meeting drinking water demand of hilly areas. Although, large number of such Dharas that are still in existence have been exploited as private property thereby localizing its use. The water is tapped at the source and it feeds into the pipes which take the water to the houses. The concerned authorities should take adequate steps to ensure that such public property should not be exploited by a few people in the community. The need of the hour is their identification and demarcation of the catchment areas with proper hydrogeological mapping and its preservation, so that these Dharas could be used as sustainable sources of drinking water. These tasks costs very less and are eco-friendly compare to the implementation of large drinking water projects (Like Balason and Neora Valley Drinking Water Projects) wherein water need to be pumped up from the down valley floors with huge expenditure of public money in terms of both initial and recurring expenses not to say sometimes also at the cost of fragile hill ecosystem.

Keywords: Dharas, Drinking Water scarcity, mapping and preservation of springs, sustainable management, water resources.

Mineral Elements in Range Spices

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Abstract

Mineral elements are essential need for live stocks to achieve higher animal performance. Therefore, mineral elements of 12 important range species those are grazing by animals in Taleghan's high lands rang were measured. In each growth stage, 3 samples for each plant species including 5 individual plants were collected. Interpreting data was done by ANOVA. Donken test was shown how changes occur in the growth. The spices were *Dactylis glomerata*, *Prangus uloptera*, *Ferula ovina*, *Stipa barbata*, *Bromus tomentellus*, *bulbosa poa*, *Melilotus officinalis*, *Trifolium montanum*, *Lotus goebli*, *Medicago sativa*, *Sanguisorba minor* and *Stachys inflata*.

By t test, the amounts of these minerals were compared to critical animal need. The results show the amount of minerals in initial growth stage are more than terminal one (maturity stage). Even these spices have different amount of minerals, all of them were suitable for animal need in case of Calcium, Iron, Cupper, Manganese and Cobalt. However, these spices are not good enough for essential elements such as Sodium and Magnesium. According to this study, in case of minerals, plants suitability in grazing times is not the same and will change during the year.

Keywords: High lands of Taleghan, growth stage, grazing, livestock, minerals elements

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Sustainable Development For Indian Mining Sector

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Abstract

Corporations in India are under growing pressure from internal and external stakeholders to achieve corporate sustainability and consider the economic, environmental and social implications of their activities. Sustainability reporting is gaining momentum globally as an important communication tool for companies to disclose their sustainability plans and performance and enhance stakeholder confidence. From the beginning of human civilization, mining is anticipated as a “dirty” and polluting industry, amenable to corruption and illegal operations. Mining is an activity which requires a special consideration, especially from environmental activists and civil society groups. The Mining sector is essential for economic development but mineral extraction tends to have considerable negative effects on environmental and societal. Historically, the extraction of mineral reserves has always resulted in varying degrees of environmental resource degradation and social impacts all across the globe. It has been facing severe criticism on several issues relating to its performance vis-à-vis sustainable development. The present study is an attempt to examine various issues and initiatives on sustainable development in the context of the Indian mining sector. The author finding suggests that the Indian mining sector is having various issues related to social and environmental aspects as well as gender issues, to solve these issues Indian mining sector must adopt the principles of sustainable development that seek to balance economic, social and environmental and for the bright future of the mining sector. Undoubtedly India has an elaborate legal framework with a large number of laws relating to environmental protection such as the Water pollution Act (1974), Air pollution Act (1981) etc. In Indian mining sector, there is strong need to create more agencies as a Draft MMDR Bill 2011 proposes to do through the creation of more regulatory bodies and new mechanisms for coordination among them. Moreover this study highlighted that the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) under the Ministry of Mines, Government of India has the responsibility of monitoring the proper enforcement of the rules. However this study contends that Indian mining sector have been showing positive signs in embracing the principles of sustainable development that seek to balance economic, social and environmental well being now and for the bright future for mining sector. Recent policy development, government policies, laws and procedures as well as industry behavior and practices to these principles shall also encourage the reporting efforts in Indian mining sector.

Keywords: Environment, Mining sector, Social, Sustainable development.

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Recycling and Reuse of Construction and Demolition Waste For Sustainable Development

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Abstract

As we are living in 21st century, new technologies are being invented in almost every sector to make human life fast and easier. Beside this we are still finding the solutions to problems related to our environment, energy and natural resources.

Construction industry produces large amount of waste throughout the year. Most of the time construction and demolition waste ends up in landfills disturbing environmental, economical and social life cycle. Construction and demolition waste is the waste materials that are produced in the process of construction, renovation or demolition of residential or nonresidential structures. Components of construction and demolition waste typically include concrete, asphalt, wood, metals, gypsum wallboard, roofing, paper, plastic, drywall and glass.

Sustainable development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs; and can be considered as one of the solution to solve construction and demolition waste problem. Sustainable development in construction will help a lot to reduce the problems related to environment and natural resources as construction industry is a major user of world's resources. Sustainable design, proper use and reuse of the resources/construction materials will make construction industry more economical and green.

Concrete is the second most consumed material after water, so recycling of concrete can save construction costs also it will help to keep environment healthy. Concrete collected from sites is put through crushing machine, usually uncontaminated concrete i.e. free from wood, plastic, paper and other unwanted materials. Metals such as rebar are removed with the help of magnets and other sorting devices.

In many countries like Japan, United States, United Kingdom various recycling techniques are being used and returning good results. Process of recycling construction and demolition waste includes storage, sorting, collection, transportation, recycling and disposing. Recycling methods used in japan are heating and rubbing methods, eccentric-shaft rotor method and Mechanical grinding method.

Recycling of Construction and demolition waste has many benefits such as reduction in transportation cost, it keeps environment clean and reduces natural resource exploitation. To promote recycling and reuse of waste, awareness about its effects and benefits should be communicated with people, contractors, engineers and architects. More numbers of recycling plants should be installed and allowing the use of recycled aggregate instead of natural aggregate for some purpose.

In this paper I am going to focus on different recycling techniques and reuse of construction and demolition waste.

Keywords: Construction & Demolition waste; Recycling; Reuse; Recycling techniques; Sustainable development.

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Jurisprudential Approach to Sustainable Development

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Abstract

The united nation conference on environment & development known as Earth summit was held in June 1992, at Rio De Janeiro wherein more than 150 governments participated. UNCED'S mission was to put the world on the path of sustainable development which aims at meeting the need of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The earth summit was held with the view to provide principles of economic & environmental behavior for individuals and their nations of the world community. In reality UNCED heralded the new global commitment to sustainable development premised on the interconnection of human activities and the environment. The earth summit was inspired by a valuable document of 1987. The earth summit forced people worldwide to think how their lives affect the natural environment & resources.

The paper examines the role of the judiciary in the protection of environmental resources and its mandate to ensure sustainable development. Judicial activism is responsible for protecting the environment and evolving rights to the environment and environmental jurisprudence through the strategy of PIL or so-called action litigation. The Indian legal system concerning particularly the field of environment has undergone a sea change in terms of discarding its moribund approach and instead, charting out a new horizon of social justice. Accordingly, the Indian legal system has been characterized by not only administrative & legislative activism but also judicial activism.

Keywords: Aquaculture, sustainable, decision, legislation, coastal, environment, history.

Restoration and Revitalization of the Grand Bazaar of Tehran , Considering Social Science and Sustainable Development

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Abstract

We propose to restore the grand bazaar of Tehran to revitalize its function, providing new opportunities for business development, tourist attraction and local people rehabilitation.

Conceptual Approach

(a) to make, firstly, an exemplary intervention on a separate block-nucleus of shops in order to evaluate the actual problems for the process of rehabilitation and of adaptation

(b) To encourage the local people as well as the owners and customers

Propose as a pilot project restoring the façade of the main entrance

Description of Practical Application

The restoration, revitalization and rehabilitation of the Old Bazaar of Tehran, initiates the conditions for the development of the cultural, social, economical and tourism sector of the city. Financial, technical and human resources involved within the project includes the Municipality of Tehran, the National and Cultural Heritage Organization, the International Tourism Committee, the owners of shops in the Bazaar, Chamber of commerce and Industry, local communities, architects, engineers and other specialists.

Outcomes

The implementation of this project has provided a harmonious integration of the protection of the historic and cultural fabric, with environmental enhancement, carried out in the context of public/private sector partnership which financed improvements to the infrastructure and contributed to tourism development. This Project has provided sustainable conditions which have enabled Tehran to compete with other urban centers and regions.

Implication

In this phase, the unit for the Management of Monuments will be established in order to deal with the implementation of the regulation and promotion of the Bazaar. This unit will be assisted and monitored by the Department of City Marketing and Tourism of the Municipality of Tehran.

Establishment of Priorities

The restoration and revitalization of the old bazaar will have an impact on regional development. The Bazaar will not only be an important tourist attraction, but an economic center for the development of business; especially retail and service businesses.

2.1 The Bazaar as an important economic center:

Since its beginnings in 17th and 18th century until the end of the Second World War, this important ensemble has been considered as the economic center of Tehran. Most of the regional trade developed here and could nowadays be re-established in the area of the Bazaar.

The restoration and revitalization of the Bazaar will provide contemporaneous standards and the preservation of its historical, architectural values and traditions. Trade activities will increase and have a positive impact on the economic developments of the city. As it has been stressed elsewhere, the Old Bazaar provides an excellent opportunity for small to medium-scale entrepreneurs to plan for future investments, taking advantage of the cultural and economic dynamic of the Bazaar.

According to statistics, it is estimated that 22 to 30 new enterprises operating in trade, are going to develop gradually in the area, employing up to 120 employees.

2.2 The Bazaar as a Tourist Attraction:

The Strategic Plan for Development and Tourism by the Municipality of Tehran defines the restoration of the old Bazaar as its major priority. Due to the historic value of this important cultural ensemble, the restoration of the Bazaar should lead to the return of its ancient glory as the city's most attractive location for both local and foreign tourist.

Formulation of Objectives and Strategies

According to our SWOT analysis, our objectives are as below:

- Infrastructure improvements to settle an affair to electrical power supply, telephone networks and paving the roads and squares
- The complete restoration of the old bazaar (specially the passageway of 'gold and jewelry'), corresponding to the new city planning architecture and construction criteria, avoids the sliding and displacement that have occurred in the past.
- Ensuring the caring of the rich and elaborate architecture of the facades.
- Enhancement and revitalization of the Old Bazaar falls in line with continuous efforts to develop tourism in Tehran.
- The bazaar provides a network of exchanges that will:
 - a) benefit from existing small and medium enterprises;
 - b) benefit from tourist agencies;
 - c) benefit from local craftsmen and women;
 - d) provide additional development opportunities to NGO's which support tourism;
 - e) Increase the tourist potential of the whole historical part of the city, which continues to conserve important traditional buildings.
- An increased capacity for reinvestment by the local government in allowing the development of more efficient public places and urban spaces
- An increased capacity for reinvestment by the private sector to expand upon the continued efforts of the regional market in all business sectors

Keywords: Improvement, Rehabilitation, Restoration, Revitalization, Sustainability

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Monsanto: The Great Institutional Strategist

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Abstract

This research is based on the relationships between organizations and governments in order to establish common agreements for the good of the society, but all the most to reach a corporate welfare. On this paper we wanted to demonstrate the influence of the coercive power of the law for the more profitable companies. The point of view of the institutions and the theory of the property rights are part of the theoretical framework that has been taken as a reference to describe the relationship they has had with "Monsanto Corporation" and the Mexican government, for entry of transgenic corn in our country. It tries to generate a hypothesis based on data and information gathered to bring in this, that in a general sense, proving the strategy taken by Monsanto Co. to achieve this maize market in Mexico.

Keywords: Transgenic corn, property rights, the point of view of the institutions.

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Urban Heat Island Effect and Climate change: Are Cities Sustainable?

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Background-

The confluence of Man and environment is intricate one and influence each other while the relationship is largely of dependency from the human angle but the need for various necessities such as food, shelter, energy etc have greatly been altering the basic thread of ecological balance of the physical environment. The initial anthropogenic changes to make the habitat liveable have led to long term climatic changes in the local and global climate both. Urbanisation is one of the main adaptation methods which is considered the most important man made influence in the surrounding climate. While the earlier focus was on the developed countries is shifting now due to higher pace of urbanisation in the developing countries.

Objective-The current paper aims to analyse through the secondary data source how the urban heat island (micro climate) created due to high pitch of urbanisation will affect the global climate and influence the climate change. Will the past paced and haphazard urbanisation will be sustainable long enough to shelter growing population?

Data base- Secondary data is referred on urban influence such as transport, infrastructure (anthropogenic) on one side and on the other side rainfall, temperature (climatic) of two metropolitan cities New Delhi and Bangalore.

Methodology- The Cochrane systematic review method has been adopted for the literature and the data collected by secondary sources interpolated to understand and estimate the influence of urban heat island in the neighbouring area using GIS interface to understand and estimate.

Conclusion- There is definite change in the micro climate within the periphery of urban space perhaps the climate zone may to some extent reduce the impact of urbanised micro climate. The green economy aspects which are making much headway towards better urban resilience need to be prioritised on the basis of climate change.

Keywords: Cities, climate change, sustainability, urbanisation, urban heat island

Ref#: 067/IND/13

Adoption of Green Construction in India: A Road Less Travelled

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Abstract

Purpose

The rationale of this paper is to present the existing situation of green construction in India and emphasize the key drivers and challenges faced by the Indian construction industry.

Design/methodology/approach

This paper uses secondary data available upon findings of a workshop organized in New Delhi to assess the current state of green construction in India which was conducted through two sources; a survey and a facilitated brainstorming session. The data provides a prospect to evaluate practices in India in relation with international trends and provides a podium to assemble data on more experiential knowledge about green construction in India.

Findings

Some of the major findings of this research paper are: there is an consciousness concerning green construction in India; It is principally motivated by the governmental and global set of laws; with the current energy crisis customers in India are actually eager to pay additional funds for going green; and there is a lack of accurate lifecycle cost assessment models which results in misconceptions about connected costs of going green.

Originality/value

This paper depicts the present state of green construction in India. It also point out major challenges and drivers for implementation of concept of going green in construction industry in India. This research work can offer practitioners, regulators, and academicians' acquaintance about way to spotlight their future efforts in implementation of going green concept in Indian construction sector.

Keywords: India, Construction industry, Waste reduction, going green, lifecycle cost.

The Saga of a Green Mega City: Delhi on the Brink of Sustainable Urban Development

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Abstract

It has been very well established that 'cities are the engines of economic growth'. With the process of Globalization, the entire world has shrunk to a common platform whereby the dual process of economic growth and rapid urbanization largely determines the growth of cities and measures their ecological sustainability with the mega city of 'Delhi' being no exception to this.

A prime mover and nerve centre of ideas and actions, this mega city, however stands at the crossroads today. Delhi, a symbol of rich and ancient tradition, a seat of mesmerizing Indian culture, a growing hub of contemporary educational system, the seat of national governance and a centre of business, is assuming increasing eminence among the great cities of the world.

With this brief background, the present research paper aims at a concerted effort to outline, explore and investigate urbanism and urban growth prospects on one hand and assessment of urban environmental order on the other, for the development of Delhi –as a green mega city. The theme of the paper tries to unravel the intricate relationships between urban infrastructure and the development of the urban environment based on selected urban sustainability indicators (USI). It also attempts at critical understanding necessary to plan long term development process in perfect blend with a purposeful transformation of the socio-economic, natural and built environment in parity with environmental laws.

Delhi being the capital of the largest democracy receives constant and rapid influx of migrants. Also, there are major changes in the economic structure due to liberalization of the economy, entry of multinational companies, improved telecommunication system, increased per capita income and the purchasing power of the people. As a suction force they tend to pull in the pool of migrants which further gives an air to the process of urbanization. With an unprecedented pace of growth, the city needs to be able to integrate its elegant past as well as the modern developments into an organic whole keeping pace with the future generations i.e. sustainability.

As per the Brundtland Commission, the word 'sustainable' implies that the present needs are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The discussions on sustainable urban development have been brought up at several fora by a number of experts and academicians. Cities are spatial manifestations of human and economic activities and exhibit a complex dynamic relationship between its various elements (TERI, 2009). Buildings form a crucial part of this spatial manifestation. There is a considerable amount of resource use and environmental impact directly and indirectly associated with buildings.

In an endeavor to make this mega city sustainable, efforts are made to check the rapid and haphazard growth of population and to optimally utilize the available resources with emphasis on integration of land use pattern. As a result of lessons drawn from national and international good practices and the discussions held with experts and practitioners, it is found that urban development goes hand in hand with Sustainable development for Delhi as a whole. Expertise is required for comprehensive, integrated, and holistic approaches to sustainable urban development.

Measures have been taken to reduce the environmental impacts vis-a-viz green urbanism. Innovative, economic, realistic and eco-friendly means are resorted to reduce energy consumption on one hand and to cater to the needs of the growing masses in this mega city, on the other. New technologies such as construction of green buildings (with resilient codes), green designs, mass rapid public transport systems including CNG low floor buses plying on Delhi road, Battery driven auto-rickshaws (for shorter distance), along with mandatory PUC certificate (Pollution under Control) for Vehicles are classic examples to this. In fact, the provision and the use of bicycles by the university students to make campus green and pollution-free present an example par excellence. Such means are designed as a response to the global climate change and biodiversity loss in terms of both flora and fauna.

Good governance with participatory approach is equally desirable. With the launch of *Bhagidari* scheme in 2000, the city sets an example of equal representation, responsibility and ownerships in the governance process. In fact, Delhi Development Authority (DDA) with its rationalized plans, policies and course of action has outstandingly managed all the urban areas of the city. Such an approach if handled with a vision for tomorrow is likely to lead a movement towards making Delhi a world-class sustainable city. And thus the city will manage to lift itself as a green mega city capable to 'host' all environmental challenges with rapid urban development.

Keywords: Green City, Green Urbanism, Mega City, Planned Development, Sustainability.

Education for Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Some time back, the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) submitted a report to UNESCO on the 'Ethical Implications of Global Climate Change'.¹

It concluded that 'global climate change itself—not simply its possible impacts—constitutes an ethical challenge', and also that 'there is no simple basis for an ethical response to the challenges of global climate change'.² The report mentioned that 'ethics is...not something added on top of other issues related to climate change, but rather a constitutive part of all of the reasonably justifiable responses to the challenges of climate change. Therefore, it can be stated unequivocally that climate change cannot be dealt with adequately and properly if the ethical dimensions...are not highlighted, well understood, and taken into account in decisions about responses'.

The report finally said that ethics needs to be 'a core and necessary element of any debate about climate change and its challenges'.³ Climate change, biodiversity, the elimination of poverty—for all of these global sustainable development challenges we require an ethical outlook based on broad understanding and essential conformity on key values to guide our policy and approach to dealing with them. We must have something, for instance, like the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a major expression of globally-accepted fundamental principles. The two main conventions coming from the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, represent international accord on some major ethical values, although each one deals with ethical values in the context of specific issues and challenges.

At the Earth Summit, several felt a requirement for a declaration that deals with the ethics of sustainability entirely. The response was The Earth Charter Initiative, which set out to 'promote the transition to sustainable ways of living and a global society founded on a shared ethical framework that includes respect and care for the community of life, ecological integrity, universal human rights, respect for diversity, economic justice, democracy, and a culture of peace'.⁴

The Charter developed in the course of a five-year, worldwide, commonly counseling drafting procedure that started in 1995. The first draft was issued in 1997 and was discussed at several meetings over the next few years. Lastly, on 29 June 2000, the Earth Charter Commission officially launched the Earth Charter at the Peace Palace in The Hague. The preamble to the Charter begins with, 'We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations'.⁵

It stresses that 'we urgently need a shared vision of basic values to provide an ethical foundation for the emerging world community. Therefore, together in hope we affirm the following interdependent principles for a sustainable way of life as a common standard by which the conduct of all individuals, organizations, businesses, governments, and transnational institutions is to be guided and assessed'.⁶

UNESCO, in its 32nd General Conference in October 2003, adopted a motion which recognized the Earth Charter 'as a vital ethical structure for sustainable development'. The resolution acknowledged member states' intention to 'utilize the Earth Charter as an educational instrument, particularly in the framework of the United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development'.⁷

There is at the moment ten years of wealthy skill and practice in using the Earth Charter for education for sustainable development.

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¹ UNESCO Executive Board, 182 EX/INF.16, Paris, 2 September 2009.

² Ibid. p. 21.

³ Ibid. p. 24.

⁴ Earth Charter Mission Statement. Available at www.earthcharterinaction.org.

⁵ Earth Charter, Preamble. Available at www.earthcharterinaction.org, See also p. 317 of this issue

⁶ Ibid. p. 318

⁷ http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=24221&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC& \URL_SECTION=201.html.

Climate Change Negotiations – An Effective Means to Achieve Sustainable Development

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Abstract

When the Utilitarian Theorists proposed concept of pain and pleasure through the idea of *Greatest Happiness Of Greatest Number* they limited themselves to the moral rules. But today we can interpret the same as a law which gives happiness(relief) to the greatest number is a good law. The reason for mentioning this principle here under environmental law is basically to understand the objectives behind passing the laws for protection of environment is passed.

Much has been spoken about the concept of sustainable development. The IPCC, UNEP and other organs of the United Nations has been experimenting to make this sustainable development as working formula. For example the knowledge sharing between the developed and developing countries is a question which is very much is discussion today. The countries are unable to come to a consensus as to what should be the emission level for developed and so called developing countries and whether laying a deadline for the same would help in achieving the consensus. (The failure to the meet the deadline laid in Kyoto Protocol is a glaring example of failure at international level to reach consensus.)

The paper aims to identify the various principles laid by the International Organisation to achieve Sustainability in our development. The International Organisation through various Declarations starting from Stockholm to Rio + 20 has been continuously making efforts to see that the principles on sustainable development are achieved.

Precaution, prevention and evaluation are the starting points for genuine sustainable development; they must form an integral part of the planning and implementation of every development project. Planners and decision-makers must make it a routine to foresee and provide for the environmental consequences of their projects.

The paper tries to discuss achievements attained by some Regional Organisations like European Union which has tried to evolve some common principles which are mandatory to EU nations to follow in the national laws and also certain State laws in implementing the principles of sustainable development. Thus drawing an analogy as to whether the same can be implemented in Indian situation and simultaneously looking at measures to achieve success through negotiations in international level.

*“Also, it is interesting that developing countries, with China and India perhaps in the lead, where the future of the global environment will be decided are now on board with the case for sustainable development.”*¹

When the United Nations has such positive opinion about India’s potential for progress, it is high time we adopt principles of sustainable development as the path to economic growth by balanced use of resources available to the maximum extent but also keeping in mind the enjoyment of future generations.

Keywords: Economic Growth; International Organisations; Negotiations; Regional Organisations; Sustainable Development

¹ Maurice F. Strong, is a Canadian entrepreneur and a former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations.

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Nuclear Energy for Sustainable Development: An Indian Perspective

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Abstract

The recent energy crisis of the world is witnessed by the increasing gap in energy supply and demand with the mounting scarcity and unequal distribution of fossil fuels. In the absence of backstop technology, the environmental implications of over dependence on fossil fuels have significantly contributed for present climate change. Nuclear energy seems to be a major substitute to the conventional sources of energy for future economic needs; however its capability is questioned based on existing immeasurable risks. Further, the incompetence of renewable energy sources in meeting the future energy demand is highly unsustainable. In this context, India's existent energy mix is unsustainable and also energy gap is expanding with multiplier effect influenced by recent economic growth. Energy gap and volatile crude oil prices are commonly viewed as a stumbling block in realizing desired economic growth and also achieving sustainable development goals. Therefore, India's thrust for low carbon economy through lesser emission and high energy yield makes the case for promotion and expansion of nuclear energy production. The present study explores the potentiality and challenges of nuclear energy for realizing India's thrust for sustainable development that simultaneously meets energy and environmental needs of the economy of future. The study is completely relied on secondary data sourced from different reports and it applies statistical tools like correlation, OLS method of regression, coefficient of determination and simple comparative analysis to analyze the data. The major findings of the study show that India's future energy demand limits its growth unless nuclear energy potentiality is fully exploited.

Keywords: economic growth, energy, low carbon economy, nuclear energy, sustainable development.

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Is there a Sustainable Way Out in Sohra (Cherrapunjee)?

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Abstract

Climate change is now widely regarded as one of the most pressing concern the world faces, with consequences that go far beyond its effects on the environment. Sohra (Cherrapunjee) is a home of remarkable rainfall. Known as the wettest place on earth, it is situated in Meghalaya (India). This place is highly prone to the consequences of climate change because of its geo-ecological fragility, location vis-à-vis its landscape. Although it has the highest rainfall in the world it faces draught- a consequence of global climate change. Anthropogenic effects have been brought about predominantly by the excessive limestone quarrying. What is left of the sub-tropical evergreen forest is mainly in the form of small patches. Presently the remaining forest patches are the only source of portable water for the entire area during the dry season. The knowledge of ecosystem is very low among the local people of Cherrapunjee, which is one of the major causes why the ecological and environmental problems in the area are proliferating. The policies to minimize the adverse effects of environment and the ecology through appropriate protective measures are not there. The magnificent environment is in shambles and the forest cover lies in tatters. An ecological disaster is imminent. The scramble for economic benefit has led to disproportionate and indiscriminate lime stone quarrying at the cost of environmental damage. Miners are depleting the ecology and are not green conscious and do not have any agenda for long-term environmental benefits. To aggravate matters the fact that Sohra shares a long international border with Bangladesh, helps to serve for the movement of goods in more than one point without adequate checks. The presence of limestone companies in the Indo-Bangladesh border is an evidence of this reality. Selling Sohra for tourism alone will not be enough. The paper argues that there is need to prevent the area from further degradation. And that this can be done by preserving its environmental splendor. To facilitate and ensure sustainable development of mineral resources in harmony with environment, a comprehensive approach to land use needs to be taken, keeping in view the needs of development as well as the imperative of protecting forests, natural caves, environment, water bodies and ecology of the State. Sustainable development consequently, has to be backed up by appropriate measures and actions. The paper will try to examine if a system of environmental management is in place and how the issue of sustainable development in Cherrapunjee has been addressed so far to prevent the area from becoming a wet desert.

Keywords: Cherrapunjee, Climate Change, environmental management, Sustainable Development, wet desert.

Environmental Greening through Utilization of Glass Waste for Production of Concrete

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Abstract

The amount of glass waste generated by glass manufacturing and recycling companies creates serious environmental challenges. The utilization of glass waste in concrete to mitigate such challenges involved the adaptation of the material with respect to the fundamental requirements. This research involved the beneficial use of two types of soda-lime glass wastes in concrete, as partial replacement of cement and fine aggregate, in order to enhance the greening of the environment. The glass wastes were produced in large quantities by glass recycling companies in Gauteng, South Africa. Low alkali cement, CEM V/A 32.5N, a composite cement with 25% Fly Ash (FA) and 18% Ground Granulated Blast-furnace Slag (GGBS) was used. The two types of glass waste, namely, Superfine Waste Glass Sand (SGW), a fine residue of glass recycling processes and Ceramic Stone and Porcelain (CSP) glass waste, cullet contaminated with ceramics, stones and porcelain; were respectively used as sand and cement replacements. As collected, SGW was sieved and blended with fine sand in line with the recommendations of the South African National Standard (SANS) for sieve analysis. CSP was sorted from contaminations, through decantation, dried in the oven at 104 °C for 24 hours, grounded into powder with rod and ball mills successively; and sieved through 75µm mesh. The tests conducted include sieve analysis, particle relative densities, compacted bulk densities and loose bulk densities; in accordance with the Cement and Concrete Institute (C&CI) mix design protocol. Twenty mix proportions were designed with water-to-cement ratio of 0.7 and 75 mm slump. The first set of mixes consisted of 20%, 40%, 50% and 60% SGW replacement of sand; the second set consisted of 10%, 20% and 30% of glass powder (GLP) replacement of cement; the third set consisted of 10% GLP in combination with 20%, 40%, 50% and 60% of SGW, respectively; the fourth set consisted of 20% GLP in combination with 20%, 40%, 50% and 60% of SGW, respectively; and the fifth set consisted of 30% GLP in combination with 20%, 40%, 50% and 60% of SGW, respectively. Subsequently, cube specimens were tested at 3, 7 and 28 days for compressive strength, according to the SANS recommendations. It was found that, the glass waste were effectively adapted in concrete. SGW was adequate for blending with fine aggregates as it improved the gradation of the blend. SGW and GLP increased the workability of the fresh concretes and significantly reduced the weight of the hardened concrete by 6.5%. Glass powder reacted as early reactive pozzolanic material, as it enhanced the 3 days compressive strength of the concrete by 14% when compared to the control mix with natural aggregates. Compressive strengths obtained from the laboratory tests ranged between 18.8 MPa and 32.7 MPa, which were 65% above that of the control mix. Up to 30% of glass wastes used as cement and fine aggregate replacement, respectively, did not impair the 28-day compressive strength of the concrete. The blend with 20% GLP and 40% SGW exhibited the same 28-day compressive strength as that of the control mix value with a value of 25.86 MPa. The mix with 20% GLP and 20% SWGS exhibited the highest strength at 28 days with a value of 32.7 MPa which represented an increase of 26.5% of the compressive strength of the control mix. The research demonstrated the beneficial use of glass waste as partial replacement for cement and sand in concrete. This will appreciably reduce the amount of glass waste dumped to the landfill sites and enhance the greening of the environment, with the added advantage of preservation of virgin materials for posterity.

Keywords: Compressive strength, control mix, environmental greening, glass waste, virgin materials.

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**Implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
in Churachandpur District, Manipur: A Beneficiary Perspective**

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Abstract

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was enacted on 7th September 2005. The act is one of the largest right-based social protections that guarantees wage employment of 100 days in a year to the rural poor that they can expect to earn a living wage, without loss of dignity. The study was carried out in two blocks of Churachandpur District, Manipur. Random sampling technique was used for selection of district, blocks, villages and beneficiaries. Rural people of Manipur rely heavily on earnings from unskilled wage labour to other farm or non-farm enterprises. More than half of the population is unemployed as the State has no big industry. In addition, agriculture which is one of the main occupations in Manipur, is in a bad state as it is dependent on monsoon due to non-availability of irrigational facilities, lacks modern farm equipment and fertilizers and is therefore unable to absorb the large number of unemployed. Non availability of employment is one of the major causes of poverty in the State. Therefore, MGNREGS has a very significant role in a State like Manipur as it provides the rural people with the right to work, enhance livelihood security and bring about development of community assets to be able to generate work on a sustainable basis. Review of literature shows that there have been a number of studies that looked at implementation of the act in terms of employment generation, socio-economic, infrastructural development and works completed but very few studies have been done on beneficiary perspective. Thus, the present study has investigated the role of Gram Panchayat in functioning and implementation of the programme and satisfaction level of the beneficiaries with respect to provisions of the programme. As revealed by the study Gram Panchayat played an effective role in functioning and implementation of the programme by taking initiatives in registering, issuing job cards and providing employment to all interested members in their villages. Besides, they also conducted planning and recommending of work, monitoring and executing work, disbursing equal wages to the beneficiaries, maintaining records and practicing social audit. They also provided feedback opportunity to beneficiaries for proper implementation of the programme. The study also found that in both the blocks MGNREGS not only provided daily wage jobs to beneficiaries but also addressed environmental issues by undertaking works like water conservation, drought proofing, flood protection, land development, minor irrigation, horticulture and rural connectivity. The study revealed that the beneficiaries were largely satisfied with the provisions and implementation of MGNREGS. There are some reasons for dissatisfaction like delayed payment of wages, unsatisfactory wages earned per day, less provisioning of worksite facilities and unsuitable duration of work for women. So, there exist a scope for improvement in the provision and implementation. Hence, MGNREGS can be more effective in future if the State and Gram Panchayat made a concerted effort.

Keywords: Beneficiaries, Gram Panchayat, Functioning and Implementation, MGNREGS, Satisfaction level.

**Empowering stakeholders towards better working conditions through Green Factories:
An Action Research in India**

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Abstract

The Industrial sector is one of the most prominent sectors which drives the Indian economy. The industries have pursued their manufacturing operations without giving much attention to environmental issue. This has resulted in impact on resources, besides creating impacts on human health and wellbeing. This indicates towards a rampant need for the development and adoption of green building rating systems in manufacturing sector which will help in steering growth towards sustainable industrialization. This in turn can be accelerated by generating awareness amongst stakeholders of manufacturing sector to voluntarily adopt green practices for their factory buildings. The present research on 'Empowering Stakeholders Towards Green factories: An Action Research aimed at generating awareness amongst stakeholders regarding the green factory rating system with special reference to Indoor Environment Quality credits. The intervention was targeted towards empowering the stakeholders to make potential improvements in the working conditions in their existing non-green factory buildings. This was accomplished firstly by understanding the green factories through case profiling followed by developing and implementing a training program for stakeholders of non green factory buildings. The case profiling of operational green factories helped in getting insight into IEQ credits and benefits accrued.

Through intervention a change in knowledge and perception was targeted. The sample for the same constituted of top and middle managers of non-green factory buildings. The training programme consisted of three modules assisted with comprehensive tools like presentations, videos, pamphlet, training manual and handouts. The knowledge level and perception was by studied by administering a knowledge testing questionnaire and interview schedule respectively both pre-training and post-training.

Highlights of the study are:

- The green factories had applied for IGBC Green factory 'gold' certification. Both of them had employed various technologies for implementation of IEQ credits and perceived to have experienced 20-30% reduction in energy consumption, 10-15% reduction in employee absenteeism and incidence of sickness along with increment of 10-20% in productivity of workers.
- Commitment to reducing environmental impacts and ensuring the good workplace for their employees were cited as one of the most important factors in making decisions towards going green by both the companies.
- With regard to training intervention, t-test highlighted a significant difference between pre-test and post-test knowledge scores. The respondents scored higher in the post-test. The training program dealt in imparting knowledge on various issues such as sustainable development, green built environment, green factory rating system and indoor environment quality which helped them to understand and appreciate how their practices and preferences as stakeholders in their built environment can contribute to a holistic goal of sustainable development.
- Perception change was also found to be significant as t-test highlighted the difference between pre-training and post-training perception scores. Perceptions regarding green factory rating system saw a shift as majority of respondents perceived the adoption of the green factory rating system to be beneficial
- Motivation of respondents was spelt by willingness of majority to adopt green factory rating system and take suitable sustainable initiatives for their factory buildings to provide a better work environment to the workers.
- Lack of knowledge and awareness was perceived as a major barrier towards adoption of green factories.
- Different training components were critically analyzed and evaluated for their effectiveness. Majority of respondents were satisfied with the training program and perceived it to be useful. Recapitulation exercises received highest preference as being the most useful and interesting part of training

Thus, by pooling the findings it is concluded that training program was fruitful in bringing about a knowledge and perception change towards green factory rating system. Such interventions can be taken up at a wider scale to motivate stakeholders to address the health concerns and productivity of workers along with other environmental concerns through adoption of green factory guidelines. They can be used as a catalyst in accelerating the adoption of green building and green factory movement. Moving forward towards the ultimate goal of sustainable industrialization green factory rating system can be incorporated in policy framework to promote greater willingness on part of industries to adopt green practices for their factory buildings. Such interventions are fruitful for targeted beneficiaries and also civil society as a whole and can be used to have far reaching applications to address the issue of sustainability.

Future generations can also be empowered towards the goal of green industrialization by incorporating the knowledge regarding the same school curriculum. This is in the view of the fact that future generations will take on the role of the industrialists, entrepreneurs or the workforce in any organization. Hence the knowledge of green industrialization would help them in addressing sustainable development in more responsible manner.

Keywords: Green Factory Rating System; Industrial sector; Indoor Environment Quality technologies; sustainable development; training program

**Developing sustainability assessment of informal development
on illegal land subdivision based on BEQUEST framework**

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Abstract

Informal land subdivision in developing countries as well as in Eastern and Southern Europe has been a major feature of urbanisation since the early decades of the last century. Early informal subdivisions took place within the city boundaries before it gradually moved towards the peripheries and nearby rural areas, where it brought about critical social, economic and environmental changes to the local communities. This type of development accommodates significant number of population who cannot meet their housing needs in the formal market. Between 20% and more than 50% of the population of the major cities of the developing world lived in areas developed through informal land subdivision in the first decade of the current century. The residents of these areas buy the subdivided land and construct their houses, but outside the legal system.

Government efforts to combat this phenomenon have two directions, one is to prevent the emergence of new subdivisions and the other is to deal with the existing settlements. The former has never changed up to date. The latter changed from ignorance to demolition to servicing the settlements and then to regularise the existing settlements since 1980s. There is a wide agreement amongst vast majority of concerned authors around the world that the strategies and programmes for both the directions have not been implemented properly. Regularisation has not resulted in tackling the major developmental issues of the settlements putting them in the midway between legal and illegal status. New informal land subdivision is still coming up till today producing settlements with severe issues. This situation constitutes a critical obstacle to the efforts of the city authority towards more sustainable urban development. There is an urgent need to understand and evaluate the existing situation and assess it in the content of sustainability.

The BEQUEST framework which was developed early in this century is probably the only framework to help assessing the sustainability of formal urban development. It defines each of the development activities and its relevant sustainability issues. The framework then relates each of the issues to its time and special scales. It provides a frame of reference that helps decision makers in understanding the context they work in and how urban interventions we make today will support more sustainable urban development. There is no such framework to assess informal development. This paper aims at developing a frame work that can be used in the cases of informal development. To do so, each of the informal land subdivision activities is defined. Its consequent sustainability issues are identified. Then, a comparison with the formal development is carried out.

The analysis shows that the informal subdivision does not follow the same stages that are found in formal development. Further, the informal subdivision contains some stages such as primitive planning and regularisation that do not exist in the formal development. Not many changes are suggested to the set of sustainability issues found in the BEQUEST framework while constructing the new framework for the informal land subdivision. The time scale of the BEQUEST framework is adopted in the proposed framework. Minor changes put to the special dimensions adopted by The BEQUEST framework to suit the proposed one.

Finally, the paper recommends further research to examine the workability of the proposed framework in both cases where the settlements are either regularised or not.

Keywords: Sustainable urban development; The BEQUEST framework; Informal land subdivision, Regularisation, Government attitude, Sustainability issues.

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Where the Road is without Congestion & Environment is Pollution Free: Trip to Sustainable Urban Mobility

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Extended Abstract

Current era is the era of motorization. Head to toe every aspect is engrossed with motorization. Motorization is perceived as synonymous to civilization and elite status. Motorized mobility is in its full boom numbers of private motorized registered vehicles is on splurge and is expected to increase further in the wake of development. In the backdrop of above said status, congested roads, polluted air, jostling sounds of vehicles and road injuries has become the most common scene in cities. This situation calls for 'sustainable urban mobility' characterized by shift to non-motorized and public transport resulting in better urban quality of life.

Most of the tools and techniques of sustainable transportation were developed before coinage of the term "sustainable transportation" such as walking, public bus, passenger tram, Passenger rail service, pedal bicycles.

Earlier innovations and interventions aimed at bettering the status of road infrastructure and fuel efficiency of vehicles. But cities with overbuilt highways have experienced unintended consequences, linked to radical drops in public transport, walking and cycling. In many cases streets become void of 'life'. Yet another impact was an increase in sedentary lifestyles causing and complicating a national epidemic of obesity and accompanying dramatically increased health care costs. Certain other provisions adopted with the objective of sustainable mobility are carpooling, high occupancy vehicle lane, congestion pricing, and transportation demand management.

In the area of sustainable urban mobility there is no one size fits all approach. Thus, the idea of the present study is to provide with an exhaustive review of various success models with the objective of analyzing myriad of ideas and concepts involved by various cities to attain the status of sustainable urban mobility.

Present study aims at in-depth analysis of the urban mobility practices of cities bestowed with sustainable transport award (STA) by Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) in the years 2005 to 2013. And as a result, provided with certain approaches and actions adopted by various cities to attain sustainable urban mobility.

STA is presented annually to a city that has shown leadership and vision in the field of sustainable transportation and urban livability in the preceding year. Nominations are accepted from anyone and winners and honorable mentions are chosen by the STA steering committee. Since 2005, the award has been given out annually to a city or major jurisdiction that has implemented innovative transportation strategies, especially in several different areas of urban transportation. The award rewards cities for such accomplishments as improving mobility for all residents, reducing transportation green house gas and air pollution emissions, and improving safety and access for bicyclists and pedestrians. The sustainable transport award looks for cities, working in at least three of the following policy areas i.e., improvements to public transportation, improvements to non-motorized travel, Expansion or improvements to public space, implementation of travel demand management, reduction of urban sprawl by linking transportation to development (TOD), reduction of transport related air pollution and green house gas emissions

Present study is descriptive research work involving collection and analysis of selected cities' sustainable transport practices. It involves analysis of transport structure over the six noted criteria in table 2 in terms of relative significance by the awarded cities. The 11 cities which were awarded sustainable transport award from year 2005 to 2013 by ITDP had been selected as sample of study. The cities of Bogota, Seoul, Guayaquil, London, Paris, New York City, Ahmedabad, Guangzhou, San Francisco, Medellin and Mexico city grabbed STA from year 2005 to 2013 respectively.

Prevalent transport systems in all the selected cities along with recent developments have been studied and analyzed base on information availed from various online sources. Background variables such as geographical condition, socio-economic status and prior transportation condition were also paid heed in the course of analysis. These sources provided with detailed as well as specific information required for analyzing the successful sustainable transportation models and their background variables and determinants.

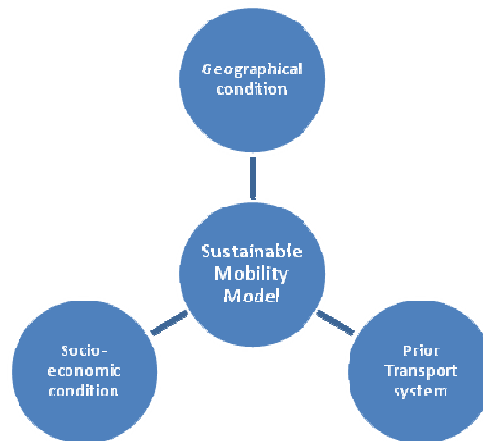


Figure 1: Sustainable Mobility and its determinants

Thus, to recapitulate the study provided with a comprehensive compilation of various sustainable transport practices in association with various means of sustainability.

Implications of Research: Present study would facilitate the researchers working in the area of sustainable mobility by providing various success models as well as their critical analysis. It would also pave the way for success for cities proceeding towards adoption of sustainable transportation model by providing a guideline in terms of which sustainable mobility could be adopted by particular cities with reference to their geographical, socio-economic and cultural conditions.

Keywords: Non-motorized transportation, Public Transport, Sustainable transportation, Sustainable Mobility, Transport Infrastructure.

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Inflationary Pressure on Indian Economy

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Abstract

Inflation as defined by classical economist is “Inflation shows rise in the price level and fall in the value of the money”. There are many reasons for inflationary pressures on an economy. Here in this paper I would like to present about food inflation and its impact on Indian economy. The reasons behind food inflation is mainly due to the mismatch of demand and supply, population, increase in per capita income, increase in consumption, demonstration effect have all contributed to food inflation.

Occupational distribution of population has undergone a change. Attitude and life style have also contributed for excess demand for food over its supply. The future trend may be that there may arise food scarcity and thus leading to import of basic items of food. Already India is facing low value of rupee as against the dollar; added to this could be import of food grains.

It is an alarm to economy to wake up and pull up to stabilize the agricultural growth rate, as well as maintain self sufficiency and if possible encourage exports.

Keywords: Inflation, Food Inflation, Foreign Exchange, Demand and Supply, Agricultural Growth Rate.

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The Contribution of India & China towards sustainable development in Africa

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After Cold War, India and China have launched themselves as forefront players across Africa, which may turn out to be one of the most significant sustained developments for the region in recent years. There is sudden rise in the prospects, opportunities and the challenges arising from this increased presence of India and China in Africa. We are looking at four aspects as follows: a) China's African Strategic and Economic Policy; b) India's recent strategic and economic commitment in Africa. ; c) Comparison of India and China in their African sustained commitment; d) Scope of Economic and Strategic Cooperation between India and Africa for sustained development.

India particularly needs to step up in response to Chinese activity in Africa by developing a comprehensive and multi dimensional approach such as strategic cooperation and economic trade that will serve Africa better toward sustained development. The India needs to engage Africa more on issues of democracy, education, economy and good governance, and in trilateral discussions with China and African countries, focus on ways in which all donors and investors can reinforce those goals. Finally, the India must recognize that China is a very important factor in Africa, which requires to be respected for its willingness to respond to African development priorities, such as infrastructure, and to look at Africa as a promising area for investment. China seems to not a strategic threat to the India in Africa. We have to follow cautious approach toward China's military & Economic Gambits in Africa. India may follow the policy of engagement by engaging China more on common areas of concerns; India may meet this challenge effectively.

Keyword: Democracy; Development; Donors; Infrastructure; Sustained

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Sustainable Development through Women Entrepreneurial Activities: Prospects and Challenges

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Abstract

Ensuring sustainable livelihoods is a key move to improve the socio-economic conditions of the rural marginalised sections. During the recent economic shifts, maximum utilisation of labour force has been prioritised by the national governments and accordingly various laws have been introduced in order to compete with global markets and to promote sustainable development within the domestic markets and social functioning. As part of this in India, an obvious step is to ensure economic development of the poor through the promotion of income-generating activities. Having recognized such a need by the Government of India, the rural banks are being entrusted with the responsibility to provide sustainable credit to the rural poor to accelerate their livelihood opportunities. In this context, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), through SHG-Bank Linkage Programme, have become instrumental in developing and empowering poor women economically by lending credit facilities through banks and creating various entrepreneurial activities in rural areas. Particularly in the state of Andhra Pradesh, the SHG movement has been playing a pivotal role by bringing a radical change in the position of women from that of daily-wage laborer to self-employed entrepreneur. Simultaneously, Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) also play a vital role in remote areas where rural banks do not exist in lending credit to the poorest sections without any delay and with a simple procedure.

However, this phenomenon has witnessed several social repercussions. For instance, the exorbitant interest rates charged by some MFIs have resulted in extreme social and economic disasters where in several attempts borrowers have committed suicides due to their failure to repay the loans and immediate inhuman approaches adopted by the MFIs. In this context, the issues of sustainability of women's economic development and poverty alleviation come under critical scrutiny. Against this backdrop, the paper examines the possibilities and potentialities of SHGs to emerge as an institution of rural entrepreneurship and promoting women as a rural entrepreneur through SHG-Bank Linkage Programme. Further, the paper critically examines does MFIs really empower women as a self-employed entrepreneur in the rural areas or do they pursue women in more vulnerable conditions due to the pressure on repayments with high interest rates?

Keywords: Micro-Finance Institutions, Self-Help Groups, Sustainable development, Women entrepreneurship and Women's economic development.

Ref#: 095/IND/13

Coverage of Development News in Newspapers(With special Reference to Rural Areas of Kanpur)

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Abstract

To grow and lead a successful life, it is essential for people to be able to adapt to the changes in the field of social, economic and technological spheres. People not only feel free to talk about the process of development but also sincerely become a part of the development process. For a country to lead its people to growth and sustainable development, it is important that information and knowledge about such changes is made available to them on priority basis. India being a country where more than 70 % of people live in the rural areas and are engaged in cultivation, it is very important that people are provided with the facilities of better living so that they may have a say in the process of sustainable development.

In this respect, the development communication is very crucial which states that in order to achieve overall development, it is important that all the facilities and indexes of progress reach to the grass root level. Development communication is the communication of policies, programs and other facilities for the betterment of the lives of the people. The concept of Development communication is defined by Dr. Nora Quabrel in these words, "Development Communication is the art and science of human communication applied to the speedy transformation of a country and the mass of its people from poverty to a dynamic state of economic growth that makes possible greater social equality and the larger fulfillment of human potential".

In India, where the main occupation of the people is agriculture, it is essential that the technological tools are open to the reach of the people living in rural areas to make improvements not only in the agriculture field but also serve as an aid to better their lives. Facilities to help the village people to fulfill their ICE needs i.e. the need to be informed, communicated, and educated must be provided by the government so that they could be brought forth to the front row as a torch bearer for a developing India.

Information of their use has to be made available to them by the media. The media which is the cheapest for them and easily available to them is the print media and especially the newspapers. It is important to see how the newspapers are delivering the news which speaks of their problems and also finds solutions to their problems. The research problem is to analyze, evaluate and understand how newspapers are contributing towards the coverage of needs and progress of the rural people, what news about development issues is given in the newspapers.

Methodology

In order to analyze the research problem, the study is based on observation method called content analysis in which the content of selected newspapers is taken into consideration.

As we all are aware that there is difference between the Dak and City edition of the newspapers. Dak editions of two popular newspapers are randomly selected (Dainik Jagaran, Aaj) as it would bring to light the attention of both the newspapers towards news of developmental needs.

From both the newspapers 10 copies for a period of 10 days are collected and analyzed for their content. The unit of study is the pages covering news from Kanpur Dehat District in both the newspapers.

The number of news stories about rural development issues, the space allotment to such news, news presentation, etc is analyzed.

Keywords: Communication, Development news, Media, News, Sustainable Development

Ref#: 098/IND/13

Environmental Sustainability through Green Banking: A Study on Private and Public Sector Banks in India

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Abstract

Industrialization around the globe has triggered the pursuit of ever increasing needs and demands of the population and it has become symbolic of prosperity and development of an economy. But on the other hand it has resulted in the exploitation of the natural environment which in turn has disturbed the ecological balance. The disturbance in ecological balance has adversely impacted the human and its surrounding environment. The recent industrial disasters and natural disaster occur in the last three decades were directly or indirectly linked with the uneven industrialization. This in turn has raised an important issue of environmental protection among environmentalists, government and organization from all over the world. Environmental sustainability and sustainable development have become the important agenda in the international community. Various conferences and programs such as Earth Summit and United Nation Environmental program were being organized to create awareness about this alarming issue. Understanding the importance of the existence of human health & well being governments as well as the organizations started taking various initiatives for the concern of environmental protection and sustainability. Environmental sustainability plays a vital role in sustainable growth and development, as the integration of social, economical and environmental sustainability help to make the development sustainable. Environmental protection has become a part of strategy in most organizations in the developed countries and started offering environment friendly or green products and services to the consumers. Learning from their western counterparts, the Indian organizations have also adopted environmental friendly practices within the organization. But the concept of environmental sustainability and green products and services is new to developing country like India.

The aim of this paper is to study the various 'Green Banking' approaches adopted by private and public sector banks in India for environmental sustainability. Further this paper attempts to categorize the phases of Green Marketing initiatives of the banks on the basis of their green banking initiatives. The sample consists of the top performing banks of the public sector and the private sector, using the case study approach. The findings reveal that with the time the Indian banking sector have understood the importance of environmental protection and started taking various initiatives under its green banking approach. The finding also shows that public sector banks have taken more green banking initiatives as compared to private sector banks with an exception of ICICI bank. Secondly it was analyzed under the Phases of Green Marketing (Peattie, 2001) most of the banks were categorized in the Environmental' Green Marketing: The Second Age; and taking initiatives which are beneficial to the environment as well as organizations; only ICICI bank Green banking approach was found suitable to the third phase of green marketing- Towards the Third Age: Sustainable Green Marketing. Based on the findings of the study implications for further research endeavors is discussed.

Keywords: Environmental Sustainability; Green Banking; Green Initiatives; Phases of Green Marketing.

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Utopian Sustainable Urban Mobility: A Technological Intervention or Behavioral Interplay ?

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Executive Summary

Urban mobility is suffering from plethora of disabling issues such as frequent and prolonged congestion, air and noise pollution, traffic injury and deaths and national epidemic of obesity and accompanying dramatically increased health care costs. The solution lies in shift to non-motorized and public transportation by individuals. Many a cities are toiling hard to make the transportation practices pro-environment as well as pro-individual. Thus, the matter of concern is how to facilitate this shift in transport behavior of individuals from pro-private and motorized to pro-public and non-motorized.

Present case throws light over sustainable urban mobility through UTOPIAN identity and posits a question among individuals regarding requisites of sustainable urban mobility by presenting the case of Utopia- an ideal city of urban mobility.

Abstract

Creeping traffic, congested roads, sickening air, deafening horns and maddening rush among the citizens to reach their destination had been the most common scene of UTOPIA, some time ago. Limited public transport and large proportion of varied modes of private transport on roads made congestion, pollution and high rates of accidents as the order of the day.

Utopia: Re-designed Transport-wise

Utopia has shown vision in the field of sustainable transportation and urban livability and has implemented innovative transportation strategies such as improving mobility for all residents, reducing transportation green house gas and air pollution emissions, and improving safety and access for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Utopia has implemented many projects that have improved livability, mobility and quality of life for its citizens, making the city a source of learning.

As cities around the world are engrossed and baffled with transport related issues that degrade the quality of urban life, it is worth taking a look at how Utopia turned its city around. It transformed the gloomy and bleak picture of city's transport system in an inspiring model to be replicated. It adopted both carrots and sticks to deal with the transport crisis. It not only gifted its citizens with better public transport facility and pro-non-motorized transport infrastructure and environment but also posed stringent measures to check and limit private transport usage. Utopia extended its Bus rapid transit (BRT) system straight through the narrow congested streets, rebuilt public places, expanded bike sharing and bike lanes, and pedestrianized its streets.

Improved public transport

Utopia as a step towards sustainable urban mobility connected almost all the parts of city keeping frequency, comfort and aesthetic sense in mind. Utopia's BRT runs north to south and centre to west, across the city. It is composed of two lines (A & B) that, together, host 54 stations, including major tourist attractions. It connected its poorest and toughest neighborhoods to not only provide residents with better means of transport but to also take care of their safety, pride and belongingness needs. Single pass system for a one way trip has also been introduced which can be purchased at any BRT station, and are the easiest way for a tourist to use the system.

Semi low floor CNG buses promise all the benefits of low floor and high floor buses, in terms of capacity, dwell time, safety, economy and environmental concerns. Stations and terminals are also kept in the frame. Pedestrian access, bike racking and other parking are paid due heed. Elevated boarding platform level with the bus floors makes it convenient and accessible for all. Newspapers stalls and public telephones have added life and vitality to the BRT stations. For tech-savvy generation provision has been made through a website to estimate their carbon saving, commute time and monetary savings from using the new BRT system.

Well trained in eco-driving techniques and well-equipped with fuel economy feedback gadgets BRT drivers make public transit more energy efficient. Life-size hoardings about eco-driving tips₁ could also be spotted near pedestrian lanes, parking places and public plazas to spread a culture of eco-driving in the city all around.

Improvements to non-motorized travel

Utopia is also carrying 'share the road' initiative by United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) with great zeal and enthusiasm. Bikers and pedestrians are treated as privileged users in the transport planning and their comfort and needs are well considered. A public bike sharing program has been initiated to connect Universities and other educational institutes to mass transit, along with other key destinations in the city. The scheme was started as a pilot program and expanded on its succession.

Expansion or improvements to public space:

Next to transport facilities, infrastructure has also been considered to create pro-environment for individuals. To ensure safety and equity to all the users of roads, lane system has been created. Pedestrian and bike routes are connected to green spaces and public plazas. To facilitate a culture of walking and biking green spaces are being created throughout the city.

Recently, a high occupancy vehicle lane₂ has been introduced on a pilot basis, which could be further expanded on its succession. It would promote sharing of private transport among users.

Travel demand management program:

Utopia believes in a balanced strategy to reach the objectives. Thus, along with reinforcement, restrictions are also placed for traffic demand management₃. It involves banning of vehicles other than delivery vans and taxis in market areas.

As, people choose their mode of transportations for urban trips based on the parking conditions at their origin and destination. Thus, limiting car parking supply and instituting parking maximums strategies have been involved to make people step out of their cars and step on pedestrian lanes and bike tracks.

The re-designing of UTOPIA as well as UTOPIANS on the line of sustainability marked an inevitable space for itself and posited a model to be learned and replicated.

Keywords: Sustainable Urban Mobility, Sustainable Urban transportation, Non-motorized Transport, Transport Demand Management

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Empowerment of Women Teachers and Public Participation: Women's Role in Urban City

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Abstract

Education is milestone of women empowerment because it enables them to responds to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their life so that, we can't neglect the importance of education in reference to women empowerment. Education is the first step towards empowerment and the most crucial factor in overall development of the individual as well as nation. Literacy sets one free from ignorance, exploitation and poverty. It liberates the minds , opening up new horizon ,new hope/ opportunities and self –confidence further equipping them with the knowledge, skills, self-respect and freedom to participate sustain and excel in their life .Illiteracy on the other hand ,breeds ignorance ,which ,leads to exploitation , poverty, neglect crimes and number of social evils. Literacy deprives women from all opportunities and further prospects of leading a meaningful life and enjoying good standard of living. In this background the present paper discusses Education as an effective instrument for social and economic development and national integration. Further the paper explores the ideas of education and how education enables women to understand their social and legal rights, become economically independent acquire a voice in the affairs of the family and the community. Education is a gateway to information, opportunities and empowerment. In this backdrop the paper will discuss the role of education and women empowerment through public participation particularly with working women teachers in high schools in Gulbarga city and finally the paper put forth the suggestions and recommendations how far the empowerment of women achieved through public participation and empowerment as an important tool for women's development.

Keywords: New Horizons, Empowerment, Education, Profession, Participation, Policies

Strategies to Serve the Healthcare Needs for Aged Persons

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Abstract

With advances in technology people are living longer. As per the census of India the percentage of aged in country is 8.2% in 2011¹ and it is expected to increase 12.4% in 2026 and will touch 19.7% in the year of 2050. This marked increase in aged population has increased the old age dependency ratio. The proportion of those lying between ages 65 to 80 years will increase in the coming years due to entry of baby boomer generation after 2010; overall decline in fertility rates and mortality rates that leads to higher life expectancy. Besides growth in number of aged population, they are also evolving as a customs and have wants and needs that differ from the aged people of past. Studies show that two-thirds of India's 100 million population over-60s was suffering from chronic diseases in 2011. That is expected to increase to more than 200 million by 2050.

A supportive strategy can enhance the quality of life of the aged population and help compensate physical losses in later years. The strategy notes that services need to be better integrated. There should be strong need of prevention and promotion programs at the early phase of ageing that encourages focusing on capacity building. A self management of health conditions in the transition phase and a multi-disciplinary approach to provide flexible services to meet their complex care needs at frail aged stage².

It a valuable and timely opportunity to meet the care needs of the aged persons to promote their independence, well-being and quality of life. It addresses the challenges that lie at the interface between the aged care sectors in terms of the funding, administration and calls upon for the delivery of services across the continuum of care to recognize and deliver on these challenges³. This paper will focus more on the need to promote independence, quality of life and well-being of aged persons by concentrating more on the responsive service delivery that is more cost-effective, less hospital centric and more orientated towards the specific need of aged population. It not only adds new services but also improves the existing health services that lead to more effective management. Improved coordination and communication processes are its major components. It also relies heavily on a partnership with the primary, community, acute and residential aged care sectors for the delivery of services. Secondary data collected through various mix method approaches has been used in order to develop strategies. Gaps and barriers were identified and strategies were considered ensuring integration and effective funding of services. The strategy identified require health professionals to continue to work together to create and improve services for 65 and above age group which will effectively ensure that they can access "the right service in the right place, at the right time and from the right provider⁴."

Keywords: (Baby boomer generation, Continuum of care, Health, India, Old age).

Ref#: 102/IND/13

The Strategy of Sustainable Banking Policy and the Determination of Lenders Effect toward Borrowers with Central Bank as the Moderator

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In order to realize a rapid and powerful national development, a strategic role from a bank is required. The strategic roles of bank are included funds saving role from third-party and the funds distribution which are often knows as credit/finance. For the both role, the banks should be healthy. To achieve a healthy, strong and efficient banking system, needed a stability of the financial system as a whole, and furthermore it will drive the growth of the national economy in a sustainable manner by taking into account the conditions in a sustainable development, those are fair and equitable economy, a peaceful and fair of social life and a protected environment. Of course to maintain a healthy and equitable economy, a peaceful and fair of social life and protected environment, is not only the duty of a banking system (which includes: the investors (lenders), investors and banks as finance manager in construction), but also a shared responsibility for other stakeholders such as: non-banking financial institutions and private or other government organizations. Hence, those all will be well maintained (sustainable). In Indonesia, in implementing the concept of sustainable banking, it is not yet known about how the strategies that should be pursued in the capacity of the bank is as "intermediary between borrowers and lenders of money ". When linked with the application of the concept of sustainable on to green business banking, is also not known to what extent banks have a role in the sustainable development.

This study, trying to analyze the influence of the investors (lenders) to the company (borrowers) that considers to the role of Bank Indonesia as the moderator. This study aims to: (i). To formulate the strategies that need to be done to achieve sustainable banking; (ii). To analyze the effect of capital owners (lenders) on sustainable banking; (iii). To analyze the effect of borrowers on sustainable banking, taking into account the role of Bank Indonesia as the moderator, and (iv). To analyze the direct influence of lenders towards the borrowers.

This study uses two analysis tools, namely: (i). Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) model that is used to formulate alternative strategies that need to be done to achieve sustainable banking and determines the weight (priority) of each element of these factors to answer the first research purposes, and (ii). Structural Equation Model (SEM) model that is used to estimates the second, third and fourth of research objectives. Respondents in the study for the first objective is a total of 18 expert personnel in banking which is competent (measured from the aspects of knowledge, skills and attitude) that is the Director of Compliance and Risk Management from 18 general bank in Indonesia. The data is collected by depth interviews. Respondents for the purpose of the second, the third and the fourth, respectively, of 50 respondents from banks that operating in Indonesia (both national and foreign) which are not implementing a sustainable banking policy (at each bank will be taken one to two persons as respondents); 50 respondents for lenders (taken from the investors, workers, businessmen, and housewives), and 50 respondents from the borrowers. All samples are selected by purposive sampling method.

Based on the analysis results obtained the following conclusions: (i). an alternative strategy that needs to be done to achieve sustainable banking is emerge a stepping stone (stages), and a road map for sustainable banking in Indonesia; (ii). the effect of lenders (owners of capital) towards sustainable banking is significant; (iii). the effect of sustainable banking to the borrowers (corporation) is significant which moderated by Bank Indonesia; (iv). The influence of lenders to borrowers (not through a bank) is not significant; (v). from the conclusion in number (ii), (iii), and (iv), the effect of lenders on the borrowers which mediated by sustainable banking and mediated by Bank Indonesia, are similar with the behavior of lenders to borrowers as indicated by conventional monetary theory, that is "the lenders (owners of capital) affect borrowers (entrepreneurs who need capital) mediated by the bank".

Results of this study have implications for sustainable management of banking and Bank Indonesia, among others: (i). stepping stone and road map of sustainable banking need to be made to be easily operated, (ii). a sustainable banking need to maintain the trust of the borrowers and lenders, particularly on security and a reasonable interest rate determination, (iii). the highest leaders, middle and bottom on sustainable banking should be given a training on the concept of sustainable banking and ways to operate these concepts, and (iv). Bank Indonesia needs to hold comparative studies in developing countries those already runs the concept of sustainable banking as a whole.

Keywords: Borrowers; Central Bank; Green Business; Lenders; Sustainable Banking.

Ref#: 103/IND/13

Greenhouse Farming in Gujarat: A march towards Sustainable Agriculture

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Abstract

Climate change has become one of the greatest challenges which mankind ever faced. The glorious journey of Gujarat right from 1960 to till this date is full of landmark achievements but this continued prosperity with continued environmental damage has forced us to think that are we heading towards prosperity or heading towards disaster. Of late, a growing movement has started towards sustainable agriculture not only to solve environmental crisis, but it offers innovative opportunities for both the farmers as well as consumers. A number of initiatives have been taken to push Gujarat towards sustainable agriculture but among all the initiatives Greenhouse farming technology is the most revolutionary that has ushered a golden era in the history of Gujarat's agriculture. The main advantage of Greenhouse farming is that it provides maximum yields while utilizing minimum area. In fact, Greenhouses are framed structures covered with transparent materials large enough to grow plants under fully controlled environmental condition. Greenhouse farming has four dimensions i.e. ecological dimension, economic dimension, social dimension as well as cultural dimension. Ecological dimension basically focuses on soil fertility and increases bio-diversity. Economic dimension encompasses both income security as well as food security. Social dimension involves betterment of quality of life for those who work and live on the farm as well as those in the local community. The cultural dimension explains that without breaking their cultural heritage farmers could enjoy cultivation in Greenhouse farming. In Gujarat, Greenhouse farming technology has made farming a complete business opportunity. As it has become a profitable venture lot of investments are coming from individuals, entrepreneurs and companies. The reason is that there is an increase in demand for high quality exotic vegetables and flowers throughout the world. With less water and less labour high yield is noticed compared to traditional agriculture. Another major advantage is that Gujarat has got good infrastructure facilities like roadways, railways and electricity etc. Not only this Gujarat gets 25% subsidy of the project cost from Central Government and additional subsidy of 50% from Gujarat State Government for greenhouse structure, interest subsidy i.e., 6% for five years and electric subsidy i.e., 25% for five years.

Because of the additional subsidies Gujarat has become No. 1 rank in greenhouse cultivation in India. In a span of just five years, exotic flowers like hybrid tea roses and gerbera have emerged as big money spinners for farmers in Gujarat. Currently cultivators from Navsari to Surat both grow flowers worth crores in climate controlled greenhouses and have been exporting them in countries like Japan, New Zealand, Germany and U.K. Since the last three years more and more farmers have ventured into the floriculture business and today the turnover is 50 crores. At present Gujarat has 650 operational greenhouses and will have more than 80 operational greenhouses in the years to come. It is true that there is no magic formula for sustainable agriculture and at the same time this is no easy solution to the dilemma of environmental degradation and poverty. Culture, society, economy and environment interact in complex and dynamic ways, sometimes slow and sometimes dramatically very fast. But if we want to bring sustainable agriculture then Gujarat has to think in terms of food security, livelihood security, environmental security and health security. Greenhouse farming is the golden thread which connects all the securities together but to promote it we need a proactive Government intervention and higher budgetary allocation. With it, we can move towards intergenerational and intra-generational equity and the march towards sustainable agriculture which will finally push Gujarat towards sustainable development. This research paper will be based on primary survey.

Keywords: Environment Security, Food Security, Greenhouse Farming, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable

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Competition Law and Sustainable Development: An Enquiry for an International Approach

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Abstract

As an increasing number of countries are adopting competition policies and laws, most of which are developing countries, the implications for sustainable development require further investigation. A frequently advocated view is that there appears to be a tension between competition law and sustainable development. While the former is generally associated with the pursuit of economic goals such as the maximisation of consumer welfare in the short term, the latter seeks to integrate non-economic goals such as environmental concerns in the long term. However, the question of what should be the goal(s) of competition law is a fiercely debated one. The goals differ from country to country which makes it more difficult to advance the internationalisation of competition law and forge common grounds for sustainable development at the international level. Guidance on the relationship between competition law and sustainable development is not only of special importance for the interpretation of competition rules in newly developed competition law systems but also for the pursuit of sustainable development.

There is plenty of literature on the various goals that can be or have been pursued in the name of competition policy. The objectives of US antitrust law and EU competition law, which are the two leading competition law systems in the world, have been addressed extensively. Yet, only few scholars have so far discussed the relationship between competition law and sustainable development. In particular, the impact of the goals of the US and EU competition law regimes on the lack of internationalisation of competition law and its implications for sustainable development has been very much neglected. This contribution seeks to fill this gap.

The research methods adopted in this paper are the black letter law approach and the comparative legal approach. By looking at policy statements and judgments the goals of US antitrust law and EU competition law shall be established. This paper seeks to explore first, the differences and similarities between the goals of these two systems, and secondly, the interaction between competition law and sustainable development in each of them. Since the competition law systems of many countries either follow the US or the EU approach, the findings of this research may indicate whether a common approach to sustainable competition law at the international level is possible.

While US antitrust law has a long-standing tradition of advocating the enhancement of consumer welfare, EU competition law used to endorse the pursuit of both economic and non-economic goals in the past. Since the modernisation in the early 2000s, the goal of EU competition law has been proclaimed to be the maximisation of consumer welfare (which goes hand in hand with the advancement of the internal market). Thus US antitrust law and EU competition law now pursue the same goals. Due to this re-orientation of the goals of EU competition law it has become more difficult to take into consideration sustainable development issues in the enforcement of the EU competition rules. This paper argues that the convergence between US antitrust law and EU competition law has reduced the chances of fostering sustainable competition law at the international level. This paper by no means purports to be conclusive or that the achievement of international sustainable competition law is impossible. It rather seeks to stimulate more research in this area.

Keywords: Competition law; goals; interaction; international approach; sustainable development

A Comparative study of health care systems of Tehran and Dehli

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Background

Total quality management (TQM) has a great potential to address quality problems in a wide range of industries and improve the organizational performance. The growing need to take initiatives by hospitals in countries like India and Iran to improve the service quality and reduce wastage of resources has inspired the authors to develop a survey instrument to measure health care quality and performance in the two countries.

Methods

Based on the Baldrige health care criteria for performance excellence 2009-10 and the guidelines proposed by the American Hospitals Association for hospitals in pursuit of excellence, compared health care services in three countries. The data are collected from the capital cities and their nearby places in India and Iran. Using ANOVAs, three groups in quality planning and performance have been compared.

Result

Results showed there is significantly different between groups and in no case the hospitals from India and Iran are finding scoring close to the benchmarks. The average scores of Indian and Iranian hospitals on different constructs of the IHCQPM model are compared with the major results achieved by the recipients of the MBNQ award.

Conclusion

In no case the hospitals from India and Iran are finding scoring close to the benchmarks (Baldrige health care criteria for performance excellence 2009-10 and the guidelines proposed by the American Hospitals Association for hospitals). These results suggested to health care services more attempt to achieve high quality management and performance.

Keywords: Health system; quality of care;Dehli; Tehran

Renewable Energy Grid Integration with Distributed Generation

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Abstract

With more than 25,000 MW installed capacity of renewable energy sources as of now out of an estimated potential of about 225.793 GW, in the years to come it is really a challenge to integrate the same into the smart grids in a country like India. Hence to provide better efficiency and reliability to consumers, it is necessary to have to distributed generation along with Renewable Energy. Expectations from smart grids by the consumers and suppliers as well of course may lead further refinement to the existing protocols in the process in the years to come.

Integration of Renewable Energy Sources to Smart Grids has already drawn due attention of the nation as evidenced from the formation of a specific Working Group on Distributed Generation and Renewables under Indian Smart Grid Task Force (ISGTF). With installed capacity of 225.793 GW by June 2013 in India and having peak power shortage of about 10% and energy shortage of about 8%, side by side to adding conventional thermal, hydro, and nuclear generation, effort is on to promote development of Renewable Energy Resources, mainly Wind and Solar based ones that are dispersed geographically. All the sectors of renewable energy are being developed. However, the wind power program has been the fastest growing contributing to about two-third of the grid connected renewable energy power installed capacity, as of now. Of course with the potential estimated on solar power, total of off-grid and on-grid of this form of Renewables would lead in the long run.

Grid-tied renewable energy systems are quickly becoming a ubiquitous facet of the nation's utility landscape. Accelerated public interest in renewable energy in the India has accompanied sustained, robust market growth of multiple distributed generation technologies over the last few years. At the same time, Indian policymakers are working to address a number of pressing concerns related to the generation of electricity by conventional means, including aging infrastructure, grid congestion, electric rate increases, natural gas price volatility, climate change, diminished air quality and related public-health concerns, reliability issues, energy security and energy efficiency. While the full costs of conventional electricity generation are increasingly being recognized and internalized, the price of distributed, renewable-energy systems continues to decrease. As a result, many policymakers have recognized the need to facilitate investment in clean, customer-sited DG systems. Net metering and interconnection policies are essential pieces of a supportive state-level regulatory policy framework addressing two important aspects of Renewable energy development: whether a customer investing in renewable generation can unlock the full value of his or her investment; and how that customer will interconnect his or her generation system to the distribution grid. This thins introduces consumers to the issues surrounding policy and technical considerations of grid-integrated, renewable energy development. Interconnection standards vary widely from state to state, as do net-metering policies. There is a need for policy and regulatory initiatives in Renewable Energy Distributed Generation. Sustainable Development requires three different kinds of initiatives – Economic, Environmental and Social. With the help of Renewable Energy Distributed Generation, We can achieve economic development by reducing electricity tariff and peak demand. We can achieve environmental and social development by incorporating green benefits, reducing carbon emissions and producing green image in the minds of society and people.

Keywords: Distributed Generation, Distribution, Grid Integration, Renewable Energy, Sustainable Development

Preventing crime and reducing conflict

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We are living in a world which is torn with strife. There are ethnic groups within a State that are fighting with each other, at other places there are regions engulfed in a war-like situation and at still other places we have the majority suppressing the minorities. The latter try to get their due which can lead to skirmishes and vitiating peace in the immediate surroundings. Sometimes such tensions in a particular place can lead to igniting a fire elsewhere because of the quick transformation of information. This leads to tensions of varied kind. An incident in one place, however far-flung it might be, can have short-term or long-term repercussions. There are, of course, people and groups working overtime to herald in or to maintain peace in different parts of the world. India is a land of diversity and is home to people of various religions who are further divided on the basis of caste, language and region. Besides, these, there are other groups who are marginalized and are still on the fringes of development. Among these groups we have the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, tribals and also women. Maximum crime and atrocities are committed against these sections. The crime is not confined to a particular region or a group but the graph is rising with each passing day. This paper is a modest attempt to trace and highlight the rising crime against women in India.

Women are the backbone of any society. They give birth and nurture children who are the future citizens of the Country. In recent times, women have adjusted to their new role of being a nurturer as well as a provider. India boasts of being a Country that is on the track of development. It has a hard-working middle class that aspires to touch the sky. Women and their earnings are the strength of this class. So, they contribute in the development of the family as well as the Country. For this, they have to step out of their houses. It is then that they are in greater peril. Sustainable development cannot take place when this crucial section of the society lags behind. It is the mother who instills confidence in her daughter. But if women do not feel safe, how can their personality develop? How can a mother leave her daughter unattended when she reads about the cases of rape and molestation taking place in the remote areas or in the metropolitan cities? Crime is everywhere and one fears being a victim. Instead of moving ahead boldly to crack the various opportunities that the world offers one has to concentrate more on fending off danger inside as well as outside the home. Domestic violence, dowry deaths, female foeticide are the dangers inside the home. Outside the four walls of the house right from being stalked or acid being thrown on the face, women have to save themselves from other heinous crimes that might not kill them but certainly would scar their soul for life. In this paper I intend to highlight the various crimes that have taken place on women in different parts of the Country in recent times. This would help us to gauge that crime is not confined to a particular region. I would also like to suggest measures, if not eliminate, but at least to mitigate such attacks on women. I firmly believe that sustainable development cannot take place when women are left behind in the race for progress. India and its people have to gear up to take up this challenge to provide safety to women who are worshipped in temples but are not safe outside the temples.

Keywords: Emancipation, Exploitation, Love Jihad, Suppression, Women

The challenges of cities today for future city life through sustainable development

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Abstract

Future city life Cities are the core of global development. The need to improve quality of life, economic competitiveness and environmental viability will drive a new way of living. In the future, high-rise buildings will be like small towns, with homes, shops, workshops – even gardens and farms – all under one roof. The spaces around us will be flexible, changing to match our needs. Instead of owning things, we will pay to use a space or an item, then give it back, hand it off, or recycle after use. In the future, buildings will be self-sufficient, producing a surplus of energy, recycling their own waste, minimizing water usage, collecting rainwater, and reusing and recycling gray water. Buildings will also be fully automated and intelligent, with thousands of sensors making sure that lights are switched on or off, and that rooms are optimally heated only when they are occupied. Sensors throughout the city will provide essential information to keep it running efficiently and to keep people safe. The city will become a living organism, seeing, hearing and thinking. It will be intelligent and responsive. Real-time information will flow into the city control center, where it will be integrated and visualized. Journeys across the city will take people and packages from one mode of transport to another – via mega hubs. When we set out to meet friends, a navigation assistant will plan our route.

Challenges of the cities today The megatrend of urbanization will dramatically shape not only cities, but the entire world. Urbanization has created a pressing need for infrastructure investment, regardless of budget limitations and austerity programs. Cities must have functioning traffic systems, intelligent logistics, efficient energy supplies, and environmentally compatible buildings. Urbanization has radically changed the dynamics of urban-based manufacturing. Over the last 50 years, employment in cities has stabilized around a diverse and vital mix of businesses, from traditional forms of fabrication to technology-oriented activities. The most competitive cities will be the ones that anticipate the challenges of growth and balance these three fundamental goals: economic competitiveness, quality of life, and environmental protection.

Sustainable mobility Sustainable mobility is key for cost-effective and environmentally friendly urban development. People and goods must be transported within and between cities, so traffic patterns must be adapted accordingly. By relying on renewable energy, electro mobility will significantly reduce environmental impact. New technologies will reduce harmful local emissions and reduce the CO₂ footprints of individual vehicles.

Efficient Buildings Today we face rising power consumption, higher energy prices, and resource shortages. Yet demand for networked smart buildings is growing. Energy consumption in efficient buildings can be reduced by up to 50% by using intelligent and energy efficient technologies.

Safety and security While considering the location of an urban development project, long-term security is among the most important site characteristics. Local civic authorities must be able to meet a variety of security challenges. Places like airports, harbors, railway stations, tunnels, stadiums and other public venues are particularly important to protect. High-traffic areas must be closely monitored. Advanced technologies protect cities, buildings, campuses, and critical infrastructure. Access control systems ensure that only authorized individuals can enter a facility. Evacuation systems help save lives by combining crowd flow simulations with voice alarms and emergency communications. Video surveillance systems monitor sensitive areas in real time.

Power grids Cities often face challenges such as integrating renewable and distributed generation, limited capacities, aging infrastructures and reducing costs and emissions while using a reliable power supply. Smart Grid technologies shift energy management away from a centralized, reactive and producer-controlled network to a decentralized, proactive and demand-controlled grid. It incorporates two-way communication for digital sensing and automated analytics across the energy conversion chain, from power generation to consumption. This turns our power grid into a demand-controlled tool, enabling us to generate and deliver power efficiently. Smart Grid

enterprise IT platform, industry knowledge, and deep understanding of the energy conversion chain enables us to customize our solutions to the specific needs of utility companies.

Water and wastewater Supplying the world's population with clean, potable water is one of the greatest challenges facing us. The requirements for urban water management are growing – today and into the future, our water supply networks must be more efficiently operated and intelligently controlled. Existing capacities must be used as effectively as possible in order to minimize operating costs. Simulations of various operating states enable the risk-free testing and optimization of plant operation.

Efficient energy Power is indispensable when developing a sustainable energy system. Electricity offers numerous ways to integrate renewable energy sources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. There are four major challenges to managing power supplies effectively: economic efficiency, climate change, reliable power, and resource efficiency. In addition, power generated from renewable energies is increasing. The sustainable energy system of the future will depend on electrification and the ability to feed fluctuating renewables into the power grid.

Healthcare Demographic change is one of the greatest challenges of our age. Not only is the world's population growing rapidly, but life expectancy is also significantly longer. Municipalities today need to invest in healthcare, not only for ethical and compassionate reasons, but also to remain competitive in ways that are environmentally and economically sound. By implementing customized solutions, healthcare providers save energy and reduce their emissions. These factors not only improve time and cost management, but also increase the quality of patient care.

Keywords: Sustainable mobility, Efficient Buildings, Safety and security, Power grids, Water and wastewater, Efficient energy, Healthcare

Inclusive Green Growth: Policy Options and Sustainable Development

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Abstract

The term 'Sustainable Development (SD)' was used by the Brundtland Commission which defined it as: "development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

The success of SD is that it focuses on the relationship between economic growth and the environment at the global level as a concern both of inter- and intra-generational equity. According to Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 'green growth' is the means by which the current economy can make the transition to a sustainable economy while reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, minimising waste and inefficient use of natural resources, maintaining biodiversity, and strengthening energy security. The concept of green economy rests on the economy, the environment and the social pillars of sustainable development. A broader concept of 'inclusive' green growth or sustainable development incorporates fully the social sustainability aspects, in particular enhancing human development and the conditions for the poor and vulnerable. Inclusive growth means, "broad based growth, shared growth, and pro-poor growth". It decreases poverty in a country and increases the involvement of people into the growth process of the country and implies an equitable allocation of resources with benefits incurred to every section of the society.

At the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development ("Rio+20"), green economy has been proposed as a means for catalysing renewed national policy development and international cooperation and support for sustainable development.

Since it is impossible to compensate ex ante future generations for facing possible unfavourable circumstances, SD is thus committed to ensure that future generations should not face circumstances such that they would have to make more effort than ourselves to be at least as well-off as we were, once reached the SD objective of intra-generational equity.

This is called the 'principle of responsibility'. Green growth without replacing more traditional pro-growth policies complements them to achieve both economic and environmental impact. Inclusivity and green growth do not necessarily go hand-in-hand but just as economic growth cannot guarantee that the poor and marginalized will benefit, neither can "green growth". Many of the benefits from green growth will accrue from innovative and sophisticated technologies or financial products that will not naturally extend to disadvantaged groups. This can result in real or perceived inequalities. Therefore, what inclusive growth seeks is an explicit effort to expand the flow of benefits to ensure that all segments of society can benefit from economic development associated with green growth.

Global projections indicate that the world population is expected to reach eight billion by 2030 and accelerated rural urban migration increasing the pressure to produce enough food to meet the needs of the additional two billion people, while preserving and enhancing the natural resource base, upon which the present generations depend.

Sustainable agriculture will provide the answer to our food security problem in the context of restructuring our economy to make it compatible with the Earth's ecosystem, so that economic progress can continue.

Ensuring food security ought to be an issue for India where more than one-third of the population is estimated to be absolutely poor and one-half of all children malnourished. There have been issues in the context of food security in India in the last two decades: (i) economic liberalization in the 1990s and its impact on agriculture and food security; (ii) establishment of WTO: the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA); (iii) challenges of climate change; crisis of the three Fs, viz., food prices, fuel prices, and financial crisis; (iv) the phenomenon of hunger amidst plenty, i.e., accumulation of stocks in the early years of this decade and in 2008-09 along with high levels of poverty; (v) introduction of targeting in the Public Distribution System (PDS) for the first time in the 1990s; (vi) 'Right to Food' campaign for improving food security and mid-day meal schemes; (vii) proposal for National Food Security Law (Right to Food).

India has government programmes such as Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) including Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), nutrition programmes like mid-day meals, and ICDS to improve food and nutrition security. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) and self-employment programmes can also increase access to food and nutrition. Social protection programmes in India helped in improving incomes and providing protection from shocks for the population, particularly the poor. However, there are a number of gaps and inefficiencies in social protection programmes.

Given the threat of runaway climate change and environmental degradation, 'green' growth is likely to be the only sort of growth that is feasible in the very long run. And in the shorter term there will be potential benefits from a comprehensive correction of market and policy failures connected to environmental problems. Engineering a transition to 'green' growth could also kick-start more innovation across the board, leading in more optimistic scenarios.

Keywords: Food security, green growth, inclusive growth, policy options, sustainable development.

Environmental Protection during the Armed Conflict: A Case Study

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Abstract

“When you lay siege to a city for many days, making war against it to capture it, you shall not destroy its surrounding fruit trees by cutting them with an axe; you may eat their fruit, but you must not cut them down. Are the trees of the field people, defenders of the city, that you should lay siege to them? Those trees, however, that you know are not fruit trees you may cut down and use to build siege works against the city that is warring against you, until it falls”.

Deuteronomy 20:19-20 (Modern Language Bible)

Environmental degradation is endemic to armed conflict - whether direct, such as the physical destruction of a forest or the fouling of a water source, or indirect, such as an attack on a factory which results in the release of environmentally dangerous chemicals. In either case, the environmental destruction at issue has profound human consequences and corresponding significance both as a humanitarian law issue and a human rights issue.

International humanitarian law and international human rights both seek to protect human beings from harmful activities, but each addresses the problem from a different perspective and with a different set of procedures. International humanitarian law regulates the conduct of armed conflict by imposing constraints at the state-to-state level. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) undertakes the bulk of protective activities conducted under humanitarian law⁸.

International human rights principles impose obligations and constraints on states and imbue people with specific enforceable rights in armed conflict and in general. Human rights procedures operate in national, regional and global forums, with states, international organizations, and individuals as subjects and objects of the relevant procedures.

Although humanitarian law and human rights constitute separate bodies of law, each with its own procedural mechanisms and institutional structures, the two are not unrelated. Protection of the environment in wartime does not require a choice between humanitarian law and human rights, but rather a joining of the two⁹.

Environmental protection, human rights, and humanitarian law converge at the right to life.

In my paper I shall be discussing the advent of concern over the environmental impact of armed conflict, impact on environment during the war, protection of environment under the Geneva Conventions, Enforcement of the Conventions etc. In the present scenario, the existing institutions should maximize the use of existing law to promote respect for the integrity of the environment during military strife. The international community's increasing recognition of the importance of protecting the environment in the context of armed conflict bodes well and merits continued support, but not complacency.

Keywords: Armed Conflict, Environment Protection, International Armed Conflict, Human Rights, Humanitarian Law

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⁸ Neil A.F. Popovic, “Law, Protection of the Environment, and Human Rights,” *Georgetown International Environmental Law Review*, Fall, 1995, Vol. 8, pp. 69-88 at p. 69.

⁹ *Id.* at p. 73.

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A Race to Oblivion: Economic Development and the Environment

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Abstract

The paper aims to address the much debated conundrum in the contemporary times- the possibility of a sustainable economic development against the pressing social, economic and environmental gratification of the society. Over the time, the concept of sustainable development has evolved to recognize efforts to help integrate three key areas: economic growth, conservation of environment and social development, while meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own.

It is well known that environment and economy are related through natural resources. The indispensability of natural resources to the human population cannot be disputed. Economic development at the behest of natural resources does not guarantee sustainability. Thus, it is incorrect to deduce that economic development takes care of sustainable development because; the design of the global economy is such that by 2019 the economy would be twice the size it was in 2000. But, the planet cannot sustainably support a global economy the size it was in 2000.

Also, the relationship between economic development and environment is one of affluence and environment, but at the same time it would be erroneous to construe that greater affluence will ensue lower levels of pollution. This is because the affluent people might put higher premium on a cleaner environment and thus be willing to put in resources for environment-friendly technologies, however, that being expensive for poor people who would still be categorized with the use of inferior cooking fuels with very high emissions of particulate matter.

To address such issues and make development genuinely sustainable, policymakers have evolved greening growth policies such as reforming energy subsidies or trade barriers that protect pollution-intensive sectors which entail politically difficult reforms in the patterns of pricing, regulation and public investment and demands for complex changes in behaviors' and social norms.

The key question remains whether such government initiatives and "green growth" policies can address the goals of employment, solidarity and development. Moreover, a sustainable economy must arise from and be supported by a societal consensus regarding this mission of the economy. Lacking this societal consensus for sustainability, governments cannot uphold the political power needed to guard their natural and human resources from extraction and exploitation or to make the social and ecological investments essential for economic sustainability. Furthermore, a government policy-failure with respect to the introduction of energy-efficient technologies in order to lessen consumption of people might lead to more energy consumption as it might create an increase in the real income. Thus, the debate of sustainable economic development boils down to the effectiveness of such "greening growth" policies in preserving the three pillars of sustainable development, namely, social, political and environmental and in guaranteeing that the interests of one group are not detrimental to the others.

Keywords: Consumption, Economic Development, Energy-Efficient Technologies, Green Growth Policy, Natural Resources.

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Farmer-managed irrigation systems in the Karakorum (Skardu district) and trans-Himalaya (Kargil district): How sustainable are present-day irrigation development interventions?

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Abstract

Research carried out in the Indian Himalaya points to a range of lessons that can be applied during government interventions to improve small-scale farmer-managed irrigation systems (*kuhls*). Research in Himachal Pradesh concludes that irrigation rights documented in the British era provide much of 'the social glue' required for operating and sustaining the small hydraulic works (*kuhls*), and that attention to these important irrigation rights influences the success of an irrigation agency when providing assistance to traditional irrigation systems (Coward 1990). Later research concludes that increasing levels of non-farm employment have created stresses in the management of irrigation systems, which have led to declining participation, increased conflict, and a declining legitimacy of customary rules and authority structures (Baker 1997). Regarding participatory irrigation management (PIM) reforms, research indicates that formation of user groups is insufficient a condition for informed water-related decisions for a sustainable future: the mere formation of user groups does not solve problems such as inefficient water use, social power capture by rural elites, and inadequate support from government institutions (Saravanan 2009, 2010). Coward's earlier work suggests that by viewing irrigation through a property prism, state interventions in irrigation development can be designed in such a way to be more sustainable and effective (Coward 1986). While state intervention is a politically driven process, and elected political leaders do seek to use irrigation development activities as a form of reward for their political constituencies, what is important, according to Coward (1990), is that government interventions in irrigation systems do not erode local responsibilities and initiatives for sustaining small-scale hydraulic facilities. Saravanan (2009, 2010) suggests, for a sustainable future, the building of actors' capacities and the creation of diverse forums to facilitate informed decisions.

This paper tests the above propositions by presenting an analysis of research undertaken in a trans-Himalayan region that was subjected to revenue settlements and creation of records of rights in the early 20th century, similar to those implemented in Himachal Pradesh. Fieldwork was conducted in 2013 in Shigar valley (Skardu district, Pakistan) and in Suru valley (Kargil district, India). This allows for a comparison of present-day irrigation development interventions in sites having similar socio-cultural and ecological characteristics but differing political environments. In each site villages were independently selected for intensive study. A case study approach to irrigation system management was pursued that included observation, mapping of irrigation systems and farmland, and interviews with farmers. Further interviews were conducted outside of the selected research villages, with government and non-government organization (NGO) functionaries. The analysis includes an examination of the relationship between the irrigation rights recorded prior to Partition and the contemporary organisation and operation of irrigation systems, and an appraisal of interventions to improve irrigation systems by the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) in Skardu, and Indian state agencies in Kargil.

The paper argues that although the record of irrigation rights may have worked to structure organisation for irrigation management over much of the past century, a variety of contemporary processes are leading to modifications of the earlier rules (e.g. cash payments rather than in kind remunerations). Non-farm employment has always been an important source of income for nearly all households in the research villages; however households do ensure that a male member is present in the village to fulfill irrigation system maintenance duties. Differing types of state intervention in Skardu and Kargil have impacted upon irrigation in differing ways, with some positive outcomes (e.g. interventions which reduce the number of days spent by villagers cleaning and repairing canals) and some negative outcomes (e.g. the further reinforcement of social divisions in a village along political party lines). In practice, little effort appears to be made by the various agencies intervening in local irrigation to understand water rights systems. As a result their approaches to intervention may, in complex ways, erode some local responsibilities and initiatives for sustaining irrigation systems. Formation of user committees, it is clear, is insufficient a condition for development activities to be sustainable in the longer term. The paper's conclusion echoes Saravanan's call for the building of capacities of relevant actors, and the offering of diverse forums to share information and facilitate informed water-related decisions.

Keywords: Farmer-managed irrigation systems, Intervention, Kargil, Skardu, Water Rights

Direct Selling and Its Benefits to the Market Place

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Abstract

Direct selling is a type of sales channel where products are marketed directly to customers, eliminating the need for middlemen – wholesalers, advertisers and retailers. Direct selling can be conducted one-on-one, in a group or party format, or online. Direct selling is a dynamic, vibrant, rapidly expanding channel of distribution for the marketing of products and services directly to consumers. The purpose of this paper is to describe direct selling and the benefits that it brings to the marketplace.

There are presently over 60 national DSAs represented in its membership, and in 2011 it is estimated that worldwide retail sales by its members accounted for more than US\$154 Billion through the activities of more than 91 million independent sales representatives.

The World Federation and its national DSAs have always understood the necessity for ethical conduct in the marketplace and as such the WFDSA has developed a World Codes of Conduct for Direct Selling which all national DSAs have approved and implemented in their national codes. All direct selling companies agree to be bound by these codes as a condition of membership in a national DSA.

What makes direct selling such an attractive career option is the flexibility it offers. Those who engage in direct selling are independent contractors who determine how much time and energy they want to invest in their businesses. They set their own hours, and define and control their work-family life balance. An Independent Sales Representative is her own boss. Direct selling is also a way to own a business with a minimal capital investment.

Research shows some of the most popular reasons people choose direct selling are it is a good way to meet and socialize with people, it offers flexible work schedules, it is a good way to earn extra income, it is a good way to own a business and Earnings are in proportion to efforts.

There are no required levels of education, experience, financial resources or physical condition. People of all ages and from all backgrounds have succeeded in direct selling. Direct sellers are independent contractors. You're your own boss, which means you can work part-time or full-time - you choose when and how much you want to work, set your own goals and determine yourself how to reach them, earn in proportion to your own efforts. The level of success you can achieve is limited only by your willingness to work hard, own a business of your own with very little or no capital investment and receive training and support from an established company.

Thousands of people have lost a substantial amount of money by participating in pyramid schemes. Many of the victims knew they were gambling (although they didn't know the odds were rigged against them). Many others, however, thought they were paying for help in starting a small business of their own. These people were fooled by pyramid schemes disguised to look like legitimate businesses. The purpose of this paper is to help you avoid falling victim to pyramid schemes, whether simple or disguised. Simple pyramid schemes are similar to chain letters, while disguised pyramids are like wolves in sheep's clothing, hiding their true nature in order to fool potential investors and evade law enforcers.

You can buy with confidence, when you purchase products from a direct selling company that is a member of your local DSA. Each DSA member company must adhere to a Code of Ethics, which protects you as a consumer.

The information provided in this paper will help us understand our rights as a consumer. It will also answer some general questions we may have about the direct selling industry. It also contains Global Statistics on Sales Strategies, Product Categories and Sales Methods.

Keywords : Amway, Avon, Direct selling, DSA, Herbalife, Natura, Oriflame, WFDSA.

Access and Benefit Sharing Under Nagoya Protocol and Sustainable Development: A Critical Analysis

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Abstract

The debate over control and ownership of natural and bio genetic resources has a chequered history International environmental law. Historically genetic resources were perceived and acknowledged as part of common heritage of mankind. The common heritage approach became popular with the adoption of Law of Sea convention 1982 where deep sea bed has been declared to be the common heritage of humanity. The common heritage concept implied this is accessible to all and the genetic and biological resources are not amenable to appropriation or private ownership. But with development of technologies and the raising instances of Bio piracy developing countries, which hold most of the world's biodiversity, became increasingly concerned that this exploitation of genetic resources did not result in benefits." Access to benefit sharing (ABS) was considered as an answer. Adopted on October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) of 1992, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (NP) has come into force after its 50th ratification on 2013.

The Protocol was necessitated and conceived to respond to the many criticisms voiced concerning the Access and Benefits-Sharing (ABS) provisions in the CBD. At the core, ABS reflects a fundamental quid pro quo between the Southern and Northern states. Nagoya protocol details on procedure for access and benefit sharing, disclosure mechanisms. Principles of transparency and democracy, With Nagoya protocol there is a renewed emphasis on the potential for capturing the value of bio diversity for sustainable development. The possible benefits include research funding and sharing monetary and non- monetary benefits, transfer of technology. If implemented in letter and spirit this protocol can form the bedrock of promoting direct, long term, real sustainable development encompassing all facets at economic ecological and at social level. It can promote equity between countries and between countries and indigenous communities as it addresses key concerns such as transparency, monitoring and tracking mechanisms, disclosure, the establishment of an international compliance committee. At the same time Nagoya protocol does leave various questions un attended and as well as raise some fundamental issues like its role in gender development and poverty eradication as they constitute some core aspect of sustainable development. Biodiversity hotspots are often identified as regions of acute poverty. Another major area of concern will be the role of stakeholders who majorly composes of the indigenous community. Their involvement and real benefit sharing mechanism is needed if Nagoya Protocol has to have any measurable impact of achieving sustainable development. The paper analyses the protection of benefit sharing envisaged under Nagoya protocol and its possible role in promoting sustainable development. Given the complex and diverse relationships and issues involved in bio diversity protection it is important to adopt a multidimensional approach when identifying beneficiaries and benefits and designing benefit-sharing mechanisms. Paper will address the critical gap of Nagoya protocol in this regard. Paper will further look at the institutional and policy level mechanisms taken by India in achieving the objectives of Nagoya Protocol.

Keywords: Access and Benefit Sharing, Bio- Diversity, Common Heritage, Nagoya Protocol Sustainable Development, Technology Transfer

Medical Tourism: Global Competition in Health Care

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Abstract

Global competition is emerging in the health care industry. Patients from developing countries have traveled to developed countries for high quality medical care. Now, the trend is changing a growing number of less-affluent patients from developed countries are traveling to regions once characterized as "third world." These patients or the "medical tourists" are seeking high quality medical care at affordable prices.

Reasons for this medical- tourism are many. Residents of countries with national health insurance policies, including Canada and the United Kingdom, often travel to other countries, because they lack timely access to elective procedures due to rationing. Also, national health systems sometimes deny treatment to particular patients. However, for most medical tourists, including those from the United States, the reason for travel is financial. Some American medical tourists also seek lower prices for treatments not covered by insurance.

New *Medical Travel Intermediaries* have come into picture for those patients who are not familiar with specific medical facilities abroad. They can coordinate their treatment through these services which work like specialized travel agents. They investigate health care providers to ensure quality and screen customers to assess those who are physically well enough to travel. Medical intermediaries help patients select physicians and hospitals.

Apart from patient travel, many medical tasks can be *outsourced* to skilled professionals abroad when the physical presence of a physician is unnecessary. This can include interpretation of diagnostic tests and long-distance international collaboration, particularly in case management and disease management programs, because of the availability of information technology.

The Lower prices for treatment in foreign hospitals has a number of **reasons**, Labor costs are lower, third parties (insurance and government) are less involved or not at all involved, package pricing with price transparency is normal, there are fewer attempts to shift the cost of charity care to paying patients, there are fewer regulations limiting collaborative arrangements between health care facilities and physicians, and malpractice litigation costs are lower.

Cost and quality are obviously the most important factors patients consider in **choosing specific destinations** for treatment. But many patients also consider amenities commonly found in resorts and hotels.

India despite the long travel time involved is rapidly becoming popular destination for medical tourists. It arguably has the lowest cost and highest quality of all medical tourism destinations and English is widely spoken. Several hospitals are accredited by the Joint Commission International (JCI) and staffed by highly trained physicians. Prices can be obtained in advance and many hospitals bundle services into a package deal that includes the medical procedure and the cost of treating any complications.

India is considered the leading country promoting medical tourism-and now it is moving into a new area of "medical outsourcing," where subcontractors provide services to the overburdened medical care systems in western countries. India's National Health Policy declares that treatment of foreign patients is legally an "export" and deemed "eligible for all fiscal incentives extended to export earnings." The reports estimate that medical tourism to India is growing by 30 per cent a year. Thus we see that this global competition in the Healthcare Sector is mainly becoming a boon to the developing countries like India. Moreover due to the international transaction Medical tourists provide resources to improve health care.

In the era of globalization India must not refrain itself from cashing the opportunity. It must utilize its resources and work for offering first-rate medical care at third-world prices. India wants to increase medical tourism, but it does not yet have the necessary tools to impress patients looking abroad for their health care solutions. However, by earning accreditations, standardizing medical practices, and getting government, hospitals and tourism agencies, India can increase its medical tourism industry to \$2.2 billion per year. The wide use of alternative medicine makes India a particularly intriguing destination, and India can bill itself as a holistic health solution. The WHO estimates that India must increase the number of hospital beds by 80,000 per annum for the next five years to meet growing demand. The Chamber of Industry in India believes that the country should seek to replicate the success of the Thai model and capitalize on its inherent strengths to become a world player in medical tourism.

Keywords: Medical Tourism; Global Competition; Healthcare; India.

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**Governing REDD and Tenure Regimes: Theoretical and Practical Challenges
in Weak Property Rights in Sub Saharan Africa**

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Abstract

Forest governance in developing countries and Africa in particular faces major challenges including: forest loss, competing land uses and the market, policy and governance failures. The competing land uses are mainly from agriculture that accounts for the immediate causes of forest loss, then in turn, the market, policy and governance failures. Deforestation accounts for 17 percent of the global greenhouse emissions, more than emissions from transport and agriculture. These factors have raised questions on how forest governance works in determining who gets to decide about forests and how? The article focuses on forest governance in the context climatic change adaptation and mitigation, particularly on governance challenges under Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) scheme, which has gained prominence as a technical, political and social responses to climatic change. Within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climatic Change (UNFCCC), it is being considered to be more effective and offers low cost option by paying for forest conservation. The article further questions the effectiveness of REDD+ incentives-based approach in greening the forest through the market paradigm in situations where property rights are non-existence. In fact, forest and land rights are embedded in multiple significance including agriculture, ecosystems and rural livelihoods. In most cases forests and lands are owned under common access with rights overlapping. This makes it very cumbersome to determine use and control rights. In addition, it is evidenced that REDD implementation in weak governance is not satisfying. The implementation is associated with lack of participation, consultation and compensation. A replica of a market model in the payment for conservation of carbon stocks in collective rights scenario creates more controversies in weak governance which lack local-national arrangements for the market to deliver positive outcomes. Presence of competing interests outweighs nature conservation. The principles of free, prior and informed consultation are rarely respected. The presence of hostility against the scheme raises the question legitimacy and limited involvement of local peoples. As the value of standing forests increases, powerful actors tends to capture those values to the disadvantages of the less powerful forest dependent poor. Securing resource rights in this case is a prerequisite for the market-based incentive approach to work effectively and this will give the poor leverage in power relations with government and the private developers since effective rights will be accompanied with effective sanctions against their transgression. The paper examines the flaws in REDD scheme through a market model in the context of weak governance in which collective rights predominate in the local communities.

Keywords: adaptation, climatic change, carbon rights, financing, sustainability

Economic Growth and the Environment: An Empirical Analysis

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Abstract

The present study is an attempt to understand the relation between economic development and environment in south asian countries. The primary focus of the study is to examine the nature and extent of relationship between economic development and environmental quality in these countries. In this study we use a cross section and time series i.e. panel database for a South Asian countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri lanka) for the period 1980-2011. The ultimate sample size depended on the availability of data for the relevant variables. The environmental indicators used in this study are CO₂ emissions, methane emissions, nitrous oxide emissions, agricultural methane emissions, agricultural nitrous oxide emissions, forest area, annual total freshwater withdrawals, bird species threatened, fish species threatened, mammal species threatened and plant species threatened. On the economic side, GDP per capita of a country has been used as proxy for economic development. The other explanatory variables of development used in this study are population density, industry value added, energy use per capita, trade share, and urban population. The study found that all the air pollutant emissions are significantly reduced with increase in income except CO₂ emissions which tends to increase with higher per capita income level. Forest area, bird species threatened and mammal species threatened indicators were significantly improved with rising income. But rising per capita income tends to results in more fresh water withdrawal. All the air polluted indicators CO₂ emissions, methane emissions, nitrous oxide emissions, agricultural methane emissions and agricultural nitrous oxide emissions are deteriorated by high population density. Fish species threatened to rise with higher population density. High industry value is associated with high levels of CO₂ emissions, agricultural methane emissions and agricultural nitrous oxide emissions. The bird species threatened, mammal species threatened and plant species threatened indicators are tends to worsen with high industry value. The study reveals that nitrous oxide emissions, agricultural nitrous oxide emissions and fresh water withdrawal rise significantly with increase in trade. Results indicates that more open economies experience significantly less CO₂ emissions, bird species threatened, fish species threatened, mammal species threatened and plant species threatened. The study further reveals that all the air pollution indicators i.e. CO₂ emissions, methane emissions, nitrous oxide emissions, agricultural methane emissions and agricultural nitrous oxide emissions tends to worsen with increase in urban population. Similarly the condition of other environmental indicators deteriorates as increasing urban population tends to result in higher levels of fresh water withdrawal, bird species threatened, fish species threatened, mammal species threatened and plant species threatened.

Keywords: Economic Growth; Environmental Kuznets Curve; Environmental Quality; GDP per capita.

Ref#: 148/IND/13

**Good Governance, Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law: Imperatives
for Sustainable Development in Nigeria**

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Abstract

Constitutionalism, rule of law and good governance has remained topical and recurring issues in the discourse about African states. The ideals of those concepts however seem to have been continually and continuously been flouted by most African states. Some scholars have argued that the ideal of good governance has continued to elude most states of African descent because of the twin problems of endemic corruption and basic departure from the rule of law and constitutionalism. Thus African states have been accused of having “constitutions without the spirit of constitutionalism”, of having laws without respect for the rule of law and of “creating poverty out of God given wealth” due to lack of good governance. In the last one decade and a half there has been a growing consciousness for the enthronement of these ideals as they have been recognized as the necessary pre-requisites for the attainment of an overall human and capital development and growth of a nation- ideals which are much more needed in developing nations. Through the instrumentality of the African Union (AU) certain laws and initiatives have been put in place such as the AU Charter on Democracy, Elections and Good Governance (giving set guidelines for the conduct of elections) and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) initiative of New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) designed to monitor governments of African states in all the realms of their governance activities (the executive, legislative and judiciary). In the West African sub region there is the Economic Communities of West African States (ECOWAS) Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance geared towards the same goal. These have been acclaimed as good steps in the right direction of achieving good governance in the African continent and the West African sub region respectively. Nigeria is an African nation and in particular, a member of ECOWAS. This paper examines the tripartite concepts of constitutionalism, rule of law and good governance in Africa taking Nigeria as the case study. It argues that there is a link between these three concepts as they will continue to be the indices by which the Nigerian nation will be measured in terms of their development not only in terms of economic or capital growth but also in the areas of human development and political wellbeing. The paper argues that although the current efforts of the Nigerian government towards the eradication of endemic corruption (stemming from lack of respect for the rule of law) and the establishment of machineries for good governance are efforts geared towards achieving sustainable development in the country; the activities of certain government agencies in Nigeria belie the goal. Taking a few case studies from the Nigerian experience, it posits that the continuing lack of respect for the rule of law and constitutionalism in Nigeria are the greatest impediments to the attainment of sustainable development in Nigeria. The paper therefore makes some suggestions for policy implications towards the achievement of the overarching goal of sustainable development in Nigeria.

Keywords: Constitutionalism, Good Governance, Human and Capital Growth, Rule of law, Sustainable Development

Climate Change, Responsibility and Justice

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Abstract

Climate Change concerns first acquired political dimensions from the 1960 onwards. But the Brundtland Report of 1987 titled 'Our Common Future', which warned that the traditional patterns of economic growth were not sustainable in the long run, brought the world focus towards the accelerating climate change. This led to the adoption of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (also known as the Earth Summit) held at Rio De Janeiro, Brazil in 1992. The objective of the treaty was to stabilize the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would avoid dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

The consciousness to reduce these GHG emissions led to two groups emerging in the global policy debate on climate change. One was the rich industrialized countries or developed countries (also called the Global North) and the other was the developing countries (also called the Global South), had conflicting viewpoints. The Global North are in favour of discussing the status quo of environmental issue and in support of equal responsibility for ecological conservation whereas the Global South are of the considered view that since much of the ecological degradation has been caused by the developed industrialized countries so they must take the responsibility to undo the damage now. In addition to this developing countries are in a process of industrial development and therefore must not be subject to the same restrictions or regulations that apply to the developed countries.

In pursuance of the above debate on the responsibility to reduce the GHG emissions, Rio Declaration which was adopted at the Earth Summit acknowledged the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities", which meant that developed countries were to have increased responsibility to reduce GHG emissions in accordance with their historical per capita carbon emissions. The UNFCCC also reiterates the same principle. Acknowledging that per capita emissions in developing countries is still low, developing countries including India and China were exempted from legally binding GHG reduction targets that were imposed on the industrialized countries after the Kyoto Protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan in 1997. From 1997 onwards there emerged three groups having different stances with a split in the Global North group: United States and Canada, European Union and Global South (developing countries).

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has in its 2013 Report stated that it is necessary to keep global temperature below 2°C, beyond which dangerous levels of climate change will be unleashed. The rich countries have committed to an emission reduction of 13-19% level instead of the expected 25-40%.

The US, which is not a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol, has increased its emissions by 8% between 1990 and 2011. On October 2-4 2013, pre-Conference of Parties was held at Warsaw, Poland and the US delegation stressed more on issues such as finance, emission trading scheme and transfer of clean technology to developing countries rather on emission cuts. The US is asking for common emission reduction targets for both developing and developed countries and Canada withdrew from the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol in 2011.

The EU, which has always projected itself a leader in reducing emissions, has set a low target of reducing emission targets of 20% below 1990 level by 2020 but has already achieved a emission reduction of 18% by 2011.

With two-thirds of the carbon space being occupied by the developed world, low commitments of the developed countries promise to push the developing world to take on a higher level of reduction post-2020. This in particular is unjust as carbon emissions of developing countries are a tiny fraction of the emissions of the developed world. This is leading to a clear trend of voluntary emission reduction targets because of the non-consensus among the parties to the UNFCCC convention.

For the sake of brevity the aim of the paper will be to give the current environmental negotiating stance of the developed countries and the developing countries and the effect of the 2013 United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report on the negotiations to be held in Warsaw, Poland where the 19th session of the UNFCCC will take place in November 2013.

Keywords: Climate Change; Earth Summit; Greenhouse Gases; United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report.

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Case Studies on Constraints & Prospects in Sustainable Tourism

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Abstract

Interventions through international, national & regional conferences; providing frameworks; formulating policies, implementing, monitoring & evaluating them; consequently giving recommendations is a step towards sustainable development. Adopting principles, laying down goals and strategies, enforcing them, ever since the 'call for one earth': is a constructive approach. However, coming down to the grass root level, how far has IT enabled awareness, justified mass participation through decision making and voicing their opinions? Is governance mechanism truly bringing about transparency with respect to tourism? How far applicable has been the global- national- local scale? Can tourism enhance the livelihood opportunities of the marginalized? Well a humble attempt has been made through intensive case studies across the state- nation- transnational boundaries to look into these queries. The geographical approaches in tourism development and the new trends in tourism have been focussed upon in the regional (Eastern India) & national (India) context. A comparative picture on the techniques adopted in the management of resources in the coastal environments of India & Thailand has been stressed upon. This has been done keeping in mind the cultural differences, the vulnerability, the tourism potential of the respective areas, the sharing of responsibilities, the risks undertaken and the rewards gained between the public and private sectors. Tourism is a multi- sectoral activity and focussing on all the varied aspects is beyond the scope of this paper. The findings are based on secondary data accessed and primary data analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively after selecting the potential stakeholders. The coastal environments of India and Thailand have been considered in this paper due to some similar natural phenomena: be it subjecting to cyclones or the limestone caves. The comparative analysis of the two countries reveals that there is scope for further development in accordance with the sustainable development principles. India needs to develop her resources to the fullest keeping in mind her huge human resource potential and has to raise her earnings through tourism considering her varied natural and socio- cultural aspects. Poverty which is the main barrier (rich-poor gap), the urban-rural divide, corruption and constraints in infra structural development and many other related issues require more stringent measures . This is possible through sincere PPP co-ordination, active people's participation, adopting stricter environmental code of conduct by all: tourists (guests) and the joy givers (hosts). Thailand has a significant amount of its GDP contributed by its tourism sector; the infra structural development is much better. However more active people's participation is required as expressed by some of the respondents.

Keywords: Transitional boundaries, Sustainable tourism, coastal environment, human resources

Ref#: 156/IND/13

Urging policy formulation on Millets: An indispensable source of nutrition for *Poraja*, *Kandha* and *Penthia* tribal communities in Kundra Block, Odisha, India

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Abstract

Traditionally finger millet (*Eleusine coracana*) and little millet (*Panicum sumatrense*) have been regarded as major cereal crops in tribal communities of Kundra, Odisha state providing food and nutritional security. The influence of the food habits of urban population, distribution of cereals like rice by the Government of India at a subsidised rate/free of cost under social welfare programmes, lack of knowledge on scientific agronomic practices and absence of strategic policy planning for sustainable agriculture and food and nutritional security in tribal tracts of Odisha state have threatened the very existence of nutritious millets. Millets, known for their climate resilience and high mineral and vitamin content, are healthy cereals providing a great solution to the global challenge of food security under the present context of climate change. The present study highlights the traditional inter-linkage of three tribal communities namely *Poraja*, *Kandha* and *Penthia* with millets, planning of scientific interventions in participatory mode with the communities to promote millet production, consumption and commerce and study of the impact of interventions for policy formulation on sustainable agriculture and food and nutritional security. The encouraging outcomes with policy recommendations are disseminated at local, national and international levels involving all stakeholders such as government agencies, not for profit organisations, print and electronic media, scientific community, funding agencies, traders and farmers with a view of favourable policy formulation to ensure sustainable agriculture and enhance food and nutrition security in ancient tribal tracts of Eastern India.

Keywords: Gender, Millets, Policy, Sustainable agriculture, Tribal farmer.

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Climate Change, Perennial Crude Oil Theft and the Quest for Sustainable Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

Nigeria is a country that is richly endowed with both human and natural resources. Chief among the natural resources is crude oil, which has been the mainstay of the country's economy for decades, yet an average Nigerian lives on less than the equivalent of one US Dollars a day. Clearly, there is a disconnect between the endowment and the standard of living of majority of the people. Considering the available resources, the country is not developing at the rate expected, so many things are responsible for this stunted growth, they include, but are not limited, to corruption, mismanagement, unbridled stealing of the country's crude oil and other criminal activities. The fulcrum of this paper is the negative effects of the stealing of Nigeria's crude oil on the climate and how it has clipped the growth of the economy.

In recent times climate change has taken the front seat in global discourse, there has been a growing concern about changes in the climate and the quest that no stone must be left unturned in addressing the issue. Good climate is *a sine qua non* to sustainable development. The acts of human beings had been fingered as the causes of adverse changes in the environment, such deviant behaviours includes those acts associated with crude oil theft such as oil spillages ; illegal oil pipeline breakages ; illegal bunkering of crude oil; environmental degradation ; deforestation ; etc. This egregious state of things was possible because of lack of good governance flowing from lack of respect for the rule of law.

The deleterious effects of such acts of man described above are manifest in a myriad of social and economic malaise such as scarcity of potable water translating into health hazards and thus lowering the standard of living of its masses. Further there has been huge and recurring loss of revenue that could be used to mitigate the effect of climate change and the setting up of processes to properly address adaptation to natural changes in the climate and also to delimit deforestation in Nigeria. Some other effects includes pollution of land for agriculture ; accumulation of harmful substances in food webs; diminishing biodiversity and people resorting to less environmentally friendly means of generating electricity and power. These factors represent some of the challenges which have impeded the country's likelihood of achieving the much touted millennium development goals (MDGS) of the current government in Nigeria.

This work posits that there is a strong bond between good governance, sustainable development and climate change. The paper analyses these concepts as they relate to crude oil theft in Nigeria and its impact on climate change in Nigeria. It observes that sustainable development will naturally thrive in an environment of good governance and proper equitable utilization of the country's crude oil resources. The paper concludes that with the enthronement of necessary enforcement machineries for good governance in Nigeria, the currently booming international crude oil theft syndicate and its attendant ills would be stemmed thus ensuring sustainable development in Nigeria.

Keywords: Climate Change; Crude Oil Spillage; Environmental Degradation; Good Governance; Oil Theft; Sustainable Development.

Sustainable Development in Agriculture and Green Farming in India

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Abstract

Sustainable development as a concept first developed in 1987, it was during this time the scientific evidence began to mount, indicating that human actions were having negative impact on the environment on a global scale leading to outcomes such as global warming. The idea of sustainable development became a widespread concern when people concluded that the current path of human activity was unsustainable in the long term and changes in the human society were needed. If we take all the global issues together, nothing draws more attention than political and economic upheavals as well as climate change and food security. While political and economic upheavals seem to be of temporary nature, climate change and food security are going to have long term implications and call for both immediate and sustained effort by people across the globe as these are vital for our existence itself. Since the time man came to know about the benefits of organized living, he has unscrupulously used the bounties of nature and this practice continues in a great measure today also. So long as man was ignorant about modern farm practices, he had stuck to the farming that is now thought of being sustainable and beneficial in the long term. Organic farming was the original type of agriculture that had been practiced from time immemorial. It is the form of farming which relies on techniques such as crop rotation, green manure, compost and biological pest control. One of the world's most resilient agro systems dating back to prehistoric times is forest gardening comprising of organic food production system. Weed management without the use of pesticides, soil management by use of crop rotation practices and green manure comprising animal manure is a significant feature of organic farming. Sustained campaign and awareness amongst agriculturists about sustainable development these days has led farmers to manage their fields more proficiently. Interest is driven by consumer demand for locally grown, organic and sustainable products. But still a lot more is required to be done. Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy and it is the provider of livelihood for nearly half of the working population. At the same time the agriculture is also one of the largest contributors of greenhouse gas emissions. The emissions are primarily due to methane from rice paddies, enteric fermentation in ruminant animals and nitrous oxide from the use of manures and fertilizers. Key actions which Indian agriculture should adopt for adjustments in changes to mean temperature and precipitation are changing crop patterns, effective risk management through early warning, improved land management practices, development of resource conserving technologies, credit insurance support to farmers and nutritional strategies for managing heat stress in dairy animals. There is an urgent call for cost effective opportunities for reducing methane generation, emissions in ruminants by modification of diet and nutrient management which will help make adaptation measures sustainable. The need of the hour is devising new policies encouraging green farming as an alternative to farming coupled with use of chemical fertilizers, investment in water harvesting, promoting small farm mechanization, efficient water use technologies and using balanced fertilizers in crop production. Agriculturists indulging in these sustainable techniques can be given financial incentives for improved land management, for resource conservation including water, energy and fossil fuels. As 21st century represents the crisis of survival of human beings there is an urgent necessity to think of future simultaneously. Development is a holistic concept growth cannot alone be termed as development. Development in agriculture has to look into the aspects of social equity, environmental sustainability and people's participation. Sustainable development is not just about conserving our resources; it is about changing our culture to make conservation our way of life. Mahatma Gandhi has rightly said that: The Earth provides enough to satisfy every person's need but not every person's greed.

Keywords: climate change, crop rotation, organic farming, sustainable development

Ref#: 161/IND/13

Development and Management of Water Resources: A Sustainable Approach

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Abstract

Water is a life giving and life sustaining substance. It is one of those important resources which have catered to the needs of mankind from centuries right from the time of civilization. With the passage of time the use of water has grown exponentially and the availability has declined due to some natural and manmade factors. With the greater interference and ever growing greed, human race has certainly disturbed the ecological balance especially disrupting the hydrospheric balance. Being a developing nation with ever growing population, proper management of water resources is an issue of concern. Today if we see, there is no proper distribution of water in all the geographical locations. In some places, water is in abundance and gets flooded away while in some areas, draughts narrate their dry story. Also, at some places the water is present in abundance but is of no use. Therefore, for the optimum utilization of water, proper steps have to taken. Water crisis is a global issue and with the rise in population, urbanization, industrialization this problem has become more acute. Internationally, this issue is being dealt with serious concern as many bodies have been set up and laws have been put into place for water management, so, in this paper we would suggest some similar alternatives for India, to deal/cope with this problem. We would therefore, suggest ways and methods for the proper management of the water resources available and the development of the same, so that the problem of water crisis could be met and there would be a proper flow of water in the country.

To timely tackle this growing problem, sustainable model should be adopted. The paper would highlight the current status of water resources in the country, the problems related to water or the challenges faced by the water sector in India, the action plan proposed by the government and the strategies for proper water management both in rural and urban areas. Water is a resource which should be used in a sustainable manner as it is the elixir for mankind. In order to create a sustainable environment, the management of resources is very important and water is the most vital of all resources. Thus, to maintain its vitality, measures have to be taken which involves the development and management of this substance in the best possible manner for a healthy and sustainable environment.

Keywords: ecological balance, hydrospheric, optimum utilization, sustainable environment

Ref#: 163/IND/13

Protective clothing for the workers harvesting wheat - An Assessment in Punjab state

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Abstract

Agriculture, with its allied sectors, is unquestionably the largest livelihood provider in India, more so in the vast rural areas. There are numerous problems for the workers particularly during harvesting of the cereal crops. To tackle with these problems, protective clothing was developed for the workers harvesting wheat. It is expected that the use of protective clothing will reduce their exposure to wheat husk (dust). According to the problems faced by the workers harvesting wheat, four protective garments (beak shaped mask, cap with mask, hood mask and scarf mask) were designed and developed to protect them from the health hazards. The level of acceptability and satisfaction of the functional features of these four protective garments were assessed separately. The respondents were satisfied with the functional features of beak shaped mask. All the respondents (100%) were highly satisfied with the protection, the cap with mask provided to them. Beak shaped mask, cap with mask, and scarf mask were developed and stitched using fine cotton fabric, whereas hood mask was designed and stitched using knitted cotton. The hood mask was not accepted by the respondents even for the trial purpose because it was uncomfortable due to the hot weather conditions prevailing in the state. All the respondents (100%) were highly satisfied with all the attributes of the scarf mask.

Keywords: dust, garments, harvesting, protective, wheat

Ref: 165/IND/13

Fundamental Issues Affecting Offshore Education: Experience from a Developing Country

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Abstract

Based on his experience in an offshore campus of an Australian university in a developing country, the writer, using the replies to a questionnaire given to the staff and students of the campus, investigates fundamental issues affecting the delivery of the academic program within the campus. The major issues discussed include the suitability of the curriculum, sensitivity to cultural differences, effective teaching methodology, and competence in language skills. The provision of offshore education overcomes many of the difficulties faced by international students who travel overseas to study, and if attention to these four fundamental issues is maintained, then there is more likelihood of the continued sustainability of international education by Australian universities.

Keywords: offshore education; language; pedagogy; curriculum; cultural understanding

Ref#: 166/IND/13

Environmental Issues in International Trade: The WTO Perspective of Sustainable Development

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Abstract

One of the objective of the WTO as reflected in its Preamble is “While allowing for the optimal use of the world’s resources in accordance with the objectives of sustainable development, seeking both to preserve the environment and to enhance the means of doing so in a manner consistent with their respective needs and concerns at different levels of economic development”.

Protection of the environment was not a major issues when GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) 1947 was drawn up. But gradually after 1950 more than 150 countries subscribe to the WTO and GATT regulating international trade and the GATT has made great progress in its original goal of reducing tariffs. As a result, attention has shifted to non-tariff barriers like obligation related to environmental protection, for free flow of international trade.

It is the potential impact of economic growth and poverty alleviation that makes trade a powerful ally of sustainable development. The multilateral trading system is an important tool to carry forward international efforts aimed at achieving this goal. The purpose of trade liberalization and the WTO’s key principle of non-discrimination is a more efficient allocation of resources, which should be positive for the environment.

Back in 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, the Earth Summit) in Rio recognized the contribution that the multilateral trading system could make to sustainable development. At that time, the system came under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the WTO’s predecessor.

The Rio declaration stated that an open, equitable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system had a key contribution to make to national and international efforts to better protect and conserve environmental resources and promote sustainable development.

There is now a consensus that trade, especially trade liberalization, should be seen not as an end in itself but as a means to development. And development should not be confined to mere productivity and efficiency gains, but associated with better social and environmental conditions, particularly for those living in poverty. The poor in developing countries are dependent on the natural environment. Many of them, especially the rural poor, rely on it to meet their basic human needs, such as food, water and shelter, and generating income. They are also the most immediately affected by environment degradation.

In that context, progress in the multilateral trading system should be inextricably linked to progress in the accomplishment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Environmental requirements in key export markets, for instance, are becoming more frequent, stringent and multidimensional. Developing countries therefore need to strengthen their capacity to meet higher standards in export markets. This will yield longer-term benefits in terms of greater resource efficiency, higher occupational safety, improved public health conditions and less environmental pollution.

There has been considerable interest in exploring opportunities for enhanced trade in products with environmental and developmental benefits, including in the context of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Environmentally preferable products include organic, non-wood forest, traditional-knowledge-based and renewable energy products. Markets for such products are growing quickly and can be further promoted.

Organic agriculture, for example, offers developing countries a wide range of local sustainable development benefits, including improved livelihoods, food security and health for rural populations, less environmental

degradation, improved soil fertility, preservation of traditional agricultural knowledge and species, and community empowerment.

In the wake of the Tuna-Dolphin decision of 1992 the international trade regime came under severe attacks from proponents of the environmental protection lobby around the world. The uninformed nature of attacks of this sort and the level of misinformation led some observers to conclude that origins of the trade and environment conflict could be traced to a clash of cultures between free traders and environmentalists.

Therefore, in this paper the author will cover the key issues and environmental challenges considered by the WTO for development of international trade, discussing GATT provisions, relevant cases, various WTO agreements and the unexplored areas on which emphasis is required to be given.

Keywords: Environment, GATT, International Trade, Sustainable Development, WTO

Ref#: 173/IND/13

Right to Pollute? ; An Understanding on the Implications of International Carbon Trading Market

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Abstract

The nature has laid down the very foundation of our being on this planet and we in this rat race to compete amongst ourselves have ignored the very existence of our natural life support. This era of industrialization has swept the green cover of our planet and turned into a land of concrete jungles producing the black fumes with the mere intention to meet the ever growing greed of the nations. In this blind folded race, citizenry of the world nations became oblivious that their greed had to be fulfilled at the cost of the very nature, which is the source of their own existence. People boorishly ignored the fact that proceeding further would be unfeasible without striking the required equilibrium between the development and the nature. The potential of a human mind to create is incontestable, the potential to destroy cannot be annulled either. The consistency in the callous annihilation by the human race seems to be the accepted norm in fulfilling the undesirable aspiration of becoming the super-powers.

It was only in the late 1980s that the concept of sustainable development was recognized by the intellectuals among the world citizenry. They realized that nature is not capable of replenishing by itself considering the exponential increase in the rate at which development is taking place. One amongst the many steps taken since then to mitigate this danger of compromising our environment and promoting sustainable development is the Kyoto Protocol. This concept gave a new dimension in the understanding of sustainable development. It disclosed a manner in which the nations could proceed with the procession on their conduit of development. However this procession had an impediment. This impediment was nothing but a very clever move by the policy makers of materializing the language well understood by the callous world citizenry, the language of money. The concept brought in a unique collaboration between the means and methods in producing and serving of a financial constraint on it. The idea behind this concept cannot be negated if one says it to be one of the most creative and unsurpassed ideas of all time to address the issue on sustainable development.

This measure introduced the concept of 'carbon credit' which intended to serve on the issue of ever rising carbon emissions by the industries. This enormous rise in carbon concentration acted heavily on the environment. The environmentalist feared that this rise would in turn increase the temperature of the globe that shall lead to numerous undesirable consequences. This system in Kyoto Protocol binds the member countries to a 'cap' for the emission of carbon. It also provides for a provision of trading these caps. This technique contributed in multiple ways in dealing with the reduction agenda of carbon by the big money houses, but it did bifurcate the world nation controversially on the basis of development. How-so-ever pioneering this brain-child proved to be, the scantiness weren't far behind. In due course of time the money-makers penetrated these loopholes in their best interest. However, these loopholes as they say are not beyond the scope of rectification. This article discusses the complex working of the concepts in the Kyoto Protocol. It also discusses the implications of the same and probable solutions to the blemishes concerning it in an international echelon.

Keywords: carbon credit, emission, Kyoto Protocol, loopholes, sustainable development

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Residents' Assessment of Neighbourhood Quality in Penang, Malaysia

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Abstract

Housing neighbourhoods affect the quality of life of their residents. Residential and neighbourhood quality to certain extent determines the quality of life of the people. The residents' perception of their housing and neighbourhood environment is based on their satisfaction of dwelling units, physical, social and economic environment. The purpose of this research is to measure neighbourhood quality in both socio-economic and environmental dimensions based on neighbourhood satisfaction of the housing residents using Likert scale. The data were collected from 722 respondents from low-income, middle-income and high-income residential neighbourhoods in Penang. The data analysis used both descriptive and quantitative methods to identify residents' perceptions of their neighbourhood quality. The study found out that the residents were generally satisfied with the physical, social and economic aspects, except for washing room area, recreational and open space, social interaction and cost of living. However, their satisfaction level varied with their neighbourhoods and family background. The research findings would inevitably affect housing market and national housing policies. Therefore, housing policies should take into account the residents' own assessments of their housing neighbourhood and local conditions in order to achieve sustainable urban neighbourhood development.

Keywords: Environment, Neighbourhood quality, Public facilities, Quality of life, Residents' satisfaction;

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Conscious Development Agenda: Towards Governance with Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Indian offices and organisations have quite often had to bear the shameful tag of allegations and charges of red-tapism whereby collected evidences for future planning with sustainable development become inaccessible due to a number of reasons. Whereas it is pertinent to note that, governance of a state/nation depends upon the trust of the people to receive tangible/intangible opportunities for development in the socio-economic, legal environment. When there is deficit of trust due to corrupt practices, spiralling down to the bottom to trace the genesis of any decision made or taken at the pretext of the governmental authorities for the public at large becomes a herculean task. Sustainable Development and Good Governance is the mantra for the upcoming decade for developing countries like India, the authors co-relate this with the value of evidence generation in terms of policy and decision making in the higher strata of the Sub-continental setup.

The authors hypothesize that the evidences collected through investigations end up being discarded or locked up and stacked in files and are never considered relevant for future decision making. The accountability of the decision makers and responsibility of the stakeholders who are at the forefront of governance of the nation, has been found wanting in many areas and on many occasions. We propose to find the actionable forces who try to use 'power' to strategically attain their desired goals and their status of wielding the sword of policy. The paper intends to discuss the role of interested groups or state actors (top bureaucratic, politicians, and business houses) who have access to such information where scientific probe could be set up and evidence gets collected for larger good of the society. The authors hypothesize that stakeholders would incrementally destroy the core evidences such that relevant information gets disjointed for future decision making and sustainable development to give themselves a raised platform to continue their power politics. The authors intend to compare UK model of evidence generation with that of Indian model, additionally the authors study and review the best practices being used by various UN specialized agencies including UNICEF, etc. and implement them in the Indian context, the authors come up with a holistic developmental scenario to be inculcated after thorough research which will lay down a path for a future with sustainable development and good governance. We propose to highlight the necessary changes to formulate relevant laws and procedures with respect to evidence collection and the accessibility of information of the policy making decisions of the governments.

Keywords: Decision Making, Evidence Generation, Good Governance, Policy Making, State Actors, Sustainable Development

Environment and Perception of Sustainable Agriculture Development in India: The Edge of Bio-Fertilizer

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Abstract

Agriculture development and environment both are dependent on each other and through interlinkage among both, agriculture activities affects natural resources as well as environment and vice versa. Agriculture necessitates various types of inputs for better productivity and ground water irrigation, fertilizers, pesticides etc. are key agriculture inputs. These inputs are not appropriate & fruitful for long run agriculture production and after a certain time, use of these inputs creates adverse impact on natural resources. Agricultural activities create non-point pollution and affects environment from various angles like land degradation, water contamination, ground water depletion and climate change. Chemical fertilizers affect natural resources in the form of water contamination and land degradation. A number of chemical fertilizers have more chemical components those are harmful for the soil and human health. An alternative by the use of fertilizer named as bio-fertilizer. Bio-fertilizer is emerging environment friendly input of farming. In India the first study on legume Rhizobium symbiosis was conducted by N.V.Joshi and the first commercial production started as early as 1956. No doubt fertilizers are vital input for the farming. After green revolution in India through government policies and subsidies have encouraged the use of chemical fertilizer for increasing the agriculture productivity. In the initial stage of green revolution it was more beneficiary for the agriculture production. Dependence on chemical fertilizers in the long term agriculture growth means more loss to environment that leads to negative impact on achieving sustainable agriculture development. Agriculture heavily depends on the environmental resources and balance of the ecological system is vital for sustainable agriculture development and extinction of the non-point pollution becomes important for achieving sustainable Agriculture development. The mechanism of the bio- fertilizer is same as chemical fertilizer and eco-friendly for the environment. Bio-fertilizers are used for the same purpose, in order to maintain the growth of the agriculture crops without thinking of the invasion from other insects, increasing the agriculture yield for sustaining the human need. Bio-fertilizers are classified into four types, Nitrogen fixing bio-fertilizer, Phosphorous solubilising bio-fertilizer, Phosphate mobilizing bio-fertilizer and Plant growth promoting bio-fertilizer. Bio-fertilizer is cheap, pollution free and has renewable energy sources. They improve physical properties of soil, soil health and soil fertility with increasing productivity. Other important thing is that it plays an important role in the recycling of plant nutrients. Recently Government of India is promoting the use of bio-fertilizers in agriculture through the National Project on Development and Use of Bio-fertilizers (NPDB) and the state governments are also promoting the use of bio-fertilizer via subsidization and extension programmes. Private commercial units though open to entry are improving their share in distribution. These inputs have multiple beneficial impacts on the farmers and can be relatively cheap and convenient for use. According to Fertilizer Association of India that despite the continuous efforts the use of the input as indicated by the distribution has not grown steadily over time and has been way below projected levels but production and knowledge about bio-fertilizer has increasing rapidly. During 2011-12, the production of bio-fertilizer has been increased up to 40 thousand metric tonnes. But the national scheme is required to implement the new bio-fertilizer based technology through field experience, research and development with financial support to investors. With increasing population, it is necessary to make balance between natural resources and food supply but without sustainable agriculture development, it looks a dream. But bio-fertilizer will emerge as a milestone for the farming and in future it will play a big role for sustainable agriculture development with increasing food production. This paper aims to analysis the characteristic of bio-fertilizer in farming and significance of bio-fertilizer in sustainable agriculture development.

Keywords: Bio-fertilizer Chemical fertilizer, Environment, Land degradation, Sustainable agriculture development,

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Proposal for Empowering Panchayats and Municipalities to Better Realize Sustainable Development within the Indian Mining Sector

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Abstract

This paper is about how to realize sustainable development within the Indian mining sector. The debate over sustainable development is an ongoing one and it has wide connotations with respect to the present environmental problems particularly in the context of mining. The latest issues associated with mining in India namely the illegal mining by the legally bound ones to prevent illegal mining calls for the need to have an appropriate controlling mechanism to better achieve sustainable development. The failure in counting the sanctity of environment as part of a developmental model for economic growth in extreme conditions of poverty in developing states as well as the thought of profit over sanctity in developed states pertain to the significance of sustainable development.

This paper, in four sections, analyzes the need to have a strong local governance to realize sustainable development in the mining sector. All scholars are unanimous in their opinion regarding the significance of sustainable development but they differ in what all things are to be considered to better understand the concept of sustainable development. Therefore the first part of the paper analyzes various definitions on sustainable development in order to arrive at an appropriate definition covering all necessary aspects for the better realization of sustainable development with less expense of time.

In the second part, this paper analyzes the various issues associated with mining sectors across the world including South Africa, Canada, India and Indonesia and suggest that the issues associated with sustainable development are not only developmental issues but also it has some socio-economic and political facets. In order to find equilibrium where the concept of sustainable development is safe there should felt a need to have a proper governing mechanism, which is capable of addressing social, economic, political and developmental issues simultaneously. This paper suggests the grass root level of governance by *panchayats* and municipalities as an effective solution to the problems associated with mining. Local governments are close to problems and actors and they hold responsibilities in relation to various sectors namely energy, water and waste infrastructure, spatial development and educational policies, which are important for creating change.

The third section examines the successful examples of local governance from Indonesia, Sweden, the Netherlands and Norway. The comparative study of Sweden's Climate Strategy for Sustainable Development; Minewater Project, Heerlen, Netherlands and Norway's Environmental Policy for Sustainable Development substantiates the importance or primacy that should give to local governance. The author selected the particular example of Sweden's climate strategy because Sweden's local governments proved to be efficient beyond doubt in climate policy implementation for sustainable development. The Mine Water Project, Heerlen is became very crucial for the present study because the project proved the efficiency of municipalities in making local resources for the long-term sustainability and exists to be a good model to states for achieving sustainable development with respect to mining. A study on Norway's sustainable development policy is very crucial to this paper, since Norway ranked first for Human Development Index worldwide. The importance given to local governments helps Norway to achieve the first position with respect to Human Development Index.

The fourth section explores India's current approach towards sustainable development in mining sector. The paper concludes that municipalities and *panchayats* should be given greater power to realize sustainable development in mining sector.

Keywords: Local Governance, Mining, Municipalities, *Panchayats*, Sustainable Development.

Environment Impact Assessment in national highway projects in India: Policy, Implementation and Challenges

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Abstract

Construction of new national highways and raising the existing ones into international standards has been projected as a central strategy of India in accelerating its ongoing growth and development. The environmental implications of such massive projects of laying roads and procedures and legal structures in place to address the issue have not been subjected to serious discussions in the public sphere. Integrating development and protection of environment has been puzzling for researchers and challenging for policymakers as both are considered to be mutually exclusive making the sustenance of both an extremely difficult proposition. Roads at times are considered to be the veins of a country, facilitating swift movement of people, goods and technologies and thereby acting as a powerful instrument of socio-economic transformation of a country. Although India's economic growth is reflected in its gigantic investments for national highways, touching the construction of 15 Kms per day during 2012 -13, the concern of environment that accompanies the construction has not been seriously addressed. The issue of environment requires to be centralised in such enterprises/projects for ensuring the sustenance of growth and life as damages to the nature will have irreversible consequences. .

It can undisputedly be admitted that the construction, preservation and rehabilitation of roads leads to significant environmental damage to the natural living environment causing ecological destabilization, soil erosion, changes thereby to drainage pattern and groundwater, interference with animal and plant lives, loss of productive agricultural lands, displacement of people, unsettling local economic activities, hasty urbanization, demographic changes and increased air pollution. Poorly planned roads and illegitimate practices in complying with environmental guidelines will have far-reaching and depressing effects on the country and its people.

To minimize these adverse effects created by highway projects, the techniques of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is of utmost importance as over the last few years, EIA has become a major tool for effective environmental management. Today, even almost after three years of the enactment of Environment Impact Assessment Guidance Manual for highways by Ministry of Environment & Forest, various communities and NGO's continue to struggle with frivolous EIA reports, staged public hearings, and dishonest environmental clearances. Cryptic!!

In the whole process, the positions by various stakeholders appear to have become intense and remarkably polarised, with the government and powerful economic agency on one side, and the victims, local communities and NGO's on the other. Despite of large number of policy and law relating to the compliance of environment issues and EIA process, we are still failing to achieve a satisfactory and considerable result in highway projects in terms of the environment question. The role of responsible agencies is not well defined, resulting in severe lack of coordination and implementation. EIA implementation process seems to be cursory and ad hoc with no permanency and follow up. We are possibly too used to keep on promising, without having intentions of keeping them. But this problem is too serious to be neglected anymore. As far the compliance of EIA process in India is concerned, it must be followed in letter and spirit rather than just making it one blank box to be ticked out.

The proposed research paper seeks to foreground the marginalised issue of environment in India's national highway projects, alongside understanding and analyzing the challenges relating to environment Impact Assessment and Policy implication in construction, preservation and rehabilitation of roads in India. The paper first seeks to briefly discuss the current position and EIA implementation in various highways projects in India. Then it would proceeds to analyze the specific challenges in the implementation of EIA process in India besides casting true and legitimate position of the currently running EIA policy and the lacuna with the present guidelines. Following this, the paper investigates into the schemes of the funding through different sources for EIA process and seeks to assess the work of various statutory and non statutory agencies employed to look after the EIA process in India. Further, the paper compares our EIA policy in construction of roads and its policy implication with synonymous and corresponding features in other countries. Finally this paper suggests some reforms and guidelines corroborated in the light of present scenario.

Keywords: Assessment, Consequences; Environment; Implementation; Policy

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Environment Impact Assessment Law in India: A Call for Reform for Sustainable Economic Development

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Abstract

The Environmental Impact Assessment was formally introduced in India vide Notification of 1994 under Environment Protection Act of 1986. These formal checkpoints to scrutinize the developmental projects in India was corollary to adoption of Principle 17 of the Rio declaration of 1992, "EIA as a national instrument shall be undertaken for the proposed activities that are likely to have significant adverse impact on the environment and are subject to a decision of a competent national authority." Ever since then Environment Impact Assessment has proven to be crucial mandate in the form of environmental management tool operating in India. It has seen a series of amendments by Ministry of Environment and Forests, and currently, the EIA Notification of 2006 and its amendments are the active policy regarding the environmental impact assessment laws in the country. Theoretically, the compliance and adoption of the Environmental Impact Assessment laws is backed up with a strong supporting Legislative, Procedural as well as Administrative set-up. However, right from the issues of procedural implementation, to the ultimate substantive goals of EIA there has been a question over the extent to which it is able to justify its enforcement. The degree of influence of EIA in the context of broader decision making context has allegedly found disappointing. This paper indulges into thorough discussion of every important aspect to Environment Impact Assessment laws in India. An appraisal of the EIA system against basic parameters of EIA process i.e., its Extent of Implementation, Effectiveness of process of Screening- Scoping- Public Hearing, Quality of Assessment Reports, Competency of Approval Authorities and passive Governmental role along with a few other factors reveals glaring deficiencies in the system. They range from inadequate guidelines and poor evaluation to utter apathy on part of authorities while implementing them. Further, lack of motivation, awareness, vague legal provisions and consideration of factors such as 'Developing Economy' while deciding fate of violating industrial projects by Courts in the country are accounted as additional threats to the system. Evidently, EIA in India is being used as a statement of environmental justification to hush the cries of concern only to validate potentially catastrophic projects pushing us farther from sustainable development. Having highlighted the lacunae, this paper seeks to direct the debate towards the founding purposes of EIA which provide poorly manifested yet strong 'foundation' for environmental reform in the country. The Government's commitment is reflected in the progressive altercations and reaffirmed by Court's positive intervention from time to time. The paper identifies these opportunities for refinement of the system and proposes some elaborate suggestions to enable Environment Impact Assessment to exert a better determinative role in decision making to contribute and develop effective sustainable patterns of development planning in our country.

Keywords: Environment Impact Assessment, Environmental Clearance, EIA Report, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Public Participation.

**Population Growth and Environment Degradation: A Threat to Sustainable Development
with Special Reference to India**

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Abstract

There was once a time when people thought of the environment, they thought of its beauty; but now as the natural beauty of the earth that once was disappears, many people around the world have awoken to the realities of just how fragile our earth actually is. Central to this issue is growing population, which involves continuous use of earth's natural resources at rate which exceeds the earth's inherent ability to heal itself. One of the greatest challenges facing humanity is environmental degradation, including deforestation, pollution, and climate change. Environment degradation in India has been caused by a variety of social, economic, institutional and technological factors. The three fundamental demographic factors of births, deaths and migration produce changes in population size; composition, distribution and these changes raise a number of important questions of cause and effect. India's population has increased rapidly since independence. India is the second country after China to officially cross the one billion mark of human population in the world. India is projected to be the world's most populous country by 2050 surpassing China if its population grows at this rate (Population Reference Bureau 2012). The growth of world population combined with unsustainable consumption pattern places increasingly severe stress on the life support system of the earth. The growing population and its interaction with nature affect the use of land, air, water, energy and other resources. Today, concern about the environment has risen to the top of the international agenda and has brought in its wake –renewed focus on population issues. There is a strong link between demographic and socioeconomic trends, on the one hand, and the depletion of resources and environmental degradation, on the other. There is an existing debate going on that whether large population is the precious human resource or it is an obstacle in sustainable development, it has been almost established that the magnitude of such a population growth like India causes pressure on the natural resources of the country. The problem of population explosion vis-à-vis environmental degradation is posing serious threat for sustainable development in developing countries like India, China etc. The environment is a general 'common fund' and everybody is entitled to use it in his own way. There is no legal liability for indirect damages to the environment. Our environment is very precious, we should not lose hope, steps are needed to be taken to exert towards a solution to save our beloved environment. People and resources are the two key elements of development process and unless there is a balance between these two, any development will not be sustainable. If the population growth is not curtailed, it will put pressure on natural resources and hamper the process of economic growth. Excessive use of natural resources, without giving sufficient time for regeneration of their productive capacity, will lead to environmental degradation, making overall economic development unsustainable. Development can take place at the cost of the environment only up to a point. Development without concern for the environment can only be short-term development. In the long term, it can be anti-development and can go on at the cost of enormous human suffering, increasing poverty, oppression and marginalization. The growth of population is a fundamental factor in its relationship to natural resources, environment and technology. To sum up, there is an urgent need to control population and poverty, conserve and protect natural resources and the environment for healthy human beings.

Keywords: Degradation, Environment, Natural resources, Population Explosion, Sustainable development

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Sustainable Development and Climate Change

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Abstract

The recognition of resources at the appropriate stage of human interaction with other entities, human or non human, quantifiable or unquantifiable, tangible or intangible, in such a way that it is utilized for an overall progressive schema at the grass root level, encompassing the socio-cultural aspects of a state, nation or entire race, at the trivial stage or more advanced feat, and also preserves and conserves the resources for the generations to come, in appropriate measures, refers to the idea called sustainable development.

Brundtland Commission puts it in simple terms: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

But it is easier said than done, like most of the other things.

Sustainable Development tries to link environmental values with economic development. The concept is suffering today or has been become inoperable because of the capitalist approach of the countries, where development is put at priority. Even though the concept has been flouted by the world community in several conferences and conventions but it has not been applied *in toto* because of the financial and food crisis. Thus may arise, ambiguity in the application of strategies at various levels in the political, economic and social trade-offs.

The need of the hour is to identify the methods for forceful implementation. Following methods may be of great utility -

Fight against climate change: Participation of people at large to initiate would be beneficial e.g. making limited use of the electronic instruments which produce CFC and other precipitants would resolve the problem of Ozone layer depletion.

Education and raising environment awareness: All countries should provide environment awareness programs not only in educational institutions but also at Panchayati levels.

Keywords: Sustainable Development, Climate change.

Ref#: 194/IND/13

**Community Participation & Sustainable Natural Resources Management:
A Case Study from Western Odisha**

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Abstract

Conservation of natural resources and the issue of sustainability of these resources have attracted the concern of global community in the past few decades. Many developed and developing nations have participated in the international environmental world summits, conferences, seminars and workshops. In this regard, many policies and reforms were initiated in the arena of natural resources management. Participatory approach is one among them. In the Indian context, participatory approaches were introduced in the form of Joint Forest Management, Participatory Watershed Management, Participatory Irrigation Management, etc. Participatory approach is the reconsideration of the role of communities in the management of natural resources. Historically, local communities used to own natural resources and were equipped with traditional practices to manage them. But many institutional changes have occurred from pre-colonial to post-colonial era, which alienated these communities from the ownership. Participation as an input was introduced in the independent India as a reform measure in many natural resource management policies. But some researchers and policy makers have argued that, some of these policies are influenced by the colonial policies. And success of participatory approaches is limited to few regions only. Similarly, in the watershed development programme (WSDP), there has been a shift towards participatory approach, but problem found in its implementation are related to its ground level operationalization and many others.

In this backdrop, taking some sociological and anthropological techniques and tools, and existing literature, the study has been carried out at the Maa Patakanda Watershed, under Uparjhar Gram Panchayat. It is located in Deogaon block of Bolangir district in the state of Odisha. It is situated between 23° 30' 16" N to 23° 38' 36" North latitude and 83° 13' 26" E to 83° 19' 30" East longitude. The total treatable area is 600 ha. Uparajhar habitats 267 households and is characterized by erratic rainfall, inequitable social structures, distorted land distribution, indebtedness, gender and other inequities. Study explores some of the learned lessons regarding sustainability of participation, livelihoods, better management of natural and other watershed resources. And also, new challenges faced by the Planning Implementing Agency (PIA) to involve landless, poorest, and women groups in the watershed. The objective of the present paper is to discuss various traditional practices used by local communities to conserve water and other natural resources and to review various causes discouraging community participation in natural resource management. It was found in the study that sustainability of the community participation is needed in the watershed for the better functioning of institutions created during watershed which facilitates community involvement, maintenance of physical, social, financial, natural and human capital generated in the period of watershed.

Keywords: Local Communities, Natural Resources, Participatory Approaches, Sustainable, Traditional Practices

Ref#: 195/IND/13

Sustainable Computing

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Abstract

Green is the new color in Computer Science. This paper advice the practices that can engage computer educators enabling Green Computing to be applied everywhere in their day to day life starting from home to office, classroom, research laboratory. This paper has examined role of computer in increasing global warming and how different technologies like cloud computing and virtualization will help in decreasing carbon footprint through optimal use of resources. The research also inspects the role of materials and Bluetooth devices in reducing energy requirements and e-waste respectively. Study and supporting data of each reported technique is given, comparing the efficiency of energy, environment and financial cost savings. This cogitation is provided as technological, economical and environmental evidence for the benefits of “Save Green,” and to recommend Sustainable Computing everywhere in the world. Some solutions are provided to implement green computing. The vital role of resource savings have been focused through comparisons of different hardware.

Keywords: *Cloud computing, e-waste, Green Computing, Sustainability, Virtualization*

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Evaluation of Fly Ash and Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag on Consistency Limits of Black Cotton Soil

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Abstract

Black cotton soil (BCS) is a class of expansive soil which is unsuitable as pavement material due to its swelling and shrinkage characteristics. The sample site location is on the north west of South Africa. The approach that is adopted when such material are encountered is to remove the soil and replaced with quality materials. Cost of replacement is very high and stabilization of the soil is another alternative method of construction. Ground granulated blast furnace slag (GGBFS) is a by-product in the manufacturing of steel while fly ash (FA), a residue generated in combustion of coal is industrial waste that is readily available in the country. To sustain the environment by reducing the material to land fill sites, this paper examines the effect of FA and GGBFS respectively on consistency limits of BCS. Consistency limit is an indicator of clay behaviour and its evaluation provides basic mechanical data about the soil. Samples of the soil were obtained at a depth of 0.5m below the subgrade level. Sampling and tests of the soil was done according to South Africa standards to characterize BCS, FA and GGBFS. The percentages of FA and GGBFS were varied from 1 - 14% and 1 - 9% in steps of 1% respectively. Particle size distribution, Atterberg limit, standard proctor and California bearing ratio tests were conducted on the stabilized soil. The particle size distribution of BCS showed that 77% is clayey and silt; according to American Association of State Highway and Transportation official classify the soil as A-7-6(15) while the material falls outside G7-G8 envelope according to standard methods of testing road construction materials (TMH 1), making it unsuitable as subgrade material. Liquid limit (LL) and plastic index (PI) values of the virgin soil are 58% and 30% respectively. It was observed that PI decreases while LL increases as the percentage of the stabilizers increases; this could be attributed to cation exchange reaction that resulted in an increase inter-particle distribution. There was about 43%, 40% reduction in the value of PI for FA and GGBFS at 12% and 8% respectively when compared with the control. The maximum dry density (MDD) and optimum moisture density (OMC) of the virgin material are 1704 kg/m³ and 15.3% respectively. MDD and OMC for FA & GGBFS modified BCS increases as the percentages of the stabilizers increases. Both the maximum dry density and optimum moisture content increases for FA, GGBFS from 1 – 12% and 1 – 6% respectively and then decreased. Increase in OMC is necessary for dissociation of admixtures with Ca²⁺ and OH⁻ ions to supply more Ca²⁺ for the cation exchange reaction. The stabilizers have significantly improved the index properties of the soil.

Keywords: black cotton soil; consistency limits; fly ash; ground granulated blast furnace slag; stabilization

Ref#: 197/IND/13

**Rural Development and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Tunisian arid lands:
the case-study of El Hamma Region.**

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Abstract

In Tunisia and especially in its arid areas many development projects were implemented with a particular focus on rural regional development in these marginal lands. In this paper we will focus in The National Strategy of Water and Soil conservation, combating desertification in El Hamma (Tunisian Southern). The project aimed the Protection of natural resources with great efforts to safeguard and manage natural resources sustainably for the long term. This is creating additional income-generation and employment opportunities in this disadvantaged region, where many people's livelihoods are highly dependent on the use of natural resources.

The second objective is to fulfill a Sustainable economic development and employment. In fact Social inequality and growing poverty were the catalysts for the revolution in Tunisia from these interior zones where the industrial infrastructure is undergoing modernization and entrepreneurship is being promoted on a targeted basis.

In this research and through an exhaustive survey we tried to assess this project, combating unemployment, creating better working conditions and improving competitiveness in this dry land. We will identify rules-based solutions for the sustainable management of resources, offering a wide range of sustainable solutions for agriculture, the environment, water resources management and waste policy. These solutions aimed at strengthening the economic performance of the regions, developing promising markets for renewable energies and thus creating jobs in Tunisian arid Southern.

Keywords: Arid areas, Combating desertification, Development projects, Tunisia, Water and Soil Conservation.

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Product & By-product Development for Pandan and Lemon Grass

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Abstract

The Bicol Region particularly the 3rd District of Albay, Philippines has an abundant supply of raw materials which are potential sources of alternative medicines and culinary condiments. Some of these crops used in this study are the Pandan and the lemon grass. These crops are cultivated in all parts of the Philippines, but presently, lack of technology to process these crops delimits its use. Knowledge on the use of these herbs in the country is very limited, hence, usually neglected.

This research project composed of four interrelated studies, focused on the characterization of Pandan and Lemon grass and developing of products and by-products from these indigenous crops. Specifically, it aimed to process these crops into granulated herbal drinks, food seasoning and flavourings. It also focused on the development of processing technologies that could lead to the maximum utilization of productive lands, create livelihood, provide employment and generate income for the farmers.

The descriptive-developmental and experimental methods of research were adopted in the conduct of the study. The finished products were subjected to sensory evaluation to determine its acceptability.

The objectives of the study were met as revealed by the results of the study: both the ready-to-drink and granulated herbal drinks from Pandan, Lemon grass and its combination are highly acceptable in terms of taste, odor/aroma, and texture/consistency, different recipes which were prepared, seasoned and flavoured with Pandan, Lemon grass and its combination were all found to be highly acceptable in terms of taste and aroma.

The following conclusions were drawn: (1) physico-chemical properties of Pandan and lemon grass could affect the recoveries and processing technologies; (2) Pandan, lemon grass and its combination could be processed into acceptable products such as granules, drinks, food seasoning and flavourings; and (3) cost of production for pandan and lemon grass products are acceptable.

Keywords: Pandan, lemon grass, herbal drinks, products, by-products

The Clergy View and Democracy in Afghanistan

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Abstract

Political development in Muslim countries practically is impossible by ignorance of dominate beliefs, norms and values in these societies. So, it is more important to pay attention to cultural obstacles of democracy in these countries. One of the significance and more influenced groups in Muslim societies are clergy and religious elite. In a traditional society such as Afghanistan, they have a huge impact on people's beliefs and behaviors. Understanding their political perceptions and definitions can forecast the direction of political development in these countries. The main objective of this article is to review and examine the Afghanistan clergy and religious elite perceptions of Democracy. This study was conducted in the form of field study, with data being gathered via interview about 8 political concepts: Respect to Majority Vote, Governing Right, Freedom of Speech, Respect to the Law, Freedom of Political Activities, Justice, Freedom to be Elect and Turning Government. The sample size was 128 religious leaders from across Afghanistan. The results showed that there are two competing views among the Afghanistan religious elite: Religious Democracy and Theocracy. Advocates of religious democracy have accepted above democratic values in the context of Islamic values, but advocates of theocracy oppose with democratic principles and desired establishing an Islamic Government that just execute Islamic rules.

Keywords: Afghanistan Clergy, Afghanistan Democracy, Afghanistan Political Development, Religious Democracy, Theocracy.

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Developing Sustainability Assessment Of Informal Development On Illegal Land Subdivision Based On The Bequest Framework

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Abstract

Illegal land subdivision in developing countries as well as in the Eastern and Southern Europe has been a major feature of urbanisation. This type of development accommodates significant number of population who cannot meet their housing needs in the formal market. The residents of these areas buy the subdivided land and construct their houses, but outside the legal system. Government efforts to combat this phenomenon have two directions, one is to prevent the emergence of new subdivisions and the other is to deal with the existing settlements. The former has never changed up to date. The latter changed from ignorance to demolition to servicing the settlements and then to regularising the existing settlements since 1980s. The strategies and programmes for both the directions have not been implemented properly. There is an urgent need to understand and evaluate the existing situation and assess it in the content of sustainability. The BEQUEST framework which was developed early in this century is probably the only framework to help assessing the sustainability of formal urban development. There is no such framework to assess illegal development. This paper aims at developing a framework that can be used in the cases of illegal development. The analysis shows that the proposed framework differs from the BEQUEST one in the development activities. No changes are suggested to the set of sustainability issues and the time scale found in the BEQUEST framework while constructing the new framework.

Keywords: Illegal land subdivision; Regularisation, Sustainability issues; The BEQUEST framework.

Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

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Abstract

Sustainable development, a notion of obligation to future generation which was first used in Brundtland Commission in 1987 which states that development which is taking place to meet the demands of present generation without compromising or affecting the needs of future generations. This very process of sustainable development is one of the most important concerns to globalised and developing nations like India which is still confronted with many social, economic and especially environmental challenges such as Global Warming, Health issue, Toxins release, Water Crisis and Pollution. This paper through a doctrinal research tries to analyze the above mentioned environmental concerns and tries to suggest the probable solution for various problem that stands as obstacle in the way of sustainable development and access to justice.

The Indian legislator has played a vital role in conserving environment and empowering the sustainable development and also enacted many laws and provisions such as Article 48A, Article 51-A (g) of the Indian constitution, and Acts like Easements Act 1882 which talks about the riparian owners right and unreasonable pollution of water, Fisheries Act, 1897 which penalized the killing of fish by water poisoning and by using explosives and other laws which follow the suits are The Factories Act, 1948, The River Boards Act, 1956 but most important of all these developments was the bringing into force of Environmental protection Act 1986, New Company Act, 2013 which deals with various aspects of social responsibility, development and moved forward for the preservation of environment. The Supreme Court of India in its effort devised two principles they are 'Polluter Pays' Principle which states that the polluter has to bear the cost of all remedial and clean up measures also the amount payable as compensation to pollution victims and 'Precautionary Principle' which requires the government authorities to anticipate, prevent, and attack the causes of environmental pollution. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) 2010 was established with the view of speedy trials with respect to environmental matters and enforcement of legal rights relating to environment in this regard paper tries to analyze the process of functioning of NGT and tries to put forth a few suggestions to promote the better functioning of these tribunals by invoking the concept of public participation. However in spite of the constant efforts by Indian legislature and judiciary the existence of various environmental issues clearly indicates that there is a need for further effective implementation and enforcement of the existing laws and provisions which can only be attained through an active public participation in environmental decision making and resolving the environmental issues.

The concept of public participation is one of the most important pillars of 'Aarhus convention' which was signed on 25th July in the Danish city of Aarhus which grants the public rights regarding access to information, public participation and access to justice in governmental decision making processes contained in Article 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the convention which is related to matters concerning the local, national and trans-boundary environment. It abridges the gap between public and public authorities. Access to environmental information is the necessary starting point for any public involvement in decision making process. Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process. It promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.

The aim of this paper is to accentuate certain aspects of access to justice. To some extent this paper also concerns the role of the court in relation to the environmental area. It also compares the procedural aspects of the NGT with that of environmental court of Sweden. Further the paper intends to deal with the principle 17 of Rio declaration which states Environmental Impact Assessment. The objective of the paper is to seek right of the public both in present and future generation to know and to live in the healthy environment.

Keywords: Aarhus Convention, Access to justice, Decision Making and Public Participation.

The Shifting Paradigm of Development: A Critical Review

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Abstract

Governments worldwide, concern with economic growth as a measure of a country's performance both in absolute terms (e.g. how fast are we growing?) and relative terms (e.g. are we growing faster than our neighbors?). However, the pertinent question that has been raised in this regard is: are growth and development the same thing? Economic growth is commonly understood to reflect an increase in people's living standards over time. Economists have measured the standard of living by using an indicator called Gross National Product or GNP. Does rising GNP per capita necessarily mean that everyone is better-off? Many critics point out that GNP is an inadequate measure of human wellbeing. Some of the main criticism are: (1) the effects of the economy on the environment are not well measured by GNP (e.g. major oil spill), (2) a closely related point is that changes in our natural resource stocks do not show up in NDP (e.g. soil erosion), (3) although GNP measures the size of the economic pie, it does not tell us how fairly it is distributed (e.g. GNP per capita could be increasing but income inequalities could worsen), and (4) GNP does not adequately reflect changes in factors such as health and literacy which have important impacts on people's sense of well-being. Despite above criticisms, nations still use increases in real GNP per capita to measure their economic performance over time. On the contrary, Development is usually interpreted much more broadly. It is generally conceived as the improvement of Human Development Indicators (HDI) such as GNP per capita; reduction in income inequality; improvement in adult literacy, reduction in infant mortality, reduction morbidity (illness) and mortality (death) rates. Interestingly, both the HDI and GNP measures omit any direct account of environmental degradation. One of the biggest intellectual debates in the history of economics has been the nature of relationship between the economic system and the environment. It is observed that economic growth necessarily harm the environment (monotonically rising pollution-income trend), and therefore, the implication is that growth must come to a halt in the absence of any technological progress. This raises important question as 'to what extent is continued economic growth consistent with maintaining a healthy environmental quality, which is intricately and directly linked with human wellbeing?' This concern has led researchers to devise several strategies to offset this inherent conflicts and contradiction. They are include: (1) the concept of sustainable development by the Brundtland Commission, (2) the Steady-State economy by Herman Daly, (3) the concept of decoupling between growth and the environment, (4), the concept of sustainable consumption, (5) the concept of Green GDP and Green Economy, and (6) Gross National Happiness (GNH). The objective of the present paper is to critically analyze this "shift" in the "paradigm of development" in the light of above background and also critically examine the various approaches to sustainable development as mentioned above and point out the inherent flaws in the so-called "new" approaches to development. The paper argues that with more and more merging of various disciplines that give rise to an interdisciplinary approach, the understanding of development has broadened over the years. However, at the conceptual level these approaches have been well taken by researchers but in actuality the importance of economic growth based on rising GNP per capita is still play a dominant role in vast majority of countries in the world. It is suggested that countries must understand a high GDP which cannot be sustained is a condemnable development, whereas a GDP that is decoupled from the environment and tends to internalize the social costs is what the demand of the development is in the truest sense.

Keywords: development, economics, growth, happiness, sustainable development, wellbeing

Ref#: 212/IND/13

Sustainable Rural Development in India: An Individualistic Approach

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Abstract

The term “Development” simply means getting better or keep improving – keep growing. Development is not a state but an eternal process. There are various concepts and misconceptions about “What is development? Which are the measures to define development? And which is the right path of being developed?” Scholars and thinkers discuss about various aspects of development but none of them is able to give us the permanent solution of our existing problems. We should understand that our existing means and ways of development are perishable and it cannot lead us to peaceful eternal life. In modern world development means moving from agrarian lifestyle to industrial life style, rural to urban, simplicity to complexity, harmony to conflicts and from natural to artificial. Creation of wealth and capital accumulation is the principle aim of contemporary economic system which no doubt has lead us to cosy life style but it has also gave us the endless negative side effects; the example of which is the richest 10% people of the world own 85% and the poorest 50% owns barely 1% of resources!

Thus the concept of ‘Sustainable Development’ emerged which simply means ‘development that sustain’. Sustainable development takes into account the appropriate utilization and management of natural resources in a sustainable way with the purpose of saving them for future generations. Poverty reduction and economic growth can be sustained only if natural resources are managed on a sustainable basis. In general stipulations all the aspects of development are centred to economic or physical development and human or intellectual development. The new economic paradigm has created heaps of wealth in the hands of few people and left more than half of the society to live in poverty. This economic growth has undoubtedly raised the standard of living but failed to improve the quality of life especially in rural areas of developing societies like India.

To reach the goal of holistic rural development Government machinery is working on number of schemes and policies along with the help of various NGOs. But for the implementation of concepts of Good Governance and social welfare at grass root rural level people’s participation is essential in modern times. By voluntary participation of citizens for rural welfare the ideal model of village republic given by Mahatma Gandhi could be realized. Thus the paper focuses on the need of sustainable rural development in India and also describes the ideal Gandhian Model of a Village. It suggests an innovative approach of people’s participation for making rural India shine more brightly as it is the prime need of modern Welfare Development strategy.

Keywords: Development, Gandhian Model, Individualistic Approach, Sustainable, Welfare

Conservation of Natural Recourses

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Abstract

Biosphere Reserves These are areas of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems which are internationally recognized within the framework of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere(MAB) Programme. These reserves are required to meet a minimal set of criteria and adhere to a minimal set of conditions before being admitted to the World Network of Biosphere Reserve designated by UNESCO for inclusion in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Biodiversity Conservation Biodiversity is the variability among living organisms and the ecological complexes of which they are part, including diversity within and between species and ecosystems. Biodiversity has direct consumptive value in food, agriculture, medicine, and in industry. Important steps taken during the year are National Bio-diversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), Biological Diversity Act, 2002, The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (Biosafety Regulatory Framework in India).

Conservation "Conservation" is sometimes used synonymously with "protection." More appropriately, however, it refers to the protection and sustainable use of resources. Resources are features of environment that are important and value of to human in one form or the other. However, the advancement of modern civilization has had a great impact on our planet's natural resources. So, conserving natural resources is very essential today. There are many ways that one can conserve natural resources.

Conservation of Water Pollution of water due to a number of different pollutants has driven the NRCS to take action. Not only do they offer financial assistance but they also provide the equipment needed for private land owners to protect our water resources. Water gets polluted by nitrogen and phosphorus which causes algae to grow proliferously causing the oxygen concentrations to decline rapidly, life is no longer supported in this habitat.

Critical elements of the effective conservation of natural resources It includes the detail explanation about sustainable resource management, establishment of protected areas, and ex situ (off-site) conservation.

Forest conservation act Till March 2004, the Ministry received 14,621 proposals from the State/Union Territories for getting approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purpose.

Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP) The purpose of this program is to work with land owners to purchase development rights to current farm and ranch land, in order to keep said land from being developed for other uses.

Management of natural resources Natural resource management is a discipline in the management of natural resources such as land, water, soil, plants and animals, with a particular focus on how management affects the quality of life for both present and future generations. Management of natural resources involves identifying who has the right to use the resources and who does not for defining the boundaries of the resource.^[10] The resources are managed by the users according to the rules governing of when and how the resource is used depending on local condition.^[11] A successful management of natural resources should engage the community because of the nature of the shared resources the individuals who are affected by the rules can participate in setting or changing them.^[10]

Project Tiger "Project Tiger" was launched in 1973 with an objective "to ensure maintenance of a viable population of tigers in India for scientific, economic, aesthetic, cultural and ecological values, and to preserve for all times,

Project Elephant Project Elephant was launched in February, 1992 to assist states having free ranging populations of wild elephants to ensure long term survival of identified viable populations of elephants in their natural habitats.

Wildlife Conservation Various activities relating to wild life conservation and implementation of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 were carried out by the Ministry during the year.

Keywords Ex situ (off-site) conservation, National Bio-diversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Natural resource management

Ref#: 215/IND/13

Sustainable Development through Disaster Risk Management in India: Challenge and Opportunities for Local Government

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Abstract

Making development sustainable requires addressing natural and manmade hazard risk and vulnerability in development plans. Natural hazards, such as earthquakes, cyclones, floods and drought, pose significant threats to achieving and sustaining development plans and goals. Disasters wipe out decades of progress and development in just a few seconds. Their impact, both in terms of deaths and economic losses, is increasing dramatically. With global warming and other consequent factors, there is no doubt that natural and manmade shocks and stresses will continue to hit the world's cities. The cost of urban disasters in 2011 alone was estimated at over \$380 billion. Hence, disaster risk management needs to be an integral part of social and economic development, and is essential if development is to be sustainable for the future. Around half the world's population lived in urban areas in 2010 and by 2050, the United Nations projects; almost three-quarters of the world's population will call urban areas home. The majority of this growth is centered in struggling, developing countries of the Global South with multiplying slums; overburdening housing, transportation and infrastructure systems and stifling economic growth, leaving millions vulnerable to new environmental and health threats. As the most immediate public service provider and interface with citizens, local governments are naturally situated in the best position to play a central role in coordinating and sustaining a multi-level, multi-stakeholder platform to promote disaster risk reduction in the region. Ludhiana, known as the Manchester of India, is the largest city of the state of Punjab and is one of the most important industrial and business centers of India. Besides being the most populous district of Punjab; it has also become the most polluted city of the state. WHO's latest report (2013) declares Ludhiana as 'fourth most polluted city in world'. Chemical hazard and water contamination of toxic waste is evident by cancer and TB cases in remote area or population near the river. A study conducted by the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in 2002-04 revealed that in Ludhiana about 200 people die prematurely every year because of increasing air pollution. Ludhiana has the highest vehicular density in Punjab. The level of vehicular emissions in the city is also the highest in the state. Hence disaster risk management in Ludhiana becomes all the more important to avoid Industrial disaster like Bhopal Gas Tragedy in the city. Besides this, Ludhiana fall in the Seismic Zone-4, this is considered to be facing highest danger of earthquakes in India after the Zone-5. People are not much aware of its probability. Old multi- storey building and industrial area are under high seismic risk. The present paper seeks to analyze the effectiveness of disaster risk reduction management in Ludhiana and corresponding challenges and opportunities for the district administration in Ludhiana city (Punjab).

Keywords: (Five words in alphabetical order) - Disaster, Local Government, Pollution, Risk Reduction, Sustainable Development.

Green Innovation and Sustainability

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Abstract

India is the first country which has regulated Corporate Social Responsibility [CSR] spending by New Companies Bill 2013. Public as well as Private sector firms will need to ensure spending of 2% of their average net profits on CSR [Section 135 and Schedule VII of Companies Bill 2013].

Sustainability concept can be better understood with Triple Bottom Line Theory coined by John Elkington in 1994. It is also referred as 3BL or 3Ps: Profit, People and Planet pyramid.

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) defines Green Innovation as, "the creation or implementation of new, or significantly improved, products (goods and services), processes, marketing methods, organizational structures and institutional arrangements which - with or without intent - lead to environmental improvements compared to relevant alternatives."

Firms can't improve financial performance at the cost of Sustainability; neither can they afford to ignore shareholder's expectations. Innovation is the only key to balance both, Sustainability with Profits.

According to McKinsey Report on Sustainability and Resource Productivity by (Rajat Gupta, Sushant Mohanty & Ganesh Srinivasan, Summer 2012), India is already ranked as one of the 10 largest economies in the world in 2010, and it is expected to continue to grow rapidly over the next two decades.

Major providers of sustainability reporting guidance include:

- The Global Reporting Initiative (The GRI Sustainability Reporting Framework and Guidelines)
- The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises)
- The United Nations Global Compact (the Communication on Progress)
- The International Organization for Standardization (ISO 26000, International Standard for social responsibility)

India as one of the BRICS nation which is on a steadfast growth path needs to, chart out the integrated action plan to balance the Profit, People and Planet Account of our beautiful nation by, involving all the members including private and public enterprises, community forums, NGOs, researchers and scientists, national and international agencies. Green Innovation will help the nation to reach her true potential and prosperity.

Keywords: Corporate Social Responsibility; Green Innovation; Sustainability with Profits; Sustainability Reporting guidance; Triple Bottom Line.

Ref#: 219/IND/13

Environmental Protection Vis-a-Vis Sustainable Development: A Global Challenge

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Abstract

“The more we exploit nature, the more our options are reduced, until we have only one to fight for survival” Man has played a very important part in shaping his environment. He has been responsible for degrading the quality of his environment ever since he appeared on this earth. At first he contaminated the atmosphere by the use of fire which added gases, smoke and ash to it. When he came out of the cave age and began to settle into villages, towns and cities, the situation gradually worsened.

Environmental pollution is one of the most serious problems facing humanity and other life forms on our planet today. With India's population at 1.2 billion people and counting, plus internal economic migration to urban areas from the countryside, the country's cities are bursting at the seams. Housing shortages, electricity and water cuts, traffic congestion, pollution and a lack of basic services are the reality for millions.

Keywords: economic migration, environment, pollution, humanity

Ref #: 220/IND/13

The Devastating Curse of Climate Change on the Biodiversity of Marine Ecosystems: The Case of the Sacred Mangroves in Praharajpur

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Abstract

Climate change has serious implications for society and sustainable development. The natural cycle of Climate Change, coupled with the rapid manmade changes, indicate multiple impacts on various systems of the earth. These include increase in the temperature, sea level rise, cyclones, effect on the rainfall patterns, flash floods, droughts, soil erosion, loss of forest cover etc.

As a result of global warming, there has been a gradual expansion of the sea water volume (steric effect) and also increase in the level of the sea which will increase the risk of cyclones, which was recently witnessed in Odisha in India.

Mangroves are known to play an important role in mitigating and protecting the region from cyclones and other disasters. Apart from that it is a well known fact that mangroves are considered as breeding, feeding and nursery grounds with high biodiversity and are hence considered to be 'sinks' for methane.

Being a type of forest, mangroves also take in huge quantities of Carbon Dioxide produced by various manmade activities. Thus it is also imperative that we protect this important mangrove ecosystem, which is a connecting link between the land and the sea.

The paper will deal with the impact of climate change on marine ecosystem in India with special emphasis on the role of the mangrove ecosystem in mitigating the impacts of climate change.

The paper will further highlight the example of the village Praharajpur in Odisha who after the experience of the 1982 cyclone aggressively planted mangroves on the island and also made provisions in the village to protect the forests. They constituted a 15-member forest protection committee from among the villages and the body penalized anyone who damaged the forests in any possible way and a night guard was appointed and paid Rs. 100 per night to protect the mangroves.

This judicious step helped the village to bear the brunt of the worst of the storm. Unfortunately the same scenario was not witnessed in the other villages.

Due to various reasons vast mangrove forests have been deforested and reclaimed during the last several years. The process is still continuing, in spite of the Coastal Zone Regulations, Forest Conservation Act and the Wildlife Act. The paper further will emphasize such mismatch between law and reality and critically analyze relevant provisions contained in the legal statutes and Acts like the Disaster Management Act, the Biodiversity Act and the Forest Dweller's Act.

In the end the paper would conclude with recommendations on the importance and the need for protecting and conserving mangroves.

Keywords: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Mangroves, Marine Ecosystems and Sustainable Development

Ref #: 222/IND/13

Diversity of plant growth promoting rhizobacteria associated with tomato in semi-arid region

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Abstract

Rising food demands across the world is matter of concern however the challenge lies in a meeting the target in a sustainable mode. Sustainable agriculture is the burning issue today and it is impossible to work in this direction without taking into account the soil biodiversity. Soil is the most fundamental requirement of agriculture and thus exploring soil biodiversity for its potential agricultural supporting activities is a judicial move in this direction. Soil microflora is an integral part of the agricultural ecosystems and has a strong influence on the crop yield. Microorganisms residing in the root-zone (rhizosphere) of the plant are called as rhizobacteria and they affect the plant in most significant manner, favourably as well as unfavourably. Plant growth promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR) are the plant-friendly rhizobacteria which influence the plant growth and health in a positive way.

Present investigation was thus designed to isolate and identify plant growth promoting rhizobacteria associated with tomato in semi-arid region of Haryana, India. Twenty six rhizosphere soil samples were randomly collected from tomato cultivating areas of district Faridabad, Haryana, India and a total of fifty six strains of rhizobacteria were isolated from them using spread plate technique. Isolation was carried out on three different selective and non-selective medium i.e. nutrient agar, King's B agar and glycerol-arginine agar at 30°C. Out of 56 isolated strains 33.9% of the isolates have been identified as belonging to genus *Pseudomonas*, 23.2% to genus *Bacillus*, 12.5% each to genus *Acinetobacter* and genus *Streptomyces*, 10.7% to genus *Micrococcus*, 3.6% to genus *Azotobacter* and almost 1.8% each to genus *Flavobacterium* and genus *Streptococcus*. All isolated strains were evaluated for two major plant growth promoting activities i.e. indole acetic acid (IAA) production and phosphate solubilization. *In-vitro* IAA production was observed in 76.8% isolates and phosphate solubilizing activity was given by 41.1% isolates. Isolates varied significantly ($P < 0.05$) for IAA production as well as phosphate solubilization. Average IAA concentration recorded for these isolates was 6.32 µg/ml and amount of inorganic phosphate (Pi) released in Pikovskaya's broth at fifteen days after incubation (DAI) was 18.80 µg/ml. Average pH of Pikovskaya's broth at fifteen DAI dropped to 5.20 from 7.00 at 0 DAI. Leading IAA producing genera were *Flavobacterium* and *Azotobacter* while maximum P-solubilization activity was shown by the genus *Pseudomonas*. Isolate TNAM22 gave highest IAA concentration of 9.81 µg/ml while isolate TKB14 released maximum amount of Pi i.e. 22.7 µg/ml.

The isolated rhizobacterial strains may thus be developed into potential soil-inoculants for improving the nutrient availability to the plants after conducting a more detailed and on-field study.

Keywords: Indole acetic acid, Phosphate solubilization, Plant growth promoting rhizobacteria, Sustainable agriculture

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Regional Economic Integration: Multilateralizing Regional Trade Agreements

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Abstract

The Global Trade setting has experienced profound changes during the decade of 1990's and the early years of the twenty-first century. The period witnessed the successful conclusion and realization of the Uruguay round General Agreement on Trade and Tariff under the aegis of World Trade Organization (WTO) to further multilateral trade. The post-WTO period also saw the proliferation in regional and bilateral free trade agreements rendering co-ordinated economic opportunities to members. In the last two decades an explosion of regional trading agreements has been witnessed. While some have been confined within regions, others have stretched across regions. Some have involved thick integration, going beyond the WTO, while others have been light and superficial.

Regionalism in contemporary trade policy discourse is a much debated area. Today over 350 regional agreements with highly assorted content and a rich array of geographical configurations exist; while dozens more are in the pipeline. Regional Trade initiatives have undoubtedly made important contributions to economic welfare, and to political stability of party states. Freer regional economic movements enable cross-border financial systems to successfully integrate with each other and exploit the advantages of geographical proximity. Trade between neighbours can be expected to be more or disproportionate due to factors like cultural similarity, better communication and proximity. Apart from the disproportionate concentration in neighbourhood trade, it has also been observed that trade continues to grow at a faster rate among neighbouring countries than with others. Possibly the explanation for the disproportional trade is that the policy regimes followed by neighboring countries at similar stages of development also tend towards similarity.

Regional Trade Agreements widen the market and enable economies of scale, both internal as well as external. For sustained industrial enterprise and rapid growth of backward countries there is a pressing need for encouragement of regional economic integration which would not only ensure sustainable growth of industries producing for their domestic markets, but also take advantage of favorable opportunities of producing for the export markets that possibly will be created under a Regional Trade Agreement. Regional integration enables nations to exploit more effectively the opportunities in the areas of specialisation, standardisation and reallocation of resources to promote sustainable growth.

This paper accentuates the key idea that the tangle of imbricating trade agreements will progressively generate more interest in multilateralizing regional agreements by integrating them up into larger supra entities that brings us closer to a multilateralized regional system of economic cooperation. A powerful supra Regional Trade Agreement would obliterate the need for bilateral and sub regional RTAs which are likely to create problems in terms of trade deflections, spaghetti bowl and preferential trade agreement with countries from the outside region. The paper does not focus on the more discernible and widely addressed question of why scores of regional trading agreements have sprung up but rather on the subject that how policymakers, traders and the corporate community view and react to the explosion of regional economic integration.

Keywords: Co-ordinated Economic Opportunities; Multilateralized; Regionalism; Supra RTA; Sustained Industrial Enterprise

Ref #: 230/IND/13

**Construction of Dams – Developmental Needs vis-à-vis Destruction to Ecology:
Need for Sustainable Development**

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Abstract

In India, environment and nature has been worshipped since times immemorial and environmental ethics have been part of religious philosophy. In Indian Dharam Shastras Earth, Water, Sun, Moon, and Air have been worshipped as they sustain life on earth. Several rivers have religious prominence in India and are worshipped as Goddesses as they are instrumental in sustaining life on earth. However, increasing commercialization, increasing quest for development, phenomenal increase in population and materialism alongwith numerous others factors have dented the Indian environmental philosophy which was deep rooted in religious scriptures.

Rivers have come to be viewed as a potential water resource to be dammed and exploited for fulfilling water needs, irrigation and for generating hydro-electric power. Population explosion, quest for more and more development and the belief that mega dams lead to development, have accelerated the pace of construction of dams in various Asian countries especially India and China.

Hydroelectric projects in India have gained prominence in past few decades owing to ever increasing demand for electricity and the consequent shortage of electricity. Construction of dams seems to be the only potent instrument to the policy makers, government and governmental agencies. According to various studies more than 500 Hydroelectric dams in Himalayan region only are proposed to be constructed by India, China, Nepal, Bhutan and Pakistan and India accounts for more than 50% of the proposed dams. If all these projects are undertaken, Himalayan region is likely to be the highest dammed region in the world. The water power, politics and the grab for water power in the region could endanger the entire Himalayan region.

Mass construction of dams has led to large scale migration, violation of rights of tribals, submerging of agricultural lands, destruction of forests, problems of sedimentation and siltation, loss of habitat and in particular bio-diversity and ecological hazards. Various studies have pointed out the hazardous impacts of mega dams as well as small dams on environment.

Increasing electricity and water needs of the region, non-exploitation of other energy sources and lack of sustainable futuristic policy is set to create ecological imbalance in the region thereby endangering the entire region. Interestingly many Asian countries are in high seismic activity zone and the construction of dams in the region where there is high seismic activity can be disastrous.

Principle of Sustainable Development has gained prominence in this backdrop. Consequently, a major challenge in this backdrop is to arrive at a successful model of sustainable development - one that aims to preserve the rich ecosystem, while addressing the economic needs of the people in the region.

The paper attempts to highlight the thrust on construction of dams as a tool for development and for satisfying water, irrigation and hydroelectric needs and the evil impact of construction of dams. The need for exploiting other renewable and non-renewable power resources and in particular the concept, need and importance of sustainable development in Indian context in particular shall be discussed in the full text of the paper.

Keywords: Dams, Development, Ecology, India, Sustainable

Ref #: 234/IND/13

GLOBAL COMMONS: Who's Responsibility Is It?

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Abstract

Our planet is a finite place. It represents a closed resource system except for the inflow of sunlight from outer space. It is endowed with finite stocks of natural capital, made (by humans) capital and human capital (embodied in persons) at any point of time. Human well being is described by the outcomes of use of these capital stocks. The distribution of these outcomes determines the opportunities that individuals have to make choices. Among the different kind of stocks, made capital is a derivative of the past use of natural resources, human labour and technology. Human capital, on the other hand represents human population human population with its skill and ability of creating values by the use of scientific knowledge and technology. The stock of natural resources- biotic and abiotic- including solar energy flow at any point of time, on the other hand, is entirely given by nature. It is driven by bio- physical laws of natural sciences, although their potential of contribution to human well being depends on the level of development and use of the knowledge base, along with the social and institutional order of the economic system.

The problem of man and biosphere is not only interdisciplinary but also has an international dimension. There are studies of individual countries and of groups thereof, reflecting the specific features of their natural environment, economic system, and social structure and so on. An important aspect of these refers to what is a rational assimilation of natural resources and the economic evaluation of both the positive and negative consequences of man's interaction with his environment. The concept of territorial Production Complexes which is increasingly being employed in national economic plans is an offshoot of these developments and has considerable bearing on resource studies, their economic evaluation, and estimation of their sufficiency or otherwise, resource cycles etc.

The concept of sustainable development has become currently a fashionable buzzword in the international environmental lobby as well as national policies on environment and development. Every international agency from World Bank to UNICEF now has its own definition of the concept. For the environmentalists, sustainable development denotes a radical change from the past. For the economists and MNCs, the concept means simply "sustained growth" or "sustained profits" while others interpret sustainable development mere as a shift to local self reliance and empowerment of the marginalized poor, where ecology provides the guiding principle. The Economists view sustainable development as economic progress in which the quantity and quality of one stocks of natural resources and the integrity of biochemical cycles are sustained and passed on to future generations unimpaired.

Any discussion on sustainable development has to focus on environment and economy relationship, which is not only close and interconnected, but it is two- way as all economic activities either affects or are affected by environmental resources [Economic Survey 1999]. Almost all economic activities, such as, processing and manufacturing, mining and extraction, consumption, transport, and disposal affect environment in three ways: (i) they change the stock of natural resources through direct consumption, (ii) they add stress to the existing environmental systems, and (iii) they introduce waste to environmental media which require treatment. In any situation, supply and quality of natural resources would influence the productivity of an economic system.

Environmental resources, on the other hand get closely linked to economic activities through three different but related channels: (a) natural resources are used as inputs into production; (b) production process generates waste related to the environment's assimilative capacity, and (c) they are directly consumed as life support services and for aesthetic amenities. The natural and environmental resources such as water, soil, air, biological, forest and fisheries resources thus are important productive assets. Their quality helps determine the productivity of the economy. The economic management of the environment and the environmental quality has important repercussions on the efficient working of the economy.

Sustainable development as a desirable objective requires a dynamic, participatory and an interdisciplinary approach. Given the tangible damage to the nature and the disharmony between man and nature with emerging uncertainty over the life support which we may all have to witness once the society undergoes a radical shift in the nature, structure and composition of an ecosystem, we must take into account depletion an degradation of natural capital on the one hand, and follow people oriented participatory and interdisciplinary approach to achieve the goals of sustainable development on the other.

Keywords: Consumption, Development, Environment, International, Natural Resources.

Ref #: 237/IND/13

Sustainability Elicits Corporate Social Responsibility

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Abstract

“The world today is economically richer an environmentally poorer than ever” - Lester R. Brown

Purpose – Following the scarcity of studies in the developing countries, attune to corporate social responsibility (CSR) and sustainable community development, this paper intends to examine the economic growth, environmental issues, social imperatives and enhanced ethical standards by creating a balance between the sustainability of society and the corporate world, in a comparison with developed countries.

Approach/design/methodology – Discussing the CSR factors covering the three major elements of sustainable development i.e., economic, social and environment which received the overwhelming endorsement from the corporate world testifying the largest voluntary corporate responsibility initiative of the UN Global Compact that forges close linkage between business, society and environment in all development endeavours. The concept being dynamic and evolving quickly set its way through various international bodies and associations like the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries for setting adaptive set of guidelines for multinational corporations in conformity with the principles of the UN Global Compact. The basic relation of CSR and Sustainable development lays its importance through an alignment programmes and strategies with its operating context as a real key aspect of objective to be achieved. Believing the words “The business of business is to maximise profits, to earn a good return on capital invested and to be a good corporate citizen obeying the law – no more and no less” which targets and incorporates the elements of sustainable development within. CSR is continuing its business commitment that contributes to economic development and to behave ethically while the quality of life of the workforce and their families, the local community and of the society at large is improved.

Findings – Analysis of the CSR factors that has gone beyond assistance and community development per se to sustainable development in the developing countries. Their recent inclusion of new models of corporate community engagements in response to the failings of old models may have attributed to this. However, the major focus seems not to be clear in the area of social and environmental reporting, and codes of conduct on bribery and corruption. Some areas such as health and education seem not to be given priority in the CSR expenditure. Further, CSR activities are observed to be directly related with the corporate sector’s turnover. In such a situation it is really important to focus corporate power on objectives that are possible but sometimes less economically attractive than socially desirable.

Research restraint/implications – The limitation of this study lies in the fact that although the motive of this paper is to evaluate sustainable development and corporate social responsibility in a general aspect but it will mainly focus on a comparative study between a developing and a developed country’s economic, social and environmental differences. Thus, prudence needs to be exercised in the interpretation and generalisation of the results and recommendations/conclusions.

Practical inference – The major resource exploiting corporations in general should devote more resources to CSR activities. Besides, there is the need to design a clear enforcement mechanism and strategy/policy in the area of social and environmental reporting, and codes of conduct on bribery and corruption. The area of health needs to be given priority in a corporation's CSR expenditure and regulations.

Originality/value/ingenuity – The research paper study adopts both theoretical and empirical approaches to analyse the contributions of the corporate sector (which generates negative externalities) to sustainable development of its communities so as to forestall crisis between the two stakeholders. As per the authors' knowledge, no such previous study in comparison with a developing and a developed country has taken such an approach to analyse the problems impeding development in the developing countries and solutions lifting the veil of those problems has been proposed this way.

Keywords: Community development, Corporate Sector, Corporate social responsibility, Sustainable development, UN Global Compact.

Ref #: 238/IND/13

Shift From Agrarian To Mining Society: The Unsettled Question Of Sustainability

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Abstract

An agrarian society is a society which portrays its primary means of resilience from agriculture. The economy of India produces its off spring by proliferating basically on agricultural mode of production. Though the Indian society concedes on varieties of revenues for livelihood generation, still it places its prime substance on agriculture and cultivation. But the recent history of contemporary India embraces adequate information regarding the process of change in agrarian society which took place in the era of development. More precisely Indian rural society supplemented a flavour by signifying itself as an agrarian society up till then the initiation of so called planned development projects. Undeniably, industrial development is necessary for the economic growth of a country but it should not contravene the principal component of wealth. Instantly after independence, a need was felt to exploit the natural resources to humanize the increased population, so as the development of mining industry. Even the mineral based industries are also adding substances in support of economic growth and development. Still we can't negate the outrageous penalties which the infinite populace is swallowing. The mining industries grasp a vibrant habitation to entertain development in both national and international spheres. Among the mining industries coal mining occupied one significant position as it holds the third rank in the production of coal followed by China and USA. Gradually these industries are intensifying their extensions and the thrust for coal is gaining momentum through large scale acquisition of land. Customarily, the coal bearing regions remain positioned in the socio-economically backward and in the midst of forest environs. So it aids to fascinate the mining industries towards its exploitation devoid of any attention towards its inhabitants as well as their income, earning and livelihood.

With the above background the present paper has its aim of exploring the two basic objectives viz. to explore empirically the impact of mining on agriculture and its production and to analyze the economic changes that took place in the context of power relations.

The research was undertaken at the IB Valley coalfield i.e. the subsidiary of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) of Odisha. On the basis of severity six villages from three opencast mine sites have been selected. And two villages from each mine sites were carefully chosen. To supplement the present scenario of experimental village two control villages were chosen in the same district and within the same agro-climatic zone but 20-30 kilometers away from the mining villages. The present work was carried out from a sociological point of view by collecting primary data and taking personal experiences in to account. Data for the study was collected by employing both qualitative and quantitative approach like household survey, questionnaire schedule, participant and non-participant observation, case study and some of the techniques of PRA like focused group discussion and key informants interview.

The paper concludes that agriculture lost its importance in the mining villages. But the control villages are still practicing agriculture as their primary source of income earning. Even in the experimental villages the expenditure on agriculture is more than that of the control villages. *Jajmani* system which bears the characteristic feature of agrarian society is absolutely extinct in the mining villages. Still there lies an underlying fact that the PAPs who got adequate compensation are serving as *Kameens* irrespective of their castes. Acceleration of economic dependency by women folk is higher in case of experimental villages than that of the control villages. The people who have job in the mines are earning handsome salary but how far it will serve them and their offspring, as mining industries will stop excavation one day. They have already been handed over their agricultural lands for the purpose of mining and after mining coal the authorities are parting the places without doing any reclamation activity on it. So the issue of sustainable income and earnings is a matter of concern today.

Keywords: Agrarian Society; Coal Mining; Economic Development; PAPs; Sustainability

Ref #: 239/IND/13

Vessel- Source Pollution and the International Legislative Process: Emphasizing upon the Protection against the Marine Pollution

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Abstract

Analyzing the regulation of vessel-source pollution from the perspective of the political interests of key players in the ship transportation industry, paper offers a comprehensive and convincing account of how pollution of the marine environment by ships may be better regulated and reduced. Paper traces the history of regulation at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and investigates the political, economic and social forces influencing the IMO treaties. One of the most important concepts employed in the regulation of vessel-source pollution is that of controlled discharges within ocean zones. The concept can be traced back to the early part of the twentieth century when political pressure in the UK and the US led to regulation over oily waste discharges (mainly by non-tankers) beyond the traditional three-mile territorial waters limit. Subsequently, international agreement was sought on the matter, and a conference was convened in Washington DC in June 1926 for this purpose. For the UK and the US, international agreement was needed to avert unilateral action by other states and to avoid competitive disadvantages for their own merchant fleets. In retrospect, and from an environmental perspective, the concession to flag state jurisdiction was the major flaw of the zonal system. This is because flag states – then and now – lack the incentive to control the polluting activities of their flag vessels in other states' waters. Under the Washington proposal, coastal states possessed no enforcement (as opposed to prescriptive) authority over foreign-flagged vessels outside the three-mile limit. As such, coastal states did not have the power to board and inspect vessels outside that limit for suspected violations.

Keywords: Environment, International Maritime Pollution, Sustainable Development, Vessel Pollution, Waste discharges, Environment.

Ref #: 240/IND/13

Agriculture for Sustainable Development in India

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Abstract: Agriculture has been a way of life and continues to be the single most important livelihood of the masses in India. The country is the second largest economy in Asia after China, as measured in terms of its gross domestic product (GDP). The main objective of the study is to examine the role of agriculture in sustainable economic development of the Indian economy. India ranks among the top countries of the world with regard to production of food grains, fruits & vegetables, commercial crops, livestock and animal products. Agriculture has been acting as a driving force for our economy as it generates employment, national income, foreign exchange, food for people, feed for livestock, etc. However, since 1950-51, the focus of the successive governments on agricultural development has been declining which is evident from the declining budget allocated for agriculture and allied activities; from about 15 per cent during the first five year plan to a mere 3.7 per cent during the eleventh five year plan. Despite the struggle for growth without any preferential assistance, agricultural sector still provides employment to about 53 per cent of the total Indian population. The growth rate of agriculture including allied activities is 1.91 per cent and it accounted for 13.69 percent of GDP of the country in 2012-13. On an average the percentage share of agricultural imports and exports to total national imports and exports in 2010-11 was 3.50 percent and 10.47 percent, respectively. India's livestock sector is the largest in the world which provides milk, wool, hides, meat and also, draught power for farm operations. Such a vast number of livestock needs to be fed and agriculture is the source for it. The public sector investment in agriculture sector has been declining since 2004-05 as it was 21.27 per cent of the total investment which declined to 15.11 per cent in 2010-11. Contrastingly, private investment in this sector has been increasing during the same period. Sustained development can be assured through the fulfillment of basic needs of employment, food and shelter, for which agriculture plays a pivotal role. For agricultural sector to evolve and for sustainable economic development, focus needs to be laid on substantial increase in public investment, agriculture research and development of rural infrastructure. Efforts are also needed to create strong research-extension-farm linkages. For this purpose, there must be promotion of farmers' organization groups. Thus, a complementary state cooperative strategy may play a key role to improve agricultural production and productivity. Appropriate agricultural policy, food procurement and distribution policy are needed for agricultural development. In addition, pricing of inputs such as seeds, chemicals, electricity and irrigation water must be controlled by the government. Farm subsidies should be rationalized and better targeted to benefit the small and marginal farmers. These subsidies are justified as they benefit not only small producers but the society at large. Efforts are being made to increase the crop intensity but emphasis also needs to be laid on making optimum use of dry lands which are about two-thirds of the total arable land. National policies should aim at and encourage the efficient use of rainwater for dry land farming which can be facilitated by constructing adequate infrastructure. This will facilitate agricultural development after centuries of stagnant agriculture, in the semi-arid areas. There is ample evidence that agriculture has both contributed to and been impacted by climate change. More research is needed to understand climate change in order to enhance the resilience of agriculture. Though agriculture plays a vital role in the economic development, the urgency to protect, sustain and develop it has been left in the hind side. All the sectors of an economy are important, but only a developed agricultural sector will lead to comprehensive growth. Revitalisation of cooperative institutions, improving rural credit system, reorganising research, human resource development, trade and export promotion, land reforms and education among masses are the fundamental issues for an all-round development of the economy and to build an egalitarian society.

Keywords: Agriculture; employment; role of agriculture; Indian economy and sustainable development

Ref #: 241/IND/13

Creating Shared Value in Biomedical Waste Management in India

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Abstract

Through advancement in science and technology society has achieved modernization, which has made human life remarkably comfortable. But on the other side, it is also responsible for increasing pressure on resources and causing menace of excessive waste generation of different hues, adequate management of which has assumed utmost importance both for the protection of environment and wellbeing of the human race. Waste generated germinates into different types of pollution thereby leading to spread of diseases. Therefore, improper waste disposal can have dangerous consequences for the environment as well as humans, violating the very right of humans to have a clean environment and right to health. As medical care is vital for our life, health and wellbeing and waste generated from medical activities can be hazardous, toxic and even lethal in nature and pose a serious threat to the health of community, health care workers and on environment, among other types of waste management, biomedical waste management has emerged as an issue of major concern because it is capable of causing immediate effects like diseases and illness through direct or indirect contact. Considering the fact that healthcare facilities are overburdened to attend the medical care needs of masses across India and the issue of biomedical waste management takes a back seat in those healthcare facilities, it can be a potential area for businesses to create social as well as economic value. The present paper is an attempt to draw the attention of businesses specifically pharmaceutical businesses to identify Biomedical waste management as a possible area of Corporate Social Responsibility investment under the mandate provided by Companies Act, 2013 in India. It proposes that companies invest the average of last three years profit in the formation of a Not-for-profit organization specializing in biomedical waste management on the line of Social Entrepreneurship and Creating Shared Value approach. In doing so companies can have a multiplier effect in addressing the menace of biomedical waste and reap a long term benefit of improving the brand equity while ensuring a clean environment and healthy society. The paper proposes the involvement of pharmaceutical companies in biomedical waste management as biomedical waste management is related to their core business, technical know-how and better resources at their disposal. It will also help in building a positive reputation of company among government and private healthcare facilities, driving the demand for its products in those healthcare facilities, resulting in competitive advantage over other players in the industry. Therefore, while creating a sustainable social value through biomedical waste management, companies would also be able to create a sustainable economic value.

Keywords: Biomedical Waste Management; Corporate Social Responsibility; Creating Shared Value.

Ref #: 245/IND/13

Building Post-2015 Global Youth Movement on Sustainable Development

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Abstract

The aim of this project is to educate, and empower youth with skills and knowledge to mobilize themselves to affect the global sustainable development momentum. Built on three modalities, the 3 E's of Enlistment, Engagement, and Empowerment, this project gives youth ownership to shape the sustainable development momentum in their respective countries, in that they will set the agenda and steer the project. Marginalized factions of the population, such as health inequity sectors and HIV/AIDS groups and under-represented constituencies are part of shared ownership of this project.

Keywords: health equity; post-2015; sustainable development; training; youth advocacy.

Ref #: 246/IND/13

Environmental Harm in Developing Countries: Interface Of Public And Private International Law

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Abstract

The developing nations and developed nations often have very different priorities in terms of environmental problems. The environmental problems of developing nations are often related directly to poverty, whilst environmental concerns in developed nations are often related to excessive industrialization and high-consumption lifestyles. Developing nations are faced with more pressing environmental concerns.

Lately, environmental harm in developing countries has become a growing concern, as the third world countries have constantly felt a need to expand industrially and economically at par with developed countries. In this race towards hasty globalization, the developing countries become vulnerable to the evil of transboundary environmental pollution. In this crisis of transboundary pollution by several multinational corporations and other international entities, comes the interplay of public and private international law.

Under the public international law rules comes the tenets of state responsibility in case of environmental harm, the principles of international law and obligations of states towards each other based on various international treaties and other instruments. The principles of international environmental law viz. The 'no-harm rule', 'precautionary principle', 'polluter pays principle' and other principles with the growing emphasis on the principle of 'sustainable development' provides a crucial framework for environmental jurisprudence. Further, the responsibility of developed and developing countries is set out under various international instruments like Kyoto Protocol and the Climate Change Convention of 1992. While public international law has done much in past twenty years to regulate environmental harm, it cannot realistically be viewed as offering accessible remedies for transboundary environmental damage, save in those few cases where states are willing to overcome their reluctance to litigate environmental claim.

The paper discusses the private international law principles of forum shopping and jurisdiction, relevant choice of law to deal with the infringement of transboundary environmental right and individual responsibility of environmental harm under national laws vis-a-vis the public international law to deal with such transboundary environmental disputes viz. the lack of a forum with universal compulsory jurisdiction, the complexity and uncertainty of the law of state responsibility as regards environmental damage, and the absence of clarity concerning the remedies available to states and their scope and spans out reasons to prefer remedies under private international law over public international law when dealing with the issues of transboundary environmental rights. The paper seeks to establish that private international law begins reinforcing transboundary environmental rights where the public international law fails.

The paper also suggests some measures by which developing countries can better enforce their transboundary environmental rights caused by other states and international entities to aim towards global sustainable development.

Keywords: Developing Countries, Private International Law, Public International Law, Transboundary Environmental Harm, Globalization

Ref #: 247/IND/13

Law as a medium of change, to achieve sustainable development & use of clean energy

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Abstract

The aim of this research paper is to critically analyze the relationship that exists between the use of green energy and a healthy environment, and also aims at understanding the effect of use of non-environmentally friendly sources, such as coal, thermal, and nuclear substances which are used in order to generate energy and its devastating impact on the environment. The paper seeks to address the problem of environmental pollution with a legal remedy, by pointing out the loopholes in the current environmental laws that are in force and by providing for more rigid and effective implementation mechanisms, a system of checks and balances which focuses on the reduction and misuse of natural resources used for creation of energy and providing a substitute or alternative source, which can be used in the process of power generation. The aim of this paper is to ensure the ultimate reduction of environmental degradation, pollution and overall harm being caused to the natural environment and further more help prevent the destruction of natural habitats of various species, by providing a model which will put a stop to the prevalent practice of deforestation for the purpose of building power plants, power generation units, causing the destruction of various ecosystems and water sources. The paper concentrates on the governmental policies which are in force with regard to environmental protection ,which are largely inadequate and lacking , and provides remedial measures and possible amendments which can improve the existing framework of laws so as to ensure the safety of the environment, and which can to a large extent , if implemented, ensure a healthy environment, prevent the exploitation of natural resources to a minimum, and build a framework which will facilitate the idea of development in such a manner ,which can go hand in hand with eco-friendly methods of generation of power and use of clean energy .It can reduce the dependency on conventional sources of energy which are in short supply ,to more viable and less harmful ,and moreover renewable and cleaner substitutes which can be equally effective in the process of power generation and production of energy. Finally, the paper seeks to shed light on issues which are related with the process of power generation by utilizing an empirical approach and suggest changes which can possibly be beneficial in both economic as well as the environmental aspect , the premise of the research paper is to take us a step closer towards understanding the problems and solutions related to achieving sustainable development , the present volume of power needed ,how to circumvent the problem of demand and supply while keeping in mind the necessity of utilizing resources judiciously, and also bearing in mind the requirements of both the society & environment at the same time by effectively utilizing Law as a medium of implementing positive change. The observations put forth in this paper will not only be relevant in the Indian scenario but also will have global significance, since this issue being faced by the world at large, is contemporary in nature.

Keywords: Energy, Environment, Law, Policy, Sustainable

Ref #: 249/IND/13

**Sustainable Development Vs Environmental Impact of Science and Technology
on Health in India-An Analysis**

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Abstract

Environment has great impact on the health of human beings. Overall welfare of human race is dependent on clean and healthy environment. For a healthy, productive and fulfilling life every individual should have the physical and economic access to a balanced diet, safe drinking water, clean air, sanitation, environmental hygiene, primary health care and education. It is proven fact that genetic factors may also be responsible for causing diseases but the environmental factors play much more active role in contracting various diseases. WHO has defined "health as state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely an absence of disease or infirmity". As this definition fails to deliberate upon the impact of environmental pollutants on human health, there has been a shift in the concept of health and the global commitment is towards "Total Health" in recent past. Definition of Total Health should be somewhat as "Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well being where life thrives in healthy environment devoid of pollutants; and not merely an absence of disease or infirmity. This paper is a humble attempt to evaluate the impact of science and technology on environment and its resultant effect on health of human population in Indian subcontinent. Indian Constitution safeguards the right to a healthy environment through the right to life and liberty as protected under Article 21. But despite constitutional safeguards and legislations on environment protection, the state of human health is not satisfactory, not only in rural areas but even in the Metro cities. This paper draws an interrelation between the environment and health in India, and highlights the contributing factors responsible for deterioration of 'health' in changing environment. This paper throws light on the role of Indian judiciary in the protection and safeguarding of overall health of Indian masses and in the end suggests certain measures which may help in achieving the health goals in India in wake of sustainable development

Keywords: Environment, Health ,India, Law, Technology, Sustainable Development

Ref #: 252/IND/13

The guardian of Future generation

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Abstract

There has been emergence over a period of time in Sustainable development. It mainly sets goals for future. It covers wide aspect. The paper focuses on improving the understanding of sustainable development and the various concepts related to sustainable development. The paper discusses that how human resource development function supports corporate sustainability strategy. It also focuses on the aspect of Good governance. The term good governance focuses through the international perspective as it explains how the public institutions conduct affairs and manage their resources. Sustainable development covers wide aspect such as it aims at human development, environment protection, poverty eradication and moreover aims to remove economic and social disparities. Sustainability could also be measured on the grounds of comprehensive wealth which includes manufactured, human and natural capital. Sustainable development addresses various social and economic issues. Sustainable development covers poverty and environment issues as both can be seen as related concepts. As the survival needs of the poor force them to degrade the already degraded environment. Thus, removal of poverty is the prerequisite for protection of environment. To ensure environmental sustainability the integration of agriculture with land and water management is essential. Moreover there should be sustainability of natural resource base. So recognition of all stakeholders and their role in protection should be recognized. All members of the society are considered as stakeholders of the sustainable development. Corporate social responsibility and citizenship were included so as to get the greater awareness about the concept of sustainable development. Strategies need to be invented to shift and break from the present unsustainable path and adopt the energy efficient way of life so there is economic growth. Many business organizations also cover the aspect of sustainable development by arising issues related to environmental and social concern. The concept of sustainable development basically focuses on society's development. The paper arises many questions related to issues covered under the concept of sustainable development. Sustainable development mainly focuses on quality of life which is highly dependent upon use of natural resources and thus these resources must be sustained. The present concept of sustainable global enterprise will help to achieve three basic goals known as corporate responsibility, environmental protection and social responsiveness.

The concept of sustainable development also focuses on issues related to women as they play a significant role in policy of sustainable development. Women issues are basically linked with population and fertility. The development process worldwide has contributed to increase in economic and social inequalities, environment degradation and has also led to growth in poverty. The theme related to women has attracted many people worldwide. The paper traces the women's impact on policies and actions from national and international perspective. Sustainable development is aimed to be achieved when there is reduction in societal demands or the gap between demand and supply is reduced. Sustainable development establishes a strong relationship between humans and environment. As its main focus is on sustaining environment too. There is a need of an hour to change demand of people on earth so as to achieve the objectives of sustainable environment. The agenda 21 not only focuses on environmental issues but greatly on the concept of sustainable development. Sustainable development could only be achieved in this globalizing world when it is guided by local consideration which basically lies in cultural diversity and traditions. Thus there is a need to preserve diversity as it is important precondition for sustainable development. Therefore the paper covers all the issues related to sustainable development and also provides various ways to achieve the objectives of sustainable development.

Keywords: Environment; Globalization; Poverty; Stakeholders; Sustainable development

Ref #: 255/IND/13

**Post -2015 MDG approach towards environment sustainability:
A case study of Vishwakarma Yojana**

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Abstract

The year 2009-10 was declared as the drought year for India. The cascading effects of the drought were felt everywhere as it led to the contraction of G.D.P of the country. The agriculture sector being the most affected as it is monsoon dependent. In the future years the climate change phenomenon is going to make the matters worse as more prolonged monsoon and extreme drought period will be witnessed. The extremities of climate is going to affect the water demand and the supply of the nation and the world as a whole.

The present condition of water availability is inadequate to meet the growing demand of water. Hence there is a need to make the optimum use of the present water resources and to enlarge the water storage capacities based on the change in the climatic seasons.

Since 70% of India's population lives in the villages and hence the most affected. Therefore there is a need to put in the systems of water storage in the planning of the model villages. The planning and design of the government owned and even private buildings has been done so that it should be capable of storing water in the monsoon season and ability to use it all through the year.

Vishwakarma Yojana is one of the approach for rural infrastructure development based on the concept of providing basic sustainable urban infrastructure to the rural population. It plans to cover 70 villages of the Gujarat state. The working of the Yojana is based on the participatory approach towards the creation of community based assets of the village stakeholders with the involvement of the students of the designated colleges, thereby promoting and providing environmental sustainability in coherence with the Millennium Development Goals.

The methodology adopted in the identification of water-efficient buildings is the GAP analysis whereby the required infrastructure is seen as against the deficit one and then the requirement is estimated. The other approach is SWOT analysis wherein the villages were analysed from its strengths, weakness, threats and opportunities and then prioritizing its immediate needs.

The efforts towards the environmental sustainability have not been enough in its effectiveness, hereby emphasizing the need for its rebirth and paying greater attention towards it. In the current scenario when the confirmation of human activity as the cause of global warming has been done. The policy makers need to look at the conservation of water resources and its sustainability aspect too in view of the "take care" aspect of the future generations.

Keywords: Climate Change; Millennium Development Goals; Rural Development; Vishwakarma Yojana; Water

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An Inquiry in its Human Rights Perspective

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Abstract

Man has the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate condition of life in an environment of quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being and thus the fundamental right of every individual to adequate conditions of life, the right to live with dignity have been recognized in the Magna Carta of environmental rights that is the Stockholm Declaration of Human Environment . These rights depend on the economic development of a nation. In fact, the right to development is recognized as a fundamental and inalienable human right .But at the same time the adverse impacts of these developmental activities on the environment and health of individuals cannot be ignored. The widespread environmental pollution and degradation is affecting not only the life and health of present generation but is also threatening the very survival of life on earth in the near future. Hence there is a need to integrate environmental concerns into developmental issues in order to protect both environmental rights as well as developmental rights. This need to integrate environment with development has given rise to the concept of sustainable development.

Sustainable Development: Understanding the Concept: Sustainable development is a process in which development can be sustained for generations. Theoretically, one may say that sustainability is a process of change in which exploitation of resources , direction of investments, orientation of technological changes etc are made consistent with the future as well as the present.

Human Rights Dimensions of Sustainable Development: The concept of sustainable development rests on the foundation of equity. It has a equitable basis and its human rights dimensions can be traced to the two forms of equity on which it is based namely: Intergenerational Equity and Intra-Generational Equity.

Intergenerational Equity: It mandates that the present generation should not look at the earth and its resources as mere investment opportunity but as a trust passed on to them by the ancestors, to be enjoyed and passed on to the future generations for their use.

Intragenerational Equity: Intragenerational equity recognizes the common but differentiated responsibilities of developed and developing countries towards removal of poverty and protection of environment. This principle recognizes that the inequality between people as a result of greed and misdistribution of power is a major obstacle in achieving sustainability.

Sustainable Development: Its Application in Practice: The principles of intergenerational and intragenerational equity which are inherent in the concept of sustainable development invest it with a human rights dimensions. These principles must be applied to ensure sustainability of development and protection of basic human rights of all individuals. The Supreme Court of India has in innumerable cases applied the principle of sustainable development to protect the basic human rights. In all these cases Supreme Court explained the importance of Sustainable Development indicating that while thinking of the present, the future should not be forgotten. We owe a duty to future generations and for a bright today, bleak tomorrow cannot be countenanced. We must learn from our experiences of past to make both the present and the future brighter. We learn from our experiences, mistakes from the past so that they can be rectified for a better present and the future. It cannot be lost sight of that while today is yesterday's tomorrow, it is tomorrow's yesterday". Today when the world community has signed the Millennium Development Goals and reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable development, it is imperative to implement the principles of intergenerational and intragenerational equity for protection and realization of basic human rights for all members of the human family

Keywords: Development, ,Exploring ,Human , Rights , Sustainable

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Sustainable Urban Tourism: A case of Omkareshwar

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Abstract

The interrelationship between all human beings and earth systems has clearly increased over the decades. As humans are social animals, there is hardly any activity that can be performed in isolation and thereby they are dependent on one another. Since the mid 19th century, this inter-dependence has increased and the global community has moved over the time towards "sustainable development". They have made themselves sensitive towards preservation of environmental integrity, towards new methods of resource allocation and accounting.

On the same time, the demand for travel has greatly increased over the last few decades. While many travel for business or conventional purposes, others are traveling on leisure time to learn about other cultures, to develop their specific interests, and to seek entertainment. Tourism is one of the world's fastest growing industries and is a major source of income for many countries. Being a people-oriented industry, tourism industry also provides many jobs that have helped revitalize local economies.

Hence, tourism is being viewed as a cornerstone of a policy of urban development. It positively contributes to the development of towns and cities and the well being of their residents. But if we see the other side, it also brings lots of negative impact on environment, socio-cultural and economic issues. This shows today tourism is not wholly sustainable in manner. Sustainable development has become widely accepted as the way to a better, more humane and socially responsible future. There is a growing belief that tourism can play a significant role in sustainable development. The World Tourism Organization, in its new capacity as Specialized Agency of the United Nations, wishes to encourage all countries to ensure that their policies and actions for the development and management of tourism fully embrace the principles of sustainability.

With growing awareness towards sustainable tourism, this paper is aimed at studying the approaches towards sustainable urban tourism. The paper examines the parameters of sustainable urban tourism. It would also identify different indicators under these parameters generated through literature study. Then paper would entail on what are the principles and potentials of sustainable urban tourism. These would be further discussed by taking Omkareshwar as a case study. It would be critically analyzed on sustainable urban tourism parameters. It aims to mitigate the negative effect on environment, socio-cultural and economic issues by sustainable tourism approaches.

To achieve the above goal a combination of primary survey and secondary desk research is employed. In conclusion, the paper suggests all tourism-related activities should be well planned, located, designed, and managed in an environmentally friendly manner so that the environment is not congested, polluted or degraded and there is no social tension.

Keywords: Indicators; Parameters; Socio- culture; Sustainable; Urban tourism

Ref #: 264/IND/13

Sustainable Development and the role of Green Economy concepts in India

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Abstract

In the last three years, Green Economy has been the concept that has dominated the discourse on the subject of sustainable development. With the growing concern in the last thirty about the realization that the environment cannot be neglected, the debate surrounding the means to achieve the goal of global sustainability has also been continuing. The basic bone of contention between the developed and underdeveloped countries has been the dimension of sustainable development to be given primacy-social or economic. The concept of Green Economy was chosen to be one of the two themes of the Rio +20 Summit, 2012 and it was perhaps the only new concept in the adopted document titled-‘The Future We Want’. This concept has been regarded as a step forward in the evolution of the global thinking in dealing with sustainable development. It was introduced to mitigate the impact of the model of Brown Economy for sustainable growth. While, this concept has received much greater attention in developed countries, its impact has been rather lesser in developing countries. In India, the concept of Green concept gained prominence only when India experienced high rate of growth continuously for a considerable period of time. Still, India continues to be home to one-third of the world’s poor. Therefore, due to the large concentration of poor and low social overhead capital, India, like most of the developing countries, has to focus on increasing income rather than worry about environmental concerns. However, India has a huge potential to become a green economy with the world’s second largest pool of engineers and scientists.

Till now, the economic model followed by India has helped it to perform well in the economic sphere but has largely been a failure in bridging the gap between the rich and the poor as it is evident from the Gini coefficient (the measure of income inequality) of India and continuous downward slide in India’s position in the Human Development Index. Moreover, increasing industrialization has in a way nurtured violent armed rebellions like the Maoist movement which is considered to be the biggest threat to internal security. Therefore, it can be concluded that the present economic model isn’t the desired future path for an emerging economic power like India.

Therefore, at this critical point, India can’t afford to not move towards a green economy. While India follows the path of transition to sustainable growth based on Green economy, it might have comprise on economic growth and job opportunities. This is the area where the international community, -particularly developed countries, need to come forward in the support of emerging economies like India to achieve the goal of Green economy.

Keywords: Environment; Green Economy; Sustainability.

Ref #: 266/IND/13

**Services Sector led Sustainable Growth: Some insights from
66th round of NSSO**

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Abstract

Most of the developed countries show a consistent pattern of growth with workforce and resources shifting from agricultural sector to industrial sector and finally to services sector at higher levels of development. The Services sector is the largest contributor to employment and national product in all the developed countries. In many developing countries Services sector has emerged as the largest sector in terms of its share in domestic product at low levels of industrial development and per capita income. It is therefore now considered the new engine of growth and sustainable development for the emerging Asian economies. In India, post liberalization, the Services Sector has grown at fast pace and has emerged as the biggest sector of the economy in terms of its contribution to the gross domestic product. However, its share in labour force lags far behind. Currently, more than 50% of workforce is engaged in primary activities. This apparent disproportionality in share of Services Sector in domestic product and labour force raises the question about the sustainability of such a development pattern. Sustainable economic growth in the long run needs to be accompanied by displacement of surplus labour from primary sector to industrial and services sector. But with slow growth of manufacturing sector and low labour absorption capacity, enhancing the employment potential in Services sector seems the most plausible alternative. The objective of this paper is to explore the current state of employment in Services Sector and its various subsectors using the latest NSSO (66th round) data. This study further attempts to examine the heterogeneity in labour share of services sector across major Indian States. The statistical analysis of data reveals that there are considerable variations, interstate as well as intra-sector, in the share of Services Sector in labour force. In most of the Indian states, Services Sector has not managed to emerge as the largest sector in terms of labour share. Primary sector has continued to be the largest sector in almost all the states with the exception of Kerala, however Services Sector is the second largest employer of labour force. Further, it is also observed across the data set of 20 major Indian states that the wholesale and retail trade subsector of services sector employed maximum labour force, followed by Transport and storage subsector. On the other hand financial services, health services and social services sub sectors have the least labour share across states.

Keywords: Employment, India, Interstate variations, NSSO, Services sector

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Dynamics of India's Climate Change Strategy in the Context of Global Climate Change Regime

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Abstract

Present paper seeks to analyse the much debated issue of climate change in the context of India's policy perception in both theoretical and practical standpoint. India, as a fastest growing economy on the earth, fiercely competing to fulfill the basic needs of its over one billion people, is at the epicenter of the success and futuristic direction of the global climate change agreements. The research is an attempt to analyse the climate change mitigation measures undertaken by India in both domestic and international milieu. There is firm and unequivocal evidence on the fact that, the earth's climate is getting warmer due to human induced activities. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Climate Change Synthesis Report, 2007 findings revealed that, the past ten years (1995-2006) were experienced as the warmest years since past 1850 (IPCC, 2007). There is no denying to the fact that, the risk of climate change is varied and versatile, as it includes; water scarcity, energy deficit, and baffling food insecurity, loss of rich flora and fauna, human health risk and so on. Owing to the reason, there have been some exhausting efforts to arrive at consensus over the issue of climate change at global level.

India has been a major player in the chessboard of global climate change regime and has been extremely sensitive to the climate change issues. Climate change is of much greater concern to India, as it is going to affect the economic growth, biotic quality and social development of the country. Any adverse impacts on the economic growth rate of the country has far-reaching ramification to the poverty alleviation campaign of a country where more than 40% of the population still figures as below poverty line. It is even more scaring to relate India's GHGs reduction campaign with social justice. The analysis of Parikh and Parikh (2002), demonstrates that, the annual emission reduction target to reduce 30% of the CO₂ over the period of 30 years would cost 4% slash in the GDP and increase 17.5% more impoverished people by 2030 (Parikh and Parikh, 2002).

India is therefore, going ahead with a multi-dimensional strategy with a synergic relationship between economic development, environmental sustainability and social justice. The foundation of India's climate change policy is essentially poised to accelerate the pace of economic development and penetrate it to the most vulnerable sections of the society as to increase their immunity to fight the risks of climate change and to formulate a national action plan to climate change to fight the impacts of climate change in both macro and micro level. The study also focuses on India's global climate change policy perception in the wider context of agreement and disagreement therein. India, a great power-in-waiting, is one of the world's leading emitters of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) contribution 1.61 billion Tonnes GHGs and is likely to increase in future. It is thus, imperative to evolve a clear understanding of India's climate change perception, greenhouse gases emission inventory, future projections and implications.

Keywords: Climate change; Climate Change Strategy Energy Efficiency, Global Greenhouse Gases, Global Relevance

Ref #: 271/IND/13

Sustainable Development in Transportation Sector - A Case Study

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Abstract

Sustainable development is an organizing principle for human development on a finite planet. It proposes a desirable future state for human societies in which living conditions and resource-use meet human needs without undermining the sustainability of natural systems and the environment, so that future generations may also meet their needs. Current evidence suggests that the concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide predicted will have major implications for plants and human's physiology and growth along with drastic rise in global temperature which is not in accordance with concept of sustainability. Sustainable transport systems make a positive contribution to the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the communities they serve. Transport systems exist to provide social and economic connections, and people quickly take up the opportunities offered by increased mobility. The advantages of increased mobility need to be weighed against the environmental, social and economic costs that transport systems pose. Rapidly increasing emissions of carbon dioxide from the transport sector, particularly in urban areas, is a major challenge to sustainable development in developing countries. The largest sources of transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions include passenger cars and light-duty trucks including sport utility vehicles, pickup trucks, and minivans. These sources account for over half of the emissions from the sector. The remainder of greenhouse gas emissions comes from other modes of transportation, including freight trucks, commercial aircraft, ships, boats, and trains as well as pipelines and lubricants. This study analyzes the factors responsible for transport sector CO₂ emissions growth in developing Asian countries like India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. The analysis splits the annual emissions growth into components representing economic development; population growth; shifts in transportation modes; changes in fuel mix, emission coefficients and transportation energy intensity. This paper also reviews existing government policies to limit CO₂ emissions growth, particularly various fiscal and regulatory policy instruments. The study finds that of the six factors considered, three - economic development, population growth, and transportation energy intensity - are responsible for driving up the emission of carbon-dioxide in transportation sector. In contrast, only economic development and population growth are responsible in the case of India. Carbon dioxide emissions exhibit a downward trend due to decreasing transportation energy intensity. The study also finds that some existing policy instruments help reduce transport sector CO₂ emissions, although they were not necessarily targeted for this purpose when introduced. The paper concludes with highlighting the emergency for acting quickly on this important issue, suggesting some measures that will enable us to reduce down the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Keywords: Emission Coefficient, Fiscal Policies, Government Policies, Sustainable Development, Transportation energy intensity

Ref #: 272/IND/13

Biodiversity Laws in India: Evaluating the Facts and Flaws

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Abstract

Moving towards its goal for the achievement of sustainable development, India took a leap by signing the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992. It ratified the Convention and introduced the Biological Diversity Act in the year 2002. It had understood that boasting of the rich biodiversity is useless unless it is protected against the unbridled misuse and destruction by both, citizens and non citizens. The law provides for the foreign entities to take the prior approval of the authorities established under the Act. However, the Indian citizens have been given the privilege of using the bio-resources by intimating the respective state authorities established under the Act. Provisions have also been made for the promotion of International Collaborative Research Projects which have been exempted from taking prior approval for the use of the Indian bio-resources. Prior approval of the authority has also been mandated to transfer the research results to third persons. The law includes the provision relating to the IPR agreements and provisions for determining the benefit sharing with the indigenous community and the government. The Act also establishes a three tier authority arrangement for carrying out the purposes of the Act, i.e. at the national, state and regional level. Provisions have been made for maintenance of proper records of the bio-resources of India. Introducing such provisions for supervised use and the concept of "Access and Benefit Sharing", the law brought a ray of hope for the people especially the indigenous community whose claim for biodiversity will now be recognized. But since then, the experience has been opposite. The disputed case of BT Brinjal (eggplant) is regarding the unauthorized use by Monsanto and MAHYCO. The giant seed manufacturers have surpassed the authority of law by finding the loopholes and have challenged the sovereign rights of a nation over its resources. The lack of rules required for the implementation of the provisions dealing with 'prior approval', the ambiguity in the provisions dealing with 'Collaborative Research Projects', the unbridled power provided to the Central Government under section 40 of the Biodiversity Act, 2002, the confusion in the jurisdiction of the National Biodiversity Authority and the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), the unsigned Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are some of the many issues relating to the biodiversity laws in India which have failed to curb the acts of biopiracy in India. It has been experienced that law develops with its breach. The article deals with the incidents of breach of the biodiversity laws, attempts to bring forward the ambiguities in light of the BT Brinjal case and suggests changes in the biodiversity laws of the country.

Keywords: Biodiversity, Benefit Sharing, BT Brinjal, prior approval, sustainable development

Ref #: 276/IND/13

Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development

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Abstract

There is an intrinsic relationship between energy, environment and sustainable development. The environment is the storehouse of all the energy. This energy has been used by man from time to time leading to a change in environment i.e. from natural environment to man-made environment. This alteration has led to disturbance in the environment, change in energy distribution pattern, its depletion and has been highly pernicious to this world. To counter these burgeoning problems, the concept of sustainable development has come to the rescue. Humans need to counter the vulnerability appearing in the environment around them, if taken into account the mushrooming pollution of all the basic five elements of the earth, fading of inevitable natural resources and degeneration of biodiversity.

A society seeking sustainable development ideally must utilize only energy resources which cause no adverse impact on the environment (e.g. which ensures pollution free environment). However, most of the energy resources lead to some environmental impact, it is reasonable to suggest that few of the concerns regarding the limitations imposed on sustainable development by environmental emissions and their negative impacts can be in part overcome through increased energy efficiency.

There is a strong relation between energy efficiency and environmental impact since, for the same services or products, less resource utilization and pollution is normally associated with increased energy efficiency and appropriate allocation of resources judiciously under different heads.

The issues that would be raised in the paper include (i)- a comprehensive discussion of the future of energy use and the consequent environmental impacts in terms of acid precipitation, stratospheric ozone layer depletion and the greenhouse effect leading to global warming, (ii) a discussion on the various summits regarding environmental concerns like Earth Summit, Johannesburg etc. (iii) some solutions to current environmental issues in terms of energy conservation and renewable energy technologies like solar energy based appliances, (iv) discussion on the various energy forms and their current use scenario, along with their impact on human life and environment, (v) discussions on the relations between energy and sustainable development, and between the environment, its importance and sustainable development, and an (vi) illustrative example of the energy use, its impact on environment and sustainable development considering the future of this world (vii) detailed analysis of the societal impacts on the environment and the possible remedies to the problems

In this regard, a number of issues involving energy, environment and sustainable development are examined from both current and future perspectives and the same would be added in the paper. In addition, some recommendations are drawn from the results presented, for the use of energy scientists and engineers and policy makers, along with the anticipated effects. The paper would also present the insistence for participation of all the countries, regardless of whether developed or developing, for sustained development, environment conservation and energy conservation for the future generations.

Keywords: sustainable; development; environment; energy; resources

Ref #: 278/IND/13

Corporate Sustainability – Factors influencing Sustainability Practices and Reporting initiatives by Corporate Sector

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Abstract

Industrialization has led to enormous progress of society but in this race to attain development resources have been consumed obliviously making this planet exhausted, polluted and ecologically mutilated for coming generations. One of our responsibilities towards the future generations is to leave enough resources in a healthy and inexhaustible condition to be used by generations to come. Sustainable development not only ensures conservation but will also lead to inclusive growth. The onus to ensure sustainable economic and industrial growth lies on Government, society and corporate sector equally.

There has been a lot of debate on corporate sustainability practices adopted by the companies but there is still lack of awareness as well as enthusiasm amongst corporate leaders to bring those strategies into action. The essence of sustainable development lies in sustainable production as well as sustainable consumption which ensure providing goods and services using minimal of natural resources, generating minimum waste and pollution.

On one hand there are mandatory regulations by government forcing companies to follow sustainable practices and on the other hand drive to improve performance is leading companies to find innovative ways to maximize their wealth. There has been empirical evidence that sustainability practices lead to increased revenues, improved performance and better social and environmental performance but there are still barriers like lack of funding facilities for carrying sustainability projects, lack of clear leadership, insufficient metrics to measure environmental impact (LCA GHG protocol and other environment assessment tools are there for solid waste assessment but no tool has been developed to measure water waste) and absence of international regulatory framework. Moreover confusion persists among companies regarding following mandatory compliance of regulators for sustainability initiatives and communicating the same to the stakeholders through sustainability reports and acquiescence to the pressure by nongovernmental organizations and social activists for voluntary efforts for waste reduction. Large companies have been following sustainable practices effectively but there is long way to bring small companies and SME's and other organizations in the gambit of sustainability. The shift in the thought process is gradual and efforts have to be made at corporate level, social level and political level to encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices clearly and effectively.

This paper emphasizes on the importance of corporate sustainability issues, reasons out why companies should adopt sustainability practices and also attempts to identify factors influencing sustainability practices adopted by companies and issuance of sustainability reports by companies on the basis of existing empirical literature.

Keywords: Corporate Sustainability, Sustainability Reporting, Environment, Regulatory compliance, Voluntary disclosures

Ref #: 279/IND/13

Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development

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Abstract

“It was not until we saw the picture of the earth, from the moon, that we realized how small and how helpless this planet is - something that we must hold in our arms and care for”.- Margaret Mead.

Introduction

According to UN World Commission on Economic Development, Sustainable development is meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Globalisation and industrial development has resulted into overexploitation of non-renewable natural resources, pollution of water and environment and land degradation, which is slowly and steadily becoming a major threat to sustainable development. Henceforth, it is the duty of Multinational enterprises to consider it as their responsibility not to overexploit the natural resources, not to pollute the environment for the benefit and well-being of present and future generations. Thus, to minimize the conflict between corporate houses and different stakeholders a proper harmony has to be maintained if we have to survive in a harmonious environment. To achieve this corporate social responsibility, corporate should take care of their employees, shareholders, suppliers, consumers and community.

Corporate Social Responsibility- Implications

A popular explanation of the term CSR is the continuing commitment by businesses to behave ethically and contribute to economic development, while improving the quality of life of the workforce and their families as well as of the local community and society at large.

Aim and Discussions

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is not a new concept. However, Corporate Social Responsibility has never been more prominent on the corporate agenda than it is in the present times. *This research paper focuses on the finding & reviewing of the issues and challenges faced by Corporate Social Responsibility activities in India.*

Arguments

At one end of the spectrum, Corporate Social Responsibility can be viewed simply as a collection of good citizenship activities being engaged by various organizations. At the other end, it can be a way of doing business that has significant impact on society. For this latter vision to be enacted in India, it will be necessary to build CSR into a movement. Thus this paper aims to discuss on a broad platform the: various provisions under the New Companies Act, 2013 in context of corporate social responsibility and its implications; the Role of Governments in Business; International Labour Rights ; fighting corporate greed and combating corruption and; reconciling the interest of management and stakeholder's; as all these premises collaterally form the basis for sustainable development (or sustainability in business terms) and corporate social responsibility for the benefit of mother nature and for a prosperous society.

Conclusion

Thus we can conclude that Questions of sustainable development are intrinsically concerned with the nature of society, of justice, of liberty, of freedom, of dignity, of the value of each individual as an end in itself. If sustainable development is an ideal toward which society and business can continually strive, then the way we have to strive is by creating value, i.e. creating outcomes that are consistent with the *ideal* of sustainability along social, environmental and economic dimensions; and the ends of corporate social responsibility and sustainable development have to meet to achieve the central vision of a flourishing society for a time immemorial.

Keywords: Globalization, corporate social responsibility, justice, liberty, freedom

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Role of Law in India's Sustainable Development: Achievements and Challenges

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Abstract

The idea of sustainable development grew from numerous environmental movements in earlier decades. Summits such as the Earth Summit in Rio, Brazil, 1992, were major international meetings to bring sustainable development to the mainstream. However, this idea is not new to Indian jurisprudence. Efforts have been constantly made by the Indian legislators and judiciary in particular to fairly balance economic development, environmental protection and human rights.

This paper highlights the increasing reliance placed on rights based approach while dealing environmental issues which is adopted not only by planners, policymakers, legislators but also the Indian judiciary in exercising judicial activism. The above fact is evident from different laws, constitutional provisions and recent developments. Integration of environmental concerns with goals of social and economic development has come to be the guiding principle. This is very well in accord with directive principles and fundamental rights under the Indian constitution. India has been an active participant in Stockholm Conference and also a consenting party to World Charter on Nature which UN General Assembly adopted in 1982. This paper also deals with the several important laws that have been enacted and some exiting provisions in IPC, CrPC relating to environmental protection.

The judiciary is also a crucial partner in promoting environmental governance, upholding the rule of law and in ensuring a fair balance between environmental, social and developmental consideration through its judgments and declarations. The field of judicial intervention in India is constantly expanding and the apex court has come out as the guardian of the Indian environment. The superior courts have played a pivotal role in interpreting those laws to suit the doctrine of 'Sustainable Development'. Public Interest Litigations to prevent environmental degradation has been increasing in India and the judiciary has come to rescue the people on a number of occasions. There are several historic judicial decisions serving man and environment inter se in India. This paper highlights certain landmark cases which prove that in the present setup, judicial access to environmental jurisprudence has acquired a comprehensive scope.

By applying the principles of sustainable development, the Supreme Court has given effect to the principles of social justice inherent in the constitution of India. Thus, while laying down environmental law, the court has in fact established the constitutional objectives of social economic and political justice and the fundamental rights of the citizen of India.

Besides an active judiciary, it is pointed out, that India needs a better implementation system and action on the part of the Legislature to remove certain flaws from the laws enacted under Indian legislative environmentalism and make them adequate. India is in need of a new effective legislation for this 21st century and venture to have the U.S model of legislative planning and open public scrutiny or a comprehensive set of legislation for constitution of specialized environmental courts in India.

Environment and development are 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 and the various High Courts to deal with these cases with caution of high degree. Then only, we will achieve our goal i.e. to secure a pollution free developed country for our next generation.

Keywords: Sustainable Development, Environmental Law, Judicial Environmentalism.

Ref #: 283/IND/13

Constitutional Aspects of Environment and Sustainable Development in India

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Abstract

Clean air, water and healthy food constitute Environment. These are vital for the existence and continuance of all living organisms on earth. Naturally existing mixture of gases in the atmosphere comprising Nitrogen , Oxygen , Carbon dioxide and water vapours which provide excellent conditions to sustain life. However, this natural composition of air is getting disturbed due to variety of human activities. Human activities related to industry, vehicular emissions, burning of fuels etc. The situation is alarming in big industrialized cities. To sensitize people towards keeping the planet non- polluted an annual event has been started named as Earth Day which is celebrated on April, 22 every year. It is the moral and constitutional duty of all the people to make environment clean and healthy. The development if needed must be done without hazarding the environment. World Commission on Environment and Development presented in 1987 states that sustainable development is that Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Hence, Sustainable development promotes the idea that social and economic progress are all attainable within the limits of our earth's natural resources. Sustainable development provides a framework for humans to live and prosper in harmony with nature. Nonetheless, sustainability does not have any supportive legal foundation, in spite of the many environmental and natural resources laws that exist. If we are to make significant progress towards a sustainable society we need to develop and implement laws and legal institutions that do not exist. Recently there has been a growing concern for the environment. A number of International bodies like the International Organizations, the Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) have emphasized significantly that environment needs to be protected. Similarly the States have also reflected this in their domestic legislations. Sustainable developmentl seems to have gained an ubiquitous presence in many policy debates. Yet the concept itself suffers from a certain degree of ambiguity. This may help to ensure its acceptability from many different local and global perspectives, from many cultures and regions. However, sustainable development's lack of conceptual clarity creates diverse interpretations of how the notion should be put into practice but in actual the efforts are not being made to do it practically by anyone.

Keywords: Environment, Sustainable development, Seven Principles

Ref #: 285/IND/13

Diversity of plant growth promoting rhizobacteria associated with tomato in semi-arid region

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Abstract

Rising food demands across the world is matter of concern however the challenge lies in a meeting the target in a sustainable mode. Sustainable agriculture is the burning issue today and it is impossible to work in this direction without taking into account the soil biodiversity. Soil is the most fundamental requirement of agriculture and thus exploring soil biodiversity for its potential agricultural supporting activities is a judicial move in this direction. Soil microflora is an integral part of the agricultural ecosystems and has a strong influence on the crop yield. Microorganisms residing in the root-zone (rhizosphere) of the plant are called as rhizobacteria and they affect the plant in most significant manner, favourably as well as unfavourably. Plant growth promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR) are the plant-friendly rhizobacteria which influence the plant growth and health in a positive way. Present investigation was thus designed to isolate and identify plant growth promoting rhizobacteria associated with tomato in semi-arid region of Haryana, India. Twenty six rhizosphere soil samples were randomly collected from tomato cultivating areas of district Faridabad, Haryana, India and a total of fifty six strains of rhizobacteria were isolated from them using spread plate technique. Isolation was carried out on three different selective and non-selective medium i.e. nutrient agar, King's B agar and glycerol-arginine agar at 30^oC. Out of 56 isolated strains 33.9% of the isolates have been identified as belonging to genus *Pseudomonas*, 23.2% to genus *Bacillus*, 12.5% each to genus *Acinetobacter* and genus *Streptomyces*, 10.7% to genus *Micrococcus*, 3.6% to genus *Azotobacter* and almost 1.8% each to genus *Flavobacterium* and genus *Streptococcus*. All isolated strains were evaluated for two major plant growth promoting activities i.e. indole acetic acid (IAA) production and phosphate solubilization. *In-vitro* IAA production was observed in 76.8% isolates and phosphate solubilizing activity was given by 41.1% isolates. Isolates varied significantly ($P < 0.05$) for IAA production as well as phosphate solubilization. Average IAA concentration recorded for these isolates was 6.32 µg/ml and amount of inorganic phosphate (Pi) released in Pikovskaya's broth at fifteen days after incubation (DAI) was 18.80 µg/ml. Average pH of Pikovskaya's broth at fifteen DAI dropped to 5.20 from 7.00 at 0 DAI. Leading IAA producing genera were *Flavobacterium* and *Azotobacter* while maximum P-solubilization activity was shown by the genus *Pseudomonas*. Isolate TNAM22 gave highest IAA concentration of 9.81 µg/ml while isolate TKB14 released maximum amount of Pi i.e. 22.7 µg/ml. The isolated rhizobacterial strains may thus be developed into potential soil-inoculants for improving the nutrient availability to the plants after conducting a more detailed and on-field study.

Keywords: Indole acetic acid, Phosphate solubilization, Plant growth promoting rhizobacteria, Sustainable agriculture

Ref #: 286/IND/13

Culture: A Driving Force to Sustainable Development in India

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Abstract

Sustainable development can be defined as the development which meets the needs of the current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. On the other hand Culture can be defined as that complex whole which includes knowledge, benefits, arts, beliefs, morals, laws, customs, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by a human as a member of the society (UNESCO). Culture is considered to be a key element in the “holistic approach” advocated by the concept of sustainable development as it frames people’s relationships and their attitudes towards the earth and natural environment.

South Asia as a region is well known for its cultural heritage. People have been living in harmony with nature since times immemorial. If we talk of India, its cultural heritage is not only the most ancient, but is considered to be one of the most extensive and varied one. Throughout the ages, many races and people, who have either temporarily come in contact with India or have permanently settled within its borders, have helped to evolve a distinct Indian culture. However, it is highly ironical that the culture which has been preserved by our ancestors for long is being abandoned under the guise of development and by giving primacy to materialistic interests over the socio cultural values. The current era of globalization, with its unprecedented acceleration and intensification in the global flows of capital, labour, and information, is having a homogenizing influence on local culture. While this phenomenon promotes the integration of societies and has provided millions of people with new opportunities, it has also brought with it a loss of uniqueness of local culture, which in turn can led to loss of identity, exclusion and even conflict.

There is a need to understand that sustainable development can not only be achieved by means of policy choices alone, no matter how enlightened and well thought out these are. The restoration of certain basic human values such as hard work, discipline, professional integrity and above all concern for others is necessary for environmental restoration and ecological preservation.

The unitive basis and non-violence are the two central tenets of Indian culture and philosophy that lead logically to solicitousness for all forms of life, both animal and plant, there by preserving environment as the key to existence. As far as India is concerned, the way of life of most indigenous people also depends on the biological diversity. The cultural and religious beliefs and traditional spiritual values often serve to prevent overexploitation of resources and sustain the systems in which indigenous societies live for their own benefit and that of the future generations. At the same time, placing culture at the heart of development policies does not mean to confine and fix it in a conservative way, however, on the contrary to invest in the potential of local resources, knowledge, skills and materials to foster creativity and sustainable progress.

The paper focuses on highlighting culture as an important aspect of sustainable development in a country like India. The authors feel that there is a dire need to preserve the cultural heritage of India by devising a strategy to attain the goal of cultural heritage which has been discussed thoroughly in the paper. If achieving sustainability is the first and the foremost task about making an appropriate use of the planet’s resources, then culture must be at the centre of our development strategies, since cultures frame people’s relationship to others in their society and the world around them, including the natural environment, and condition their behaviour. Moreover there is a need to integrate the interdisciplinary advances in research and policy formulations so as to inculcate a culture of fostering sustainability.

Keywords: Culture; Globalisation; India; Indigenous tribes; Sustainable Development.

Ref #: 288/IND/13

Critical Analysis of Land Use Planning along Kundli Manesar Palwal Expressway

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Abstract

Globalization and liberalization of Indian economy has accelerated investment in different parts of the country. The constraints of space and high costs associated with it are causing spill over of economic activities from urban economic centers which could be absorbed by neighboring states in haphazard way if it is not well planned in a sustainable way. Delhi is the major economic urban centre in north India. With shift in Indian economy from agriculture to service industries and burst of population, Delhi is having lot of opportunities for economic activities and growth in different sectors within Delhi as well as for cities in other neighboring states with economic opportunities isochrones of different values centering Delhi. NCR is a high intensity, multi-level and multi-modal travel region. There is high intensity of intra-regional movement within NCR amongst Delhi and the regional centers & sub-regional centers and amongst themselves. Kundali – Manesar – Palwal Expressway has been planned by NCR Planning board with the objective of uniform distribution of splurge of the economic activities bursting out of Delhi's Growth. Proposal for KMP global Corridor by NCR planning board is not executed properly and participation of neighboring states which surrounds Delhi are in rush to absorb the spill - over effect of the development as fast as possible and want to take its largest share. For absorbing the aforesaid benefits, Government of Haryana, which surrounds Delhi from three sides, have proposed 13 theme Cities near the KMP corridor, which may adversely affect the mission of NCR Planning Board and envisaged sustainable development. The paper critically examines the land use planning by Town and Country Planning Haryana along KMP expressway and suggests alternatives.

Keywords: Expressway, Region, Spill-over effect, Sustainable development, Theme cities

Ref #: 290/IND/13

Sustainable Development –The guardian of future generation

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Abstract

There has been emergence over a period of time in Sustainable development. It mainly sets goals for future. It covers wide aspect. The paper focuses on improving the understanding of sustainable development and the various concepts related to sustainable development. The paper discusses that how human resource development function supports corporate sustainability strategy. It also focuses on the aspect of Good governance. The term good governance focuses through the international perspective as it explains how the public institutions conduct affairs and manage their resources. Sustainable development covers wide aspect such as it aims at human development, environment protection, poverty eradication and moreover aims to remove economic and social disparities. Sustainability could also be measured on the grounds of comprehensive wealth which includes manufactured, human and natural capital. Sustainable development addresses various social and economic issues. Sustainable development covers poverty and environment issues as both can be seen as related concepts. As the survival needs of the poor force them to degrade the already degraded environment. Thus, removal of poverty is the prerequisite for protection of environment. To ensure environmental sustainability the integration of agriculture with land and water management is essential. Moreover there should be sustainability of natural resource base. So recognition of all stakeholders and their role in protection should be recognized. All members of the society are considered as stakeholders of the sustainable development. Corporate social responsibility and citizenship were included so as to get the greater awareness about the concept of sustainable development. Strategies need to be invented to shift and break from the present unsustainable path and adopt the energy efficient way of life so there is economic growth. Many business organizations also cover the aspect of sustainable development by arising issues related to environmental and social concern. The concept of sustainable development basically focuses on society's development. The paper arises many questions related to issues covered under the concept of sustainable development. Sustainable development mainly focuses on quality of life which is highly dependent upon use of natural resources and thus these resources must be sustained. The present concept of sustainable global enterprise will help to achieve three basic goals known as corporate responsibility, environmental protection and social responsiveness.

The concept of sustainable development also focuses on issues related to women as they play a significant role in policy of sustainable development. Women issues are basically linked with population and fertility. The development process worldwide has contributed to increase in economic and social inequalities, environment degradation and has also led to growth in poverty. The theme related to women has attracted many people worldwide. The paper traces the women's impact on policies and actions from national and international perspective. Sustainable development is aimed to be achieved when there is reduction in societal demands or the gap between demand and supply is reduced. Sustainable development establishes a strong relationship between humans and environment. As its main focus is on sustaining environment too, there is a need of an hour to change demand of people on earth so as to achieve the objectives of sustainable environment. The agenda 21 not only focuses on environmental issues but greatly on the concept of sustainable development. Sustainable development could only be achieved in this globalizing world when it is guided by local consideration which basically lies in cultural diversity and traditions. Thus there is a need to preserve diversity as it is important precondition for sustainable development. Therefore the paper covers all the issues related to sustainable development and also provides various ways to achieve the objectives of sustainable development.

Keywords: Environment; Globalization; Poverty; Stakeholders; Sustainable development

Ref #: 291/IND/13

Noise Pollution: A Threat to Healthy Environment and Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Human happiness and growth of society depends upon the healthy and protective environment. The right to healthy and natural environment is recognized as a fundamental human right. At present time the main issue is that the protection of environment is necessary for maintenance of proper balance in ecology through sustainable development so that natural resources be preserved and maintained for coming generations without doing any harmful activities to environment. Any unwanted sound creates noise pollution in environment and that is worse for human health. Noise means a sound which is beyond tolerance and exerts pressure on human mind thereby causing him annoyance and discomfort. The noise caused by human activities i.e. loudspeakers, transport automobiles, industries, explosive operations, aircrafts, generators, printing press, pressure horns, textile mills, tractors, harvesters, religious and social functions and gatherings etc. The noise created by these means is threat to public life especially in metropolitan cities. Unbearable noise has psychological effects, such as headache, migraine, decrease the tolerance power. High intensity of noise also has great effect on heart and nervous system. The evil effects of noise pollution are on the reproductive system of living organisms. It diminishes sexual urge and adverse effect on egg-laying and hatching in birds. Noise pollution is punishable as public nuisance under section 268 of Indian Penal Code. Furthermore police is authorized to regulate and limit the music that may be played in streets on festivals, marriage ceremonies etc. under section 30 (4) of the Police Act 1861. Although various preventive measures are adopted through the provisions of Constitution of India and legislative enactments to handle the problem of noise pollution, judiciary also plays an important role to give positive judgments but it is saying with sorrow that implementation of laws and judicial decisions are less strong. The paper analyses the economic growth and development of technology along with the protection and preservation of environment for the present and coming generations. The paper focuses on efforts which are made to prevent and control noise pollution through different measures and efforts to protect the environment so that every human being could enjoy clean and healthy environment.

Keywords: Environment, Ecology, Metropolitan, Indian Penal Code, Police Act.

Ref #: 292/IND/13

Sustainability Elicits Corporate Social Responsibility

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Abstract

“The world today is economically richer an environmentally poorer than ever” - Lester R. Brown

Following the scarcity of studies in the developing countries, attune to corporate social responsibility (CSR) and sustainable community development, this paper intends to examine the economic growth, environmental issues, social imperatives and enhanced ethical standards by creating a balance between the sustainability of society and the corporate world, in a comparison with developed countries.

Discussing the CSR factors covering the three major elements of sustainable development i.e., economic, social and environment which received the overwhelming endorsement from the corporate world testifying the largest voluntary corporate responsibility initiative of the UN Global Compact that forges close linkage between business, society and environment in all development endeavours. The concept being dynamic and evolving quickly set its way through various international bodies and associations like the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries for setting adaptive set of guidelines for multinational corporations in conformity with the principles of the UN Global Compact. The basic relation of CSR and Sustainable development lays its importance through an alignment programmes and strategies with its operating context as a real key aspect of objective to be achieved. Believing the words “The business of business is to maximise profits, to earn a good return on capital invested and to be a good corporate citizen obeying the law – no more and no less” which targets and incorporates the elements of sustainable development within. CSR is continuing its business commitment that contributes to economic development and to behave ethically while the quality of life of the workforce and their families, the local community and of the society at large is improved.

Findings include the analysis of the CSR factors that has gone beyond assistance and community development per se to sustainable development in the developing countries. Their recent inclusion of new models of corporate community engagements in response to the failings of old models may have attributed to this. However, the major focus seems not to be clear in the area of social and environmental reporting, and codes of conduct on bribery and corruption. Some areas such as health and education seem not to be given priority in the CSR expenditure. Further, CSR activities are observed to be directly related with the corporate sector’s turnover. In such a situation it is really important to focus corporate power on objectives that are possible but sometimes less economically attractive than socially desirable.

The limitation of this study lies in the fact that although the motive of this paper is to evaluate sustainable development and corporate social responsibility in a general aspect but it will mainly focus on a comparative study between a developing and a developed country’s economic, social and environmental differences. Thus, prudence needs to be exercised in the interpretation and generalisation of the results and recommendations/conclusions.

The major resource exploiting corporations in general should devote more resources to CSR activities. Besides, there is the need to design a clear enforcement mechanism and strategy/policy in the area of social and environmental reporting, and codes of conduct on bribery and corruption. The area of health needs to be given priority in a corporation's CSR expenditure and regulations.

The research paper study adopts both theoretical and empirical approaches to analyse the contributions of the corporate sector (which generates negative externalities) to sustainable development of its communities so as to forestall crisis between the two stakeholders. As per the authors' knowledge, no such previous study in comparison with a developing and a developed country has taken such an approach to analyse the problems impeding development in the developing countries and solutions lifting the veil of those problems has been proposed this way.

Keywords: Community development, Corporate Sector, Corporate social responsibility, Sustainable development, UN Global Compact.

Ref #: 295/IND/13

Sustainable Development: Critical Study on Environment and Gender Social Change

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Abstract

In view of the close relationship that exists between environmental problems and those of economic and social origin, it is impossible to separate the human and environmental dimensions of development, which are linked both by the aggregate effect of social relations and actions as they influence the natural ecology and by the impact of environmental changes on society. There is a perception that, as the century draws to a close, global society is witnessing the exhaustion of a development style that is harmful to natural systems and fosters inequality among people. It is becoming increasingly clear that humanity must move towards a new style and a new concept of development based on the criteria of sustainability and equity. The notion of sustainability has gradually broadened; it was originally applied in the biological and physical context, but has now come to imply the balance that must be struck between environmental, economic, political, social and cultural processes under a systemic, multidimensional view of development that incorporates intergenerational solidarity, social equity and long-term considerations as essential elements. The present document examines the evolution of the concept and the areas of agreement reached concerning it; the study also analyses the discrepancies between the views of different social actors and interest groups, primarily with regard to the actions and decisions that should be taken to achieve sustainable development. Increasing knowledge about the ways in which women in different groups and sectors of society participate in development has highlighted the interconnection between gender, the environment and sustainability. In the transition towards the goal of sustainability, women have emerged as a force, not only in support of proper environmental management, but also in demands for better quality of life and greater social equity. Recognition of this contribution is reflected in the documents, declarations and plans of action that have emanated from international conferences held in recent years. Although the women/gender/environment interconnection is a relatively new topic of interest and analysis, it is already possible to identify different theoretical approaches to the subject. The main tenets of "ecofeminism" and the women and the environment" model and concludes with a discussion of a line of thought that can be termed gender, the environment and sustainable development, a model which could serve as the starting point for a new approach in the formulation of public policies aimed at sustainability. In order to design public strategies and policies and adopt instruments that reverse and prevent environmental degradation while at the same time fostering greater equity among the sectors of society, more information is needed about the situation of men and women and how it relates to the state of the environment. The study therefore concludes by outlining a conceptual and methodological proposal from a systemic, cross-disciplinary perspective, with the aim of improving diagnostic analysis and research on the interconnection between the gender system, environmental change and its impact, in the light of the countries' differing local and regional conditions.

Keywords: Sustainability; Environment; Gender; Ecofeminism; Women

Ref #: 297/IND/13

Sand Mining: Curbing the Evil to the Environment through Sustainable Substitution and Legislative Action

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Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to examine **sustainable construction practices** with respect to the use of substitutes for sand in construction and the enforcement of the same through legislation. It is a well-known fact that the use of riverbed sand for construction purposes has gradually led to excessive sand mining. This has in turn affected the environment and further, the recent lack or high cost of availability of such sand has led to not only various malpractices, but also the need to find an eco-friendly cost effective substitute.

Theoretical concerns: (1) the continuation of sand mining leads to the death of water bodies (2) the complete substitution of riverbed sand with manufactured sand would lead to excessive quarrying and thereby death of mountains (3) the malpractices that may be the outcome of both these activities. The complete substitution would lead to hazardous environmental impact. Thereby, there is a need to provide for a balance between the use of both these sand in construction. Such balance, be it through the additional use of other substitutes, can be achieved only through a legislative approach. Summary of the concern: This paper provides for an understanding of the necessity of sand mining, its process, and the impact of the same to the environment. The paper examines the effect of lack of availability of riverbed sand or rather, the high cost of availability of the same due to the ill-effects of excessive mining. It goes on to investigate the various cases in which such high cost of availability has resulted in malpractices in construction by various Developers, in particular, the instances of using filtered sand for construction which have resulted in structural deficiencies and in many cases collapse of the structure. In such cases, it is usually the public who is affected, be it as a victim of the collapse of the structure or as the investor in the project.

This paper examines the various substitutes that may be used for sand, in particular, manufactured sand. It is also called crushed stone sand or artificial sand. The paper provides for a comprehensive understanding of the process manufacture of such sand, its properties, justifies its substitutability, and examines the pros and cons of the same. One of the problems that the paper focuses on is the aspect that manufactured sand may also have its own adverse effects on the environment, namely, increase in quarrying and the disappearance of mountains and hills in the process. Finally, this paper attempts to suggest the possible provisions of such legislation after the examination of various decisions of the Supreme Court, National Green Tribunal, and Committee Reports.

Research methodology: A doctrinal method of research purely based on various published articles in journals, newspapers, magazines, and books has been employed to achieve the purpose of this paper in accordance with the objectives of the Conference. Main arguments: There is an increasing need to substitute riverbed sand in order to protect water bodies and groundwater. This is evidenced by the various decisions of the Supreme Court and the National Green Tribunal to protect water bodies from the harmful effects of sand mining. Further, it is also evidenced by various articles in newspapers and magazines increasing the awareness about the problems and harms that can be attributed to sand mining. (a) The lack or high cost of availability of sand has led to malpractices such as the use of filtered sand evidenced by reported instances of structure collapse. (b) Manufactured sand, when used in the right proportion with riverbed sand or other substitutes helps achieve sustainable construction practice which has been evidenced by articles by various scholars.

Conclusion: The legislature plays an important role in the safeguard of the environment, the curbing of malpractices, stating the necessary standards for the manufacture and use of such materials, etc. The lack of legislations and enforcement of the existing legislations have resulted in the indiscriminate mining of sand, be it legal or illegal. There is a need for legislation in place that provides for licensed use of riverbed sand, manufactured sand, and other substitutes. Such legislation must keep in mind the possible ill-effects of the substitute to the environment, the misuse of the same, and set certain standards in the manufacture and use of such substitutes. It must provide for penal action in case of violations and provide the relevant Court of Law with the powers to convict for the same.

The problem of sand mining is not restricted to India. It is a global concern as it is an activity undertaken all over the world. Certain countries like Australian and US have legislations against sand mining and provide for substitutes to prevent such harm but most countries have not taken these steps yet. This paper attempts to provide a framework for such action.

Keywords: manufactured sand; mining; regulation; sand; sand substitutes

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Challenges and Strategies for Development in the Changing Scenario

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Abstract

There are numerous of natural resources, gifted by the **God** to man for his survival. The man has been exploiting the nature for fulfill his needs, since he had come on this earth. The natural resources such as oil, natural gas, coal and other mineral resources are limited in accordance with growing human needs. It is, therefore, require an effective policy for exploiting all these natural resources, so that a position of sustainable development may take place at agricultural and industrial fronts in relation to environment. The paper examines the mode of exploitation the natural resources and the challenges, faced by the man, which is a results of his haphazard actions. Keeping in view the present changing conditions, it requires strengthening. The alternative strategies and conservation policy, so that a balance may be maintained between human action and environment in accordance development oriented changing scenario. It also requires an effective policy for judicious use of natural resources so that the sustainable development policy may facilitate to man healthier and sustainable living. It also require a periodic review of natural resources in relation to development perspective at various development hierarchy. In

This context, focus is to be given on short term and long term planning, so that a duly coordination may be established in accordance with prevailing local conditions. In order to meet the challenge of energy crisis, it require an effective formulation of energy policy, so that a 'sustainable development' may be taken place through application of the strategies such as a perfect substitute of oil with non-conventional sources of energy. These energy sources should be tapped in accordance with their applicability by replacing the conventional sources with non-conventional sources of energy. The use of bio-based energy is some of sources which can be used as an alternative source of energy which can be a step as strategy for 'conservation of conventional sources of energy.' In the present energy crises. Secondly, the strategy for sustainable development' for renewable natural resources by regenerating the natural resources such as forest resources, reclamation of waste land, water management, change in agricultural practices by using bio-fertilizer, crop-rotation, focus on eco-friendly product like food grain, fruit and vegetable. Only then, we shall be in a position to meet the growing challenge of steady growing 'unsustainable development position of changing scenario.

Keywords: Natural resources, Judicious use, Challenges, Sustainable Development, Changing Scenario.

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National Green Tribunal: A New Beginning in Environmental Protection India and Sustainable Development

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Abstract

It is now a universally accepted phenomenon that Environmental Degradation is a universally accepted phenomena and no one is safe from the disastrous effects of the global environmental degradation. Supreme Court of India and all the high courts of the state have been flooded with litigations related with Environment. Establishment of a specialized court was long felt for dealing exclusively with cases related with environmental litigation. Establishment of National Green Tribunal was established by passing of the National Green Tribunal Act in 2010. The enactment of the law takes into account the (i) United Nations Conference on the Human Environment which took place at Stockholm in June, 1972 and also the (ii) United Nations Conference on Environment and Development which took place at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, in both of which India was a participant, (iii) the judicial pronouncements in India construing the right to healthy environment as a part and parcel of the right to life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, to constitute the Tribunal conferring the jurisdiction to decide on environmental issues, considering the "involvement of multi-disciplinary issues" relating to environment. Section 14 of the act provides that "the Tribunal shall have the jurisdiction over all civil cases where a substantial question relating to environment (including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment) is involved" besides the questions which arise of "out of the implementation" of the specified enactments. The power to provide for "relief and compensation to the victims of pollution and other environmental damage", "for restitution of property damaged" and "restitution of environment" is also within the purview of the Tribunal in terms of Section 15. The importance of the enactment and the seriousness with which the Government has constituted the Tribunal can be gauged from the fact that the Act provides for imprisonment upto three years and a fine which may extend to ten crore rupees as penalty for non-compliance with the orders of the Tribunal. The author through the present paper makes a sincere endeavour to discuss the role of National Green Tribunal in the field of environmental protection in India.

Keywords: National Green Tribunal, Environment Protection, National Green Tribunal Act 2010, Sustainable Development, Penal Provisions

Sustainable Tourism: Directions and Challenges Met in India

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Abstract

Tourism is one of the world's fastest growing industries and is a major source of income for many countries. It comprises an extensive range of economic activities and can be considered the largest industry in the world. Travel and Tourism represents approximately 10% of total global Gross Domestic Product (GDP). But, like every other forms of development, it too lead to problems of global concern, such as social dislocation, loss of cultural heritage, economic dependence and environmental degradation. Thus, looking at the impacts of tourism, people started seeking for 'responsible' and 'sustainable' means of tourism in countries where tourism forms an important aspect of their economy. The concept of sustainable tourism, as developed by the World Tourism Organization (WTO) in the context of the United Nations sustainable development process, refers to tourist activities "leading to management of all resources in such a way that economic, social and aesthetic needs can be fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life support systems. All tourism activities of whatever motivation – holidays, business travel, conferences, adventure travel and ecotourism – need to be sustainable. The paper seeks to explain in detail the importance and development of Sustainable Tourism as an effective approach towards the Global Challenges and Issues linked with the Tourism Industry. The paper will further review the development and enforcement of International Sustainable Development agenda in the light of International Conferences and Conventions. The paper also provides an insight into the regional study of Sustainable Tourism in India as an approach to counter problems both faced and produced by Tourism Industry in the light of legal framework and policy making as not all tourism in India is sustainable, and certain tourist hot spots like Goa, Himachal Pradesh have been damaged by irresponsible tourism and development. The paper focus on three ways to engage in Sustainable tourism in India, these are village home stays, wildlife ecotourism and tribal tourism. The paper concludes with suggestions for the improvement and effective implementation of Sustainable Tourism in India from the viewpoint of all the Stakeholder's in the Tourism Industry.

Keywords: India; Responsible Tourism; Sustainable Tourism; Tourism Industry.

Ref#: 314/IND/13

Vulnerable Position of Traditional Knowledge Under IPR: Concern for Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Asian, African and Latin American civilizations are among the most ancient ones in the human history; inhabited by thousands of different traditional communities; there is an abundance of traditional knowledge that has been practiced by traditional communities over a considerable period of time and is still constantly evolving. Huge commercial potentiality of traditional knowledge has been evaluated only in recent decades. In recent years, issues related to the importance of traditional knowledge, its role in the economy of the country, its misappropriation by commercial activities and the need of its protection from the misappropriation has been the subject to debate and discussion in international fora. From traditional communities' point of view, traditional knowledge is often not a commercial commodity; instead it is related with their customs, culture, heritage and the way of their daily living. It is important from the sustainable development point of view of the respective country as well, as it can potentially improve the daily problems of food, cloths, medicines, safe drinking water and employment. This is true not only for traditional communities, but also for each and every backward and compromised people in the country or in the region; thus improving the overall growth of the society. That is the reason traditional knowledge needs proper protection in national, regional and international arena. India, Brazil, South Africa, Andean countries, African countries and other developing and least developed countries are concerned about the protection of their traditional knowledge from misappropriation. In the international arena, WIPO (Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore i.e. IGC to be specific) is working since long time to provide a comprehensive guideline for the system of protection of traditional knowledge. The methodology of research adopted for this article is the doctrinal method, and following documents are used for the purpose of research: A) Primary documents - different country's statutory regimes and international conventions (such as CBD), protocol (such as Swakopmund Protocol of ARIPO) and drafts of WIPO IGC model sui generis legislation (specifically the Draft prepared in 16th and 24th session of IGC). This article will discuss the unique nature of traditional knowledge according to its holistic characteristics, will detail the cases of its misappropriation, and will evaluate the available national protection and the gaps therein. This article will also estimate the international attempt to provide the proper guideline for streamlining the protection of traditional knowledge. The issue of inclusion of disclosure of origin in patent application, formulation of sui generis system with introduction of access and benefit sharing regime and WIPO-IGC initiative in preparation of international guideline for traditional knowledge protection will be discussed in depth in this article. This article at the same time will try to get the proper remedy for protection of traditional knowledge in national, regional, inert-regional and international level, so that the effectivity of traditional knowledge can be used for sustainable development of the communities and for the society at large, so that mankind will go towards a better tomorrow using the full potential of the traditional knowledge. This article will also concentrate on creating awareness in every sector of the society, especially among all the stakeholders related with traditional knowledge so that the traditional communities will be empowered to stop the misappropriation of their traditional knowledge and can actively participate in effective use of traditional knowledge, and technology transfer related to it, by taking an essential part in access and benefit sharing mechanism.

Keywords: Bonn guidelines; Disclosure of Origin; Intellectual property rights; Traditional knowledge protection; WIPO IGC.

Ref#: 317/IND/13

Environment Pollution: Need for Introspection

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Abstract

The environment is an inseparable whole and constituted by the interacting systems of physical and biological elements which are interlinked individually as well as collectively in myriad ways. Physical elements like soil, air water, minerals etc. determine the variable character of human habitat, its opportunities as well as its limitations. The biological elements like plants, animals and micro-organism etc. constitutes the biosphere.

Environment is a polycentric and multifaceted problem affecting the human existence. The protection of environment today has become a global issue to which every country whether developed, developing or under-developed has to play a great attention to. The different dimensions of the problem of environmental protection and its management have taken a serious turn in the present era.

Industrialization, urbanization, population explosion, poverty, over-exploitation of resources, depleting traditional sources of energy and raw materials and the research for new sources of energy and raw materials are some of the factors which have contributed to environmental deterioration the world over. While the scientific and technological progress of man has invested him with immense power over nature, it has also resulted in the unthinking use of the power, encroaching endlessly on nature.

Today mankind is confronted with a perpetuation of disparities between and within nations, a worsening of poverty, hunger, ill health and illiteracy and the continuing deterioration of the ecosystem on which we depend on for our well being.

Laws to protect environment at national and international level are being made to meet the new challenges. The Indian judiciary has made significant contribution to the cause of environment by embracing judicial activism in developing environmental jurisprudence, by evolving new doctrines like polluters pay principle etc. Courts impose heavy penalty upon industries who violate the norms and also ask them to take remedial measures. The courts have raised the status of environment to the level of fundamental right.

Keywords: Environment, Industrialization, Pollution, Sustainable Development, Judicial Activism



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Implementation of Health Sector Reforms in India for Universal Health Coverage

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Abstract

The global economic environment has undergone a significant change during the last decade due to liberalization, privatization and globalization and social sector developments (Health & Education) have become the integral part of overall economic development. With this background, the Health Sector Reforms (HSR) are under implementation in India since 2005 to provide accessible, affordable and qualitative health care to the rural population of India through initiation of these reforms at various levels of service delivery. These reforms can be in various forms such as constitution of societies at various levels, decentralization, Public-Private-Partnership (PPP), implementation of User Charges etc to achieve the overall objectives of NRHM. The State of Haryana implemented the Health Sector Reforms, starting with the constitution of the State Sector Reform Cell and Advisory Committee in January 2000. At District level, District Health & Family Welfare Society (DH&FWS) and at facility level i.e. District Hospital, Sub-Divisional Hospital, CHC and PHC, Swasthya Kalyan Samitis (SKS) were constituted under the programme. The main objective for constitution of these societies under HSR was to bring about structural, systematic and operational reforms so as to create synergies with the RCH and other Family Welfare Programmes and help to improve the quantity and quality of services at an accelerated pace. The present paper gives an insight to the forms, processes & procedures, implementation aspects of HSR in India and improvements made in quality service as a result of these reforms in the country especially rural India.

Keywords: Globalization, Liberalization, Privatization, Public-Private-Partnership , Swasthya Kalyan Samitis

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The Case Study of India's Human Resources with Respect to Business and Managerial Manpower

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Abstract

The present paper aims at analyzing the position and placement of various management and business degree holders who are postgraduate from different management institutes running in the different parts the India under the affiliation of the Indian universities and open universities. Among management and business degree holders the trend in their placement is constantly declining in Indian universities as compared to Indian open university universities with respect to ratio of their admissions taken by the students. Notwithstanding a strong human resource base of the Indian labour market manifesting in a highly skilled reserve of business and management manpower. The live records of placement agencies present a dismal figure about the absorption of this precious managerial and trained human resources of our country, as reflected in the increasing number of job seekers .But one thing it has to be noticed that business and management personnel with postgraduate qualification.

Keywords: placement agencies, management, qualification, manpower and universities

Global India and Regional Development: Focus on States

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Abstract

The modern world has witnessed an unprecedented expansion in trade and foreign investment, internationalization of production, distribution and marketing of goods and services along with dominant role of MNCs, and an enhanced global competition facilitated by the revolutionary changes in ICTs. The globalization process and its induced competitive environment have brought out a change in the entire institutional framework and structure of the economy including the production systems and the economic behavior. Consequently, the economic transformation has brought out a change in the value addition, i.e. a marked decline in the share of the EU and the significant shift towards Asia and, within Asia, away from Japan to China and India.

The increase in the share of India though less dramatic, is nevertheless of an order that places her as the fourth largest economy in PPP terms. Not only India has over the years become a more open economy with the total share of imports and exports accounting close to 50 per cent of GDP, its capital inflows and outflows reached 54 per cent of GDP. It became a significant member of the global policy group of G-20 and also made a big story in the global map for having achieved a consistently high growth rate of 7-8 per cent during the last decade.

Behind these overall achievements are India's neo-liberal reforms adopted since the late 1980s to integrate with the world. India not only reformatted its macroeconomic policies focusing on privatization, liberalization, deregulation, and disinvestment but also redefined the role of the state and its regulatory spheres to give more space to the market economy. In a political economy federal cooperative system characterized by the centralized economic planning and flourishing private capitalism, the Government withdrawal as a producer of commercial goods, promoter of desired activities; regulator of the social economy and the supplier of public or social goods or from areas wherein markets fail and cannot function efficiently and effectively can have serious socio-economic problems at the regional level in a country like India. In a multi-lingual, multi-religious, multi-cultural society like India, further divided into 28 states and 7 UTs administrative units, and where different regions are already at different levels of development and the system federal transfers from the Centre to states though well entrenched is highly inequitable, the policy impacts are not only to be varied but will have serious implications and challenges.

In this backdrop, the focus of this paper is: (1) to look into the interconnecting dynamics of market integration and the required changes in the macro-economic policy framework, globalization induced competitive pressures facilitated by technological changes leading to changes in the world of work and the resulting impact on the policy outcomes on the different regions of a country; (2) to briefly review the nature and extent of different socio-economic and political variations in the different administrative regions (known as states) of India; (3) to identify the policy outcomes specifically adopted during the period of globalization with respect to growth, poverty, inequality, unemployment and exclusion; and (4) to find out if these interstate inequities in India have grown over the period with forces of liberalization, privatization and globalizations getting more intense.

Keywords: Globalization, India, Inter-State Inequalities, Regional development, State.

Ref#: 020/IND/13

A Crisis in Our Backyard: An Evaluation of Prison Rights and Prison Management in India

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Abstract

With regard to Prison reforms, India as a country has come a long way. Over the years, India has seen a sea of change in the prison reform system. From being a punitive criminal justice system in the ancient and medieval eras respectively, our correctional institutions have adopted a humanistic approach towards prisoners which involves rehabilitation and reformation in present prison standards. Today, India's central Jails are in a better state as compared to times before independence. Some of the most significant central correctional institutions like The Yerwada Jail and The Tihar Jail have witnessed remarkable progress with respect to Nutrition, Sanitation, Medical facilities and Rehabilitation. It wouldn't be wrong to say that The Anglo-American penal reforms adopted by India have remarkably changed the attitudes of the society towards prisoners. India has introduced new reforms in her prisons like open air prisons, parole, probation and reformatory schools, which focus on the rehabilitation of prisoners. Legislative provisions and development programmes have been enacted for the betterment of prisoners. However, there is lot to be done with regard to Prison Administration in India. Though India's central jails have undergone positive changes, a number of jails in India haven't received the much needed attention and have been thoroughly neglected in terms of prison management. There is a need for reforms not only in the correctional systems, but also calls in the Indian judicial System that is closely linked with our correctional institutions. Further, violation of Human Rights has been observed in Modern Prisons. The main objective of this paper is to analyse the existing challenges in prison management, the problems faced by prisoners and the status of prison rights in India. The paper demonstrates the true state of prison management and administration in India, through pure empirical and secondary data and presents case studies with respect to the rate of custodial torture in modern-day prisons. Apart from that, the paper also critically analyses the two crucial pieces of legislations, namely The Torture Prevention Bill, 2010 and The New Prisons Bill, 1998 which have suffered a delay in implementation and require further improvements. The paper elaborates on the two primary issues faced by the modern generation prisons and also highlights the basic legal rights of every prisoner and undertrials in our country. The paper further gives recommendations and suggestions to overcome the existing challenges and hopes to create an impact on the system in its own little way.

Keywords: Prison Management, Prison Rights, Legislations, Major Problems

Public Sector Corruption: A Study of Women in Oyo State Civil Service

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Abstract

The issue of corruption has led to loss of confidence in Nigeria by its citizens at home and abroad due to the activities of fraudsters and corrupt public officials. In order to control this challenge, The Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) and Economic and Financial Corruption Commission (EFCC) were established to combat corruption at various levels. In spite of this strategy, however, corruption continues to be a threat within the psycho-social and economic spheres of the Nigerian society. The study examined the knowledge, forms, and causes of corruption in the public sector with a focus on women in Oyo State Civil Service.

The study adopted the Structural Functionalism of Merton and Reasoned Action of Fishbein's as theoretical perspectives. A descriptive research design was employed for the study, using both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. The sample size was collected through random purposive technique and 500 questionnaires were distributed to women civil servants across all 18 ministries at the state secretariat but only 456 were retrieved and used for the analysis. The quantitative data was analyzed using both chi-square and correlation at both univariate and bivariate levels. Also, 20 In-depth Interviews were conducted with male and female respondents, as well as one Focus Group Discussion among women and content analysis was employed for qualitative data.

Findings showed that a weak significant relationship (0.135) exists between income of women and their involvement in corrupt practices. However, the chi-square result ($\chi^2 = 2.146$ (0.143) showed that there was an association between involvement of women in corruption and their reportage of corrupt practices, indicating that the level of women involvement in corruption may influence their frequency of reporting corrupt practices. Education appeared to be related with the level of knowledge and awareness of women about corruption in general, and about the practice within the civil service in particular. Also, bribery (34.6%), extortion (27.9%), embezzlement (21.3%), Fraud (1.8%) and false accounting (10.3%) were identified as the most common forms of corrupt practices. Women civil servants also perceived themselves to be less tolerant of corruption than men, and most female respondents felt that the practice did not have much effect on them.

The study concluded that corruption was reality in public sector and women were aware of it, though their level of awareness appeared to be low, and that it was not very likely that they would report corrupt practices even when such information was in their possession. It was therefore recommended that Anti-corruption Feedback Structures should be established in the public sector to protect and encourage the attitude of whistle-blowing among women, while internal work assessment should be integrated into civil service operation. Also, sensitisation programmes should be implemented to intimate women civil servants about the dangers of corruption, both on them, the family system and the society at large.

Keywords: Civil Service, Corrupt Practices, Perception, Public Sector, Women Involvement

Ref#: 023/CAN/13

The Relevance of Strategic Recruitment on Organizational Performance in Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology Lagos, Nigeria

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Abstract

The relevance of strategic recruitment on organizational performance cannot be over-emphasized as recruiting and placing the right staff at the right position enhance the performance of any organization in today's ever-changing business world. The problems of making right recruitment decisions in organization have adverse effect on the outcomes, productivity levels and performances of such organizations.

This study focuses on the relevance and relationship between strategic recruitment and organizational performance in Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology. The Human Capital theory was used in explaining the study. The Sample frame includes the management, union members and employee in general. The method of data collection involved both the qualitative and quantitative approaches. The qualitative type was achieved through the administration of questionnaires to two hundred and thirty (230) respondents that were selected from the The Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology, Victoria Island, Lagos State, Nigeria. The questionnaires were based on the objectives and were analyzed using the frequency distribution and simple percentages. The qualitative data from in-depth interview were analyzed using the content analysis.

The findings the study revealed 98.5% of the total respondents acknowledged that strategic recruitment and organizational performance were relevant in an organization. 88.3% knew that their organization did not have Human Resource Department that handles recruitment process of their organization is being handled by the Administrative Department. 53% acknowledged that most of the employees of the organization were recruited through personal recommendation, 97% agreed that Human Resource Department should be created Department should be created in FCF&MT and be allowed to handle the recruitment process of the organization. 67.4% identified recruitment as the determinant of HR Department function. 77% advised that the organization should set up HR Department to handle recruitment process. The findings also showed that there is a relationship between recruitment and determinants of HR Department function($x^2 = 67.830$; $df=6$. $Sig=0.000$). Also there is a relationship between the strategic recruitment and organizational performance ($x^2 = 1.249$; $df=4$; $sig.=0.870$). The study also discovered that the recruitment sources and recruitment processes by the organization are to a great extent unfavourable with the HR Department function of strategic recruitment of an organization. It is therefore recommended that strategic recruitment should be adopted and followed by allowing the appropriate HR Department to handle recruitment process. This can thus be achieved by considering and putting into effective use the recommendations suggested in achieving high organizational performance.

Keywords: Employees, Function, Human Resources Department, Performance, Process, Recruitment, Strategic Recruitment,

Effective Communication Facilitates Partnering with Parents: Perception of Supervisors and Teachers at Preschool and Primary School Levels

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Abstract

Multiple benefits have been documented, when parents are actively involved in their children's education. Dearth of research on the nature and extent of home-school partnership at the preschool and primary school levels in the Indian context served as an impetus for the current research. Communication with parents refers to the basic obligations of schools to improve the communications from school to home and from home to school about school programs and students' progress, including the use of letters, memos, report cards, newsletters, conferences, and other mechanisms. Activities and ideas include conducting an orientation/ giving information to parents of children who have just joined the school, helping and encouraging parents to give information to the school and obtain information from the school, developing communication with those parents who are educated in a Non-English medium and do not understand English or who are illiterate/not educated, conducting teacher education programmes to facilitate communication with those parents who are illiterate/educated in a non-English medium, sending the child's work (class work/homework) to their home, encouraging contacts between parents and school when concerns arise, providing training sessions/input sessions for parents and teachers that focus on the importance of home-school partnership, using technology to foster communication with parents and producing a school newsletter. Observation of several experts indicates that the level of communication, in the urban Indian context, is minimal. The objective of the study was to ascertain the perception of supervisors and teachers regarding communicating aspects essential for promoting optimal home-school partnership at the preschool and primary school levels in Mumbai. The sample consisted of 80 participants (20 supervisors and 60 teachers) from 10 schools located in Mumbai. An interview schedule (using open-ended items) was employed to elicit the desired information. Results revealed that, A substantial majority of the supervisors and teachers stated that their school conducted an orientation program for parents of children who were new entrants (supervisors [85%]; teachers [80%]), particularly developed communication with those parents who were educated in a non-English medium of instruction/illiterate (supervisors [90%]; teachers [86.7%]) and encouraged contacts between parents and the school staff when concerns arose (supervisors [100%]; teachers [95%]). While more (supervisors [70%]; teachers [58%]) acknowledged that their school used technology to improve communication, only a moderate number (supervisors [55%]; teachers [46.7%]) indicated that their school produced a newsletter. Fathers were perceived to be involved in the "communicating" level of home-school partnership, to either a moderate or small extent, but mothers were viewed as being involved to either a large or a moderate extent. Parents and PTA representatives assigned a moderate rating to the "communicating" level of home-school partnership [parents ($M=12.70$; $SD=4.63$); PTA representatives ($M=14.40$; $SD=3.85$)]. The following areas focusing on the communicating level of home-school partnership have been highlighted: a) arranging for an orientation session / program for parents; b) developing communication with those parents who speak little or no English / educated in non-English medium/ lack literacy skills; c) encouraging contacts between parents and school staff in general and when concerns arise; d) using technology to foster, increase or improve communication with parents; e) producing the school newsletter to foster, increase or improve communication with parents; f) providing input sessions for teachers and parents on effective two-way communication techniques and the importance of home-school partnership. Home and school are the two settings where children spend the majority of their time. When the links are supportive between home and school settings, the more potential there is for healthy development. Home-school partnership is defined as the participation of parents in every facet of their child's education and development from birth to adulthood, recognizing that parents are the primary influence in the lives of their children. Home-school partnership is the support and participation of parents at home, in the community and at the school site, which directly and positively affects the educational performance of all children. Sheldon (2002) loosely defined parent involvement as the investment of resources in children by parents. Coleman and Churchill (1997) provide a more descriptive definition stating that family involvement can include many different components including a program providing parents with emotional support, providing parents with skills and knowledge and communicating to them about the child.

Keywords: (Five words in alphabetical order) Communicating, Early Childhood Education, Home-School Partnership, Parent Involvement, Preschool and Primary School.

Employment guarantee and happiness: A case study from rural Tamil Nadu

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Abstract

It is now widely agreed that human wellbeing, deeply intertwined with the quality of life, has an important subjective dimension. Most commonly, it is measured by various items of self-reported satisfaction with life, also referred to as perceived happiness. The study of happiness has emerged as a vital interdisciplinary research field and it has also been considered as a part of broader paradigm shift in development studies (Coulthard 2012). Happiness is not only thought to be useful for an individual but also beneficial for society as a whole, which is obviously an argument in support of life satisfaction augmenting policies (Diener et al. 2009). Although integrated in various general conceptualizations of development and domesticated within public policy rhetoric (McGregor 2007; Stiglitz et al. 2008), the focus on subjective wellbeing has yet to expand beyond its “exploratory phase” concerned with monitoring surveys and construction of comparative rankings. It has yet to be taken more seriously in development and public policy practice (Layard 2010; White 2010; Easterlin 2012; Frey and Stutzer 2012). A principal area of such efforts can be the assessment of various public policy interventions, where the effects on subjective self-satisfaction have been still relatively rarely taken into account (e.g. Becchetti et al. 2009).

The goal of the present paper is to examine possible links between a major Indian social intervention in terms of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and subjective self-satisfaction with life on a case study from rural Tamil Nadu. Despite methodology applied here doesn't allow for strong causal inferences, we believe that this paper can make an important contribution. To our best knowledge, it provides the first attempt to examine effects of MGNREGA on subjective wellbeing (although the empirical evidence on the impacts of MGNREGA is advancing, it has predominantly focused on more traditional objective characteristics of wellbeing). In addition, as noted elsewhere (e.g. Cox 2012), the emerging “science of happiness” has been so far biased towards analyzing evidence from mainly developed countries. The present concern with subjective wellbeing in relation to specific public policy intervention might thus be valuable, especially if acknowledging that Indian context has been considered as particularly interesting with respect to the study of happiness (Biswas-Diener et al. 2012).

We analyze correlates of a global life satisfaction when drawing on our own field survey covering face-to-face structured interviews among 1,263 households conducted in 2010-2011 in two regions of rural Tamil Nadu. Both of the regions were purposely selected as socioeconomically backward areas, which similarly well satisfies all the prerequisites required for the implementation of MGNREGA. However, while in one of the regions MGNREGA has been widely implemented since its inception in 2006, in the second one the local population was mostly unaffected by it at the time of our survey so it can serve as a kind of counterfactual evidence. Moreover, the former region was officially recognized as a MGNREGA best-practice implementation district recently before our survey so our study examines the “best-practice implementation” effects.

Keywords: Happiness, India, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Subjective wellbeing

Ref#: 064/IND/13

**Social Justice, Social Capital and Discrimination in urban labour market:
Some theoretical discourse onto Practice**

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Discrimination as a concept has many 'avatar' like crowding, segregation, preference these concepts differs in their *modus operandi*. The present paper has covered aspects of Discrimination and Inequity in Urban Labour Market. The one amongst many malaises is the discrimination in the day to day behaviour which has serious repercussions in the society when it comes to employing people especially when people are already segregated on various socio-economic grounds. One of the factors is caste which my doctoral dissertation has explored. The world is reeling under such preferences discrimination consequently animosity, prejudice, violence faced by the outsiders occurring more frequently than ever.

This paper attempts to study how the rational thinking is eclipsed by the social prejudices and sometimes hinder the general functioning of a society and how it pushes the overall development of a region. This apparently simple behavioural attitude leads to serious repercussions in the market and thus workers in the lower segment of the market remain trapped in the vicious circle of poverty 'if not intervened' (positive Discrimination). The process of education (technical and general), recruitment and livelihood are the three main sub sets of the enquiry of socio-cultural network in an Urban Labor Market. The paper has used data from two cities to define and differentiate the socio-cultural background in this paper. First Kanpur city which is an old industrial town where social values are still traditional Second is Ghaziabad where industrial development have been phenomenal in past three decades.

Methodology

The paper hence have addressed two core issues education as a proxy to the human capital and labour in marginal sector by analyzing the trend of census data in Delhi. Workers are separated by their occupational, social and gender categories. The data is then cross tabulated by the social and gender background to find out the discrimination or segregation. Social and sex category are considered as dummy variables where Odds ratio has been run to find out the probability of workers in the main or marginal workers category. The primary census abstract of Delhi of 2001 and 2011 has been used to find out the trend or changes in the profile of workers.

The paper brings out some of the significant contesting theoretical views against the existence data though provided by the secondary sources. The paper sums that prejudice and social apathy in Indian society which not only mars the individual growth but also affects the development of the community and the country at large.

Keywords: Discrimination, labour market, marginalization, Social Justice segregation.

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How Sustainable is Development in the World Trade Organization?

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Abstract

Special and differential treatment (S&DT) provisions are those provisions that relate to a subgroup of members of the World Trade Organization (WTO). This subgroup consists of developing and least developed members who claim that colonisation stifled their development. Since a uniform law does not take into account their development concerns, they require special provisions. Developed countries are however opposed to the contamination of international trade law by these provisions. Thus, various WTO members view S&DT differently due to their social, political, and economic subjectivities reflecting their history and stake in the international trading system.

Developing countries do not see the application of the principle of compensatory inequality as violating their sovereignty. In fact, their demand for S&DT is made as sovereign members of the WTO. Consequently, the principle of compensatory inequality is a corollary of sovereignty. These provisions were included in the law of the multilateral trading system because the developing countries wanted the fact of inequality of development to be reflected in legal norms. Moreover, they allow for some differentiation in the rules of the WTO which would otherwise not be equitable leading to questions about the legitimacy of the WTO. S&DT enters the picture because the rules of international trade cannot be adapted to diverse national interests. However, this may be an inadequacy of any law including rules of international law.

During the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), S&DT provisions consisted of the following types of treatment: preferential market access, protection of markets, flexibility in applying GATT commitments, and non-reciprocity. In the WTO, since the developing countries undertook obligations equal to those undertaken by the developed countries, the S&DT consists of assistance to implement the obligations be it in the form of longer transition periods or technical assistance and capacity building.

The effectiveness of the S&DT provisions is important because of the following reasons

- (1) S&DT provisions exist to serve a purpose which is still valid, that of addressing asymmetries between members.
- (2) S&DT provisions give the WTO a global character i.e. it is perceived as catering to the interests of all its members.

Have these provisions succeeded in achieving their objectives? In other words, have these provisions been effective? Not really. This is mainly because these provisions are non-binding, ambiguous, unstructured, and lack connectivity with each other. Developing countries claim they are unrealistic and best endeavour clauses. So how can these provisions be made effective?

This article examines the concept of S&DT including its history, reasons behind its introduction and continuation, its content, its merits and demerits, reasons for its success or failure, and provides suggestions for its improvement.

Keywords: development, differentiation, inequality, legitimacy, WTO

Financial Inclusion and Its Determinants in India

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Abstract

The Promotion of an inclusive financial system is a policy priority in many countries. The importance of financial inclusion is widely recognized as it plays major role in mobilization and allocation of savings. The Indian financial system today has an impressive network of banks, financial institutions and a wide range of instruments. This paper has described many dimensions of financial inclusion and the factors that determine financial inclusion. This is shown by proposing a multidimensional index of financial inclusion (IFI). To identify the determinants of financial inclusion, methodology employed in the present work is threefold- Coefficient of variation, Construction of index of financial inclusion and Regression analysis. In the present study there are four determinants that affect financial inclusion, namely, per capita income, poverty ratio, urbanisation and literacy. The present study considered three basic components of an inclusive financial system, namely, availability of the banking services, banking penetration and usage of banking system. These components are largely motivated by availability of relevant and consisting data for a large number of states in order to compute a comparable IFI. Indicators of availability were banking outlets such as offices, branches, banking personal and so on. Thus availability of banking services was indicated to the number of offices per adult population. The values of financial inclusion lies between 0 and 1, where, zero defines complete financial exclusion and 1 indicates complete financial inclusion throughout India (state-wise study). The three Union Territories that have been excluded due to non- availability of the data on explanatory variables are Dadra Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep. As estimated through the applied method, ranking of the states/union territories have been shown on the basis of Financial Inclusion. Regarding the composite index (IFI), the highest rank 1st is of Chandigarh followed by Delhi 2nd and Goa 3rd rank. On the other hand Chhattisgarh has the lowest rank of 32nd, Manipur 31st and Uttar Pradesh 30th rank. Urbanization and Per capita income have the positive and significant effect on financial inclusion. Literacy has significant result but Poverty has negative and insignificant effect on financial inclusion. Chandigarh and Delhi have 1st and 2nd rank because of good performance in literacy, urbanization, per capita income and poverty ratio is also very low. On the other hand Chhattisgarh, Nagaland and Manipur have low rank due to lower literacy rate, low per capita income, low urbanization and high poverty ratio. R-Square has very significant value 0.75 different from zero.

Keywords: Coefficient of variation; Financial inclusion; IFI; Regression analysis

Ref: 114/IND/13

Black African Jews, the Nigerian Question and The Lost Ten Tribes of Isreal: A Comparison of Igbo and Yoruba Claims to Jewish and Judaic Traditions

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Abstract

In the last two decades, small communities within Igbo (and other smaller ethnic groups in Eastern Nigeria); and the Yoruba speaking ethnics groups of Nigeria have been calling for State/Provincial, National and International attention that, they have Jewish blood connections. But they lack synergy in mounting common campaign for their joint cause. Rather, they have been campaigning separately for local, national and international recognition as Jews. While both already have local recognition, they are yet to have national and international ones. How true are these conflicting claims? And how far has international community reacted to these?

Keywords: Africa, Igbo, Jewish, Judaic Traditions, and Yoruba

Ref#: 115/IND/13

Relevance of the Nigerian civil war to strategic theory and practice

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Abstract

The relevance of Nigerian civil war experience of 1967 to 1970 to strategic theory and practice was investigated. The study drew extensively from primary and secondary sources such as oral interview of some retired military officers, civil servants and undertook visits to the National war museum at Umuahia, Biafra airport at Uli, Ojukwu Bunker, the then voice of Biafra, National Defence College Abuja. Secondary sources such as, textbooks, journals and lectures delivered by prominent scholars found in some University Libraries were also consulted. The study observed that Nigeria civil war adopted all strategies of war on land, sea and air as postulated by strategic theories during warfare. It was also discovered that the revolutionary theoretical framework of analysis is still very relevant and has been connected either as a cause or as consequence with many people and revolutionary wars, thereby elaborating upon the links between specific revolutionary concepts and the strategies and tactics of war. It was also discovered that Nigeria is yet to attain the level of becoming a laboratory for strategic studies, though qualified, in view of its abandonment of war monuments. The civil war experience has not brought about any socio-political economic and technological development in Nigeria and the prevailing situation in the country reveals that there is no peace and unity in the country. The study therefore recommends that; a viable institution should be put in place to sustain and maintain war monuments. The national war museum should be given a facelift by upgrading the dilapidated infrastructural facilities across the country especially in the five Eastern states of Nigeria.

Keywords: Civil, War, Strategy, Bunker, National defence, Umuahia, Tactics of war, War monument.

Ref#: 116/IND/13

**A Critical Study on the Dimension and Impact of Terrorism
in Developing Countries; the Nigerian Experience**

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Abstract

This paper focuses on dimensions and impacts of terrorism with particular reference to the Nigeria experience. Nigeria is fraught with violence, explosion, political disturbance, chaos and inter-state conflict amongst others. Its impact on national security, political stability and international image, shows the relevance of terrorism being a contemporary issue which affects states in the international system, even peaceful states which had no previous terrorist attacks now experience it or fear for it. Terrorism is no doubt a global security problem. The frightening phenomenon manifests itself in forms of suicide bombings, arson, kidnapping, murder, false imprisonment, and the like, all of which deny peoples of their rights to life and personal liberty. Incidentally, more and more people are resorting to outright violence in diverse forms to achieve their aims, whether good or bad. Citing briefly the history of terrorism in Africa and Nigeria, this paper explains the various dimensions, experiences and the various forms in which terrorism has taken in Nigeria. It analyzes the issue of terrorism, citing some terrorist acts experienced alongside, causes, responses and possible implications of terrorism to a developing country such as Nigeria. It was found that, over the last two decades in Nigeria, there have been so many acts of terrorism by criminal elements in the society. These acts of terror have most of the hallmarks of terrorism as witnessed in other parts of the world. The nature and causes of terrorism have made it extremely difficult to predict how, when, and where the next terrorist act will occur. Several conditions of poverty and deprivation, religious fanaticism, long and demarcated porous borders, poor monitoring and control mechanisms among other factors provide fertile grounds for terrorism in Nigeria. It is however, recommended that the fight against terrorism should be comprehensive and unrelenting. Nigerians cannot afford further acts of lawlessness and disorder. Of all violent crimes terrorism is perhaps the most reprehensible. This is because it is often indefensible, unpredictable and non-discriminatory in the selection of its target. No singular nation can go alone when it comes to security issues, so there should be enhanced collaboration with each nation sharing intelligence and information at all levels. The Federal Government should stop treating the issue of Bomb Blast in Nigeria with kid gloves, as the trend, if not addressed in time could truncate democracy

Keywords: Arson, developing country, fanaticism, poverty and religion

Ref#: 122/CAN/13

Public Interest Litigation as a Catalyst for Sustainable Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

Nigeria is a country endowed with a lot of mineral resources and has about 168.8 million people in terms of its population. Unfortunately the estimated life expectancy is 51 years; the country's GDP is about \$262.6 billion while the per capital income is \$1,600.

Corruption permeates virtually every sector of the economy, basic necessities of life which promotes good living standards are lacking while government operates as if they are not accountable to its citizens. The enforcement, protection, development and enhancement of public interest, previously was the exclusive preserve of government.

However, the emergence of public interest litigation has changed this position. Private individuals can now file actions towards remedying perceived public wrongs. This development has led to reduction of corrupt tendencies, while government and its agencies are now more responsive and alive to their responsibilities.

It is in the light of the above that this paper sets out to examine the prospects and challenges of public interest litigation as a catalyst for sustainable development in Nigeria. The philosophical and theoretical basis for its formulation and how it has assisted in the recognition and guarantee of some rights and duties which were hitherto initially not justiceable along with its prospects and challenges will also be discussed. Possible solutions to these challenges will also be proffered. The concluding part will discuss the positive influence and contributions of public interest litigation to Nigerian jurisprudence.

Keywords: Interest, Litigation, Nigeria, Public, Sustainable.

Ref#: 131/IND/13

Sustaining Informal Cross Border Livestock Trade Through EHMGS: Case of Kenya's Trade with the Horn of Africa

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Abstract

This paper discusses informal cross border livestock trade between Kenya and her neighbours in the horn of Africa. The basic concern of this paper is that Kenya's national trade policy prescribes that informal trade activities be systematically mainstreamed into the formal economy overtime yet informal cross border trade, especially in livestock is a fairly complex activity that is not readily amenable to such treatment. We demonstrate the complexity of ICBT in livestock by focusing on the transactions cost-related role of *Ethnically Homogeneous Middleman Groupings* (EHMGs).

In an attempt to explain ethnic success, economists have presented diverse viewpoints. The neo-classical school favours the notion of Marxist competition while the Austrian school, is based on the existence of market discrimination as a source of differences in ethnic group achievement. On the Austrian view of competition associated with the Kirzner (1973), Darity and Williams (1985) contend that market discrimination, can in essence explain differences in pecuniary accomplishments across ethnic groups under competitive conditions contrary to the viewpoints of the neo-classical and Austrian schools.

Darity and Williams (1985) provide an alternative suggestion to Marxist competition. They contend that this, if reconciled with the existence of market discrimination can be a persistent source of difference in racial and ethnic group achievements. They argue that Marxist competition means that competition gives rise to monopolies. Marxist capitalist winners consolidate and concentrate. They can exclude losers and consolidate their positions for long stretches of time. In the Marxist competition, workers also concentrate and consolidate, particularly by ethnic groups and race, such that specific ethnic and racial groups could gain control and dominance of particular occupational or labour powers. In contrast however, Austrian competition's winning entrepreneur, permanently maintains barriers to preserve his position. In the Austrian view, newer contestants will eventually tear down barriers. Sowell (1978) and Chiswick (1983), on the other hand propose cultural explanations for differences in economic achievements existing across racial and ethnic groups.

This study is based on an alternative economic theory first proposed by Arrow (1970), and much used by Williamson (1975), Coleman (1987), Glade (1990), Ostrom (1990), and Landa (1991). This theory takes account of the relationship of culture to ethnic or racial middleman entrepreneurial success. It is based on the concept of transaction costs.

Our analysis proceeds on the basis that markets can be organised by culture specific norms which in turn shape behaviour as well as economic transactions in ethnically homogeneous groups. We argue that in such a scenario, transactions are not dependent on regulations and laws, but rather sub-consciously on the attendant costs. This point is amply demonstrated by Leibenstein (1968), in his theory of N – entrepreneurship which provides the theoretical anchor for this study.

N – entrepreneurship is defined to mean; “the activities necessary to operate or carry on an enterprise where not all the markets are well established or clearly defined and/or in which the relevant parts of the production function are not completely known. In both cases, the entrepreneurs coordinate activities that involve different markets, he is an inter market operator” (Leibenstein 1968). In N- entrepreneurship markets are imperfect hence the entrepreneur, fills in for the market deficiencies. This is only possible with a good information network, strong political connections, and ready capital. It is this arrangement that creates the middleman-ship role or gap- filling function of entrepreneurship. The middleman-ship then serves the role of coping with the problem of contract uncertainty since, the legal framework for contract enforcement, is not very well developed in Kenya. Middleman entrepreneurs so

created, then lead to formation of Ethnically Homogenous middleman Groups (EHMGs) and personalistic exchange networks which are intended to economize on the costs of enforcing contracts.

We acknowledge that EHMGs are offshoots of poor and at times non-existent physical infrastructure in Kenya's borders with countries in the horn of Africa as well as an uncertain legal and policy environment in the said countries. The presence of EHMGs however, creates and sustains strong and exclusionary trade networks that enable network members to appropriate existing opportunity structures in these regions to their own advantage. By focusing on the following inputs; information networks, transactions security arrangements and capital mobilizing mechanisms; we argue that such networks, by nature, confer on their members the benefit of exclusionary critical inputs that enable them to perceive and appropriate new opportunities ahead of others and that this is the glue that sustains the cross-border trade.

It is envisaged that the outcome of this analysis should provide policy makers in the region and also in Kenya with some understanding on which to anchor the context for livestock, livestock products and general food security assessment, analysis and response planning.

Keywords: Cross-border, Informal, Kenya, Middleman- groups, Transaction cost

Ref#: 142/IND/13

Effectiveness of meditation on patients with low back pain

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Background

Current evidence-based guidelines suggested to consider psychotherapies as well as physical treatment for chronic LBP. There is no consensus about the effectiveness of psychotherapy methods for chronic pain, so our target in this study was to assess the efficacy of mindfulness based stress reduction (MBSR) as a psychological intervention on pain in Iranian patients with nonspecific chronic low back pain (NSCLBP).

Methods

88 patients suffering from NSCLBP were randomly assigned to experimental and control groups, Mind-body program (MBSR+ usual care) and Usual care, respectively. The subjects were referred from physiotherapy centres of Ardebil (northwest of Iran), assessed in three time frame; before, after and four weeks after intervention Mac gill pain questionnaire, collected data analysed by ANCOVA with SPSS software.

Results

After adjusting for pre-test scores, there was a significant effect of the between subject factor group { $F(1,45)=82.85, p<.001$ } and { $F(1,45)=125.61, p<.001$ }. Adjusted post test scores suggest that the intervention had an effect on increasing the pain scores of the NSCLBP patients who received the MBSR as compared to those who were in the control group and did not receive any psychological therapy.

Conclusion

MBSR as a mind- body therapy including body scan, sitting and walking meditation was effective on pain of female Iranian patients with NSCLBP.

Keywords: MBSR. Chronic LBP. Meditation, Mind body therapy

Ref#: 164/IND/13

Surveying the effectiveness of the drama therapy on increasing of motor skills and the hearing memory of the children with intellectual disability

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Abstract: Objective

Survey on the effectiveness of drama therapy on increasing of motor skills and hearing skills of the Children with intellectual disability.

Materials & Methods

The statistical community constituted of intellectual disabled students which are the coverage exceptional training within and education organization in Tehran in school year of 2010-2011 with an IQ between 55-70 in the age range of 10-15.

Study sample that were selected randomly consisted of two groups, an experimental and a control group in number of 20 persons in each group. Research tool used in this study was Bruininks-Oseretsky Test of Motor Proficiency and along with auditory memory - expression test. The averages obtained from the two experimental and control group were compared by the T test.

Results

Investigation of pretest scores and posttest scores in two experimental and control group showed a statistical significance difference.

Conclusion

Results of this survey with a statistical significance at an alpha level of 0.05 and 95% reliability coefficient showed that drama therapy performance for the target group can cause the increased perception skills and hearing memory reinforcement.

Keywords: Motor Skills/ Auditory Memory/Intellectual Disability/Drama Therapy

Economic Development, Poverty and Convergence across Indian States

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Abstract

This article studies the behavior of development, poverty and convergence in India by employing panel data techniques across 15 major states over the period 1983-84 to 2009-10. Almost all the states have experienced a declining trend in the incidence of poverty in varying degrees over the period 1983-84 to 2009-10, but the poor states like Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh still have poverty ratios more than the national average. The study then tested the convergence/divergence hypothesis in terms of per capita income by using cross-sectional analysis of inter-state data and found that per capita income disparities among states has been increasing over the sampled time periods. Thus study evinces divergence, implying that poor states are getting relatively poorer and rich getting richer in terms of per capita income and the gap between the rich and the poor is widening further. Study concludes that almost all the states have experienced a declining trend in the incidence of poverty in varying degrees over the period 1983-84 to 2009-10, but the relatively developed states have been more successful in reducing poverty than the backward states. The poor states like Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh remained more or less at the same positions despite reduction in their poverty ratios and still have poverty ratios more than the national average. Whereas the states like Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Haryana have lower head count ratios as compared to the national average. Further, the study found that the variables like literacy rate, power consumption, per capita income, road density, bank credits and share of services were significant variables in affecting poverty. So, the government should concentrate more on alleviating poverty by providing more infrastructural facilities, especially investment in road infrastructure should be made so that people in poor states get connected to core economic activities, literacy rate should be increased in backward states in order to enhance the earning potentials of the poor. More power facility should be generated in poor states, as power is the pre-condition of all productive activities; it helps in economic development which ultimately reduces poverty. Furthermore, the study found that the poor states are getting relatively poorer and rich getting richer in terms of per capita income and the gap between the rich and the poor is widening further in terms of per capita income. Greater investment should be made in industrial and services sector in the lagging states, so that they can improve their growth performance and regional disparities can be reduced.

Keywords: Convergence; Economic development; Inequality; Per capita income; Poverty.

Ref#: 184/IND/13

Teaching of a Newly Emerged Discipline through a Traditional Discipline: An Analytical Study on Environmental Studies Infusing in Geography for Sustainable Education at the Secondary Level in West Bengal, India

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Abstract

Geography is a very traditional discipline being more than 2000 years old. The word geography is derived from two Greek words namely; 'Geo' means 'Earth' and 'Graphy' meaning 'to Write' or 'to Describe'. So, Geography means a science which describes our earth where man lives and various elements relating to earth. The nature and scope of geography have changed over this long span of time. Today, Geography is no more the description of the earth i.e. atmosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere; its resources and inhabitants. It studies human activities as shaped by different geographical factors, searches the cause and effect relationship between geographical phenomena, explains the inter-dependence as well as the interaction between man and nature and analyses the increasing interference of man over the nature and evaluates its impact on environment. Thus, different branches have evolved having their deep roots either in basic sciences, biosciences or social sciences. With the effect of globalization and with the advancement in science and technology; Geography is continuously broadening its sphere as the time advances. As a result of population explosion and over exploitation of natural resources, the concern for the ecology and environment increases and the concept of sustainable development is emphasized as a result of which Environmental Geography has emerged as a sub-discipline of Geography. Since the scope of Environmental Geography is varied and very vast and it focuses primarily on environment, environment related issues and the consequences of human-induced changes on the ecology and environment; it prepares man as a future citizen with environment-friendly attitude and behaviour. Therefore, Geography can play the most dominant role in teaching-learning activities of Environmental Education, one of the important disciplines emerged in the last quarter of the 20th Century and the discipline which will gain more and more importance in the 21st Century in view of climate change, global warming, rise of sea-level, loss of biodiversity, environmental degradation, energy and water crisis and so on and of course, the question of our sustainability or even more the existence of our Mother Earth. Environmental Education aims at developing in child the awareness and understanding of the physical and social environment in its totality. Environmental education is taught to students to recognize that they are part of an independent human and natural web. In this respect, it can be said that the basic scientific knowledge about our environment can be unearthed from Geography. This paper is based on a survey research in Kolkata done by the present researcher with an objective to find out how geographical knowledge of the students at the secondary level can help teaching-learning activities of Environmental Studies, the objective of which is to develop environmental awareness, attitude and pro-environmental behaviour of our future generation.

Keywords: Environmental studies, Geography, Inter-Dependence, Infusion and sustainable education

**Relationship of social network features and divorce emotional
(Provide a theoretical model)**

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Introduction

Stability in sustainability requires that we collectively for the collective good of society as a whole to decide. quality of life is result of quality of our relationship with each other in terms of economic, social, political, within an entire generation and among generations; While it can be seen, the current slope have reversed toward social irregularities. One of such as disorders, is emotional divorce phenomenon that has spread in IRAN society.

Emotional divorce in IRAN means spouses live together but there are not emotional relationships between them and their interactions is cold. They not only don't from eachother but also spare their emotions and feeling from eachother. They continue to live together for different reasons such as fear of separation and its consequences. Fear of their children's fate. Bad attitude toward divorce in society.

Theoretical Concern

In fact, the attitudes about the divorce flow across social ties. Imaginations about divorce and the divorced women form through social ties, then exploring how social networks influence divorce and vice versa is important. Exploratory studies showed that emotional divorce can spread through friends. Sibling, parents, kins, coworkers and in general through social networks that there are for each of partner.

A great number of theories concerning the impact of social networks on the quality of marital relationships has been carried out in the world. The researchist has previous studies and many theories about relationship between social network and its on equality of interactions between spouses and finally have combined several theories together and has proposal a theoretical model for this matter .

Method

Using of mix method (quantitative and qualitative methods) and several technique such as an attribution-library, group interviews, In-depth interviews and explanatory studies in MASHHAD city in IRAN, the researchist have achieved to a new combined theoretical model in which have shown process of the influence of the independent variable on the dependent.

Conclusion

This article has the following advantages compared to the studies conducted in the past:

- (1) The model makes the attempt to evaluate the process of the subsequent effectiveness of social network features of couples on the quality of their relationships especially the negative kind i.e. emotional divorce which does not exist in the previous works.
- (2) Explore of Intermediate variables that stand between social network of spouse and emotional divorce.
- (3) The grading of the quality of the marital relationships of the spouses on a score of emotional divorce from several aspects is another advantage.
- (4) Study emotional divorce in this research other advantage that does not exist in the previous works. Previous studies have studied phenomena such as relationships equality, divorce and instability in marriage and so.

Keywords: Emotional Divorce, Functional, Interact ional, Social Network, Structural

Price Elasticities of Kenya's Exports

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Abstract

Despite a recent boost of export price indices, Kenya's exports earnings growth are still low. The value of exports grew by 9.1 percent while imports growth stood at 16.6 percent over the period 2005/2012. In addition, Kenya's exports share in the world as a percentage of GDP has been gradually weakening as imports share grew significantly. This left the economy with a wide current account deficit and constrained growth. This study attempts to determine the responsiveness of Kenya's exports (both at aggregate and product levels) to prices.

Empirical evidence explains export performance in Sub-Saharan African countries on the basis on two main factors. First, external factors which unfavorably affect exports including slow growth of demand for primary commodities (these account for the largest share of African exports), as well as worsening terms of trade. Secondly, internal factors which are specific to African economies including the capacity to export (macroeconomic environment, status of infrastructure in place among others) and existing trade policies that facilitate international trade. More importantly, evidence suggests that African exports respond positively to price falls in an effort to maintain revenue balance for foreign earnings, so that for a unit price fall, more is supplied, (Morrissey&Mold, 2006).

We use panel data from UNCOMTRADE; Harmonized System HS1992 for the period of 1997-2010. Building on assumptions of imperfect substitute's model developed by Goldstein and Khan (1985); we adopt Mold and Prizzon (2010) model of export analysis based on volume index instead of export value. In addition, we base our analysis of specific product price elasticities on Jones (2008). A generalized method of moments model (GMM) is run to study total exports and OLS used to conduct a deep analysis at product level.

Results show that in both the short and long-run Kenyan total exports are price inelastic. In addition, the real exchange rate has a negative influence on exports, which implies that a depreciation would not lead to improved exports volume growth. On the other hand, the world demand is found to have a positive effect on exports, suggesting that continuous global recession would reduce Kenya's exports. Further analyses on exports price elasticities by products revealed that vegetable product exports (which include among others tea, coffee and horticulture) are however price elastic; indicating existing export potentials. However, even at higher price incentives, results show a net lose of market for other export products including chemical products, and other manufactured goods. Policy implications include continuous efforts towards identifying and eliminating all barriers that hinder increased tea, coffee and horticulture production and exports.

Keywords: Exports, Kenya, Price elasticity, Products, World demand.

Treating HIV/AIDS patients in India with Antiretroviral therapy: A management challenge

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Abstract

The allocation of resources assumes greater complexity in health sector interventions because of lack of cost-effectiveness measures. Also, the allocation experiences are constrained by several complexities arising out of ethical, legal and human rights issues. The HIV/AIDS programme, in particular, is confronted with these issues in serious way. To spend on prevention or treatment or research – is a dilemma which the programme planners are facing while developing financial plans for AIDS control programme. Given the limited financial resources the question of cost-effectiveness of prevention and treatment interventions are important. How much funds can be utilised for treatment by diverting resources from prevention activities without adversely affecting the prevalence, particularly when there is no cure or vaccine and “prevention is still the only cure for HIV/AIDS”. Some of these questions have been discussed at different forums, but it has assumed particular attention because of recent round of negotiation on anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs, making it around 10 times cheaper to earlier drug prices. The trade-offs on cost front has eased significantly. In view of these developments and declaring non-availability of drugs to the AIDS affected cases as a global emergency, World Health Organisation recently came out with a strategy to reach out to 3 million people by 2005, mostly in the severely affected African countries with ARV drugs. The Government of India too has already initiated programme intervention to make available treatment with High Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART) to the 6 severely affected states of India.

The development of antiretroviral therapy has given a new hope for people living with acquired immuno deficiency syndrome. In the face of increased disease burden due to HIV the global and political commitment towards controlling the pandemic has received renewed thrust in recent times. The Government of India has initiated antiretroviral treatment as a part of national public health programme in the six high-prevalence states. The aim of the paper is to provide the programme planners and other stakeholders, information about the impact of initiating antiretroviral therapy programme in the country. The paper discusses the global commitment towards fighting the disease in the light of the development in affordability and accessibility of antiretroviral drugs therapy. The paper highlights the importance of infrastructure and logistic requirement for developing a comprehensive treatment programme for the affected population in India. Finally, the paper has drawn broad financial implications of the antiretroviral therapy under different treatment scenarios. The estimated financial requirement for treatment vary from Rs. 92 crores per annum if focusing on 400,000 HIV/AIDS cases to identify patients requiring ARV Therapy to 1008 crores per annum if all 4 million patients are screened for coverage. Against this NACO has allocated total of Rs. 113 crores for treatment part of the proposed intervention. Even under the most conservative estimate achieving the treatment target in India with the proposed programme budget will be a challenging task.

Keywords: Antiretroviral therapy, Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome, Anti-Retroviral (ARV) Drugs, Global emergency, Patients

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Food Security in India: a journey from judicial initiative to legislation

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Abstract

India is the fastest growing economy after china in the world at present. According to Morgan Stanley report India is poised to accelerate its growth rate to 9-9.5% over 2013-15, even as China will cool down to a more sedate 9% by 2012 and to 8% by 2015.. The remarkable growth rate indicates the development in the country which is the only one side of the picture but this development is limited to a section of the people in the society and fails to reach the other India where people fail to get two meals a day and are dying due to starvation. The 2013 Global Hunger Index (GHI), released on 14 October 2013 by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Welthungerhilfe, and Concern Worldwide- revealed that 842 million people were chronically under nourished across the world. India has moved from 65 to 63 in the Global Hunger Index, making a marginal improvement since 2012, but continues to languish far behind from other emerging economies. The score for the country improved slightly from 22.9 in 2012 to 21.3 this year. Right to food is a basic human right which is acknowledged in international and national legal framework. The research paper focuses on four issues. Part one of the paper focuses on the international instruments which acknowledges right to food as an inherent right of a human being. Part two of the paper highlights the constitutional framework laid down in India relating to right to food and it further takes into consideration the role of PUCL v. Union of India and Others, Writ Petition (Civil) 196 of 2001 for laying a foundation stone right to food in India and pressuring the government to enact a specific legislation for the same i.e. National Food Security Act, 2013. Part three of the paper discusses the key features of National Food Security Act, 2013 and how an attempt has been made to improve public distribution system. The fourth part of the paper will focus on the issue that whether this legislation is solution to all starvation death or it is another law which will remain on papers. In the path-breaking book published in 1981, *Poverty and Famines*, Amartya K. Sen noted that hunger and malnutrition are not necessarily attributable to a lack of available food. But the answer lies not in increasing the total food production in the State, but in the improvement of storage facilities of food grains and accessibility of the same to the poorest of the poor.

Keywords: Food Security, Human right, National Food Security Act, 2013, PUCL v. Union of India.

Food Security in India: a journey from judicial initiative to legislation

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Abstract

India is the fastest growing economy after china in the world at present. According to Morgan Stanley report India is poised to accelerate its growth rate to 9-9.5% over 2013-15, even as China will cool down to a more sedate 9% by 2012 and to 8% by 2015.. The remarkable growth rate indicates the development in the country which is the only one side of the picture but this development is limited to a section of the people in the society and fails to reach the other India where people fail to get two meals a day and are dying due to starvation. The 2013 Global Hunger Index (GHI), released on 14 October 2013 by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Welthungerhilfe, and Concern Worldwide- revealed that 842 million people were chronically under nourished across the world. India has moved from 65 to 63 in the Global Hunger Index, making a marginal improvement since 2012, but continues to languish far behind from other emerging economies. The score for the country improved slightly from 22.9 in 2012 to 21.3 this year. Right to food is a basic human right which is acknowledged in international and national legal framework. The research paper focuses on four issues. Part one of the paper focuses on the international instruments which acknowledges right to food as an inherent right of a human being. Part two of the paper highlights the constitutional framework laid down in India relating to right to food and it further takes into consideration the role of PUCL v. Union of India and Others, Writ Petition (Civil) 196 of 2001 for laying a foundation stone right to food in India and pressuring the government to enact a specific legislation for the same i.e. National Food Security Act, 2013. Part three of the paper discusses the key features of National Food Security Act, 2013 and how an attempt has been made to improve public distribution system. The fourth part of the paper will focus on the issue that whether this legislation is solution to all starvation death or it is another law which will remain on papers. In the path-breaking book published in 1981, *Poverty and Famines*, Amartya K. Sen noted that hunger and malnutrition are not necessarily attributable to a lack of available food. But the answer lies not in increasing the total food production in the State, but in the improvement of storage facilities of food grains and accessibility of the same to the poorest of the poor.

Keywords: Food Security, Human right, National Food Security Act, 2013, PUCL v. Union of India.

Ref #: 253/IND/13

Death Penalty: Solution or Judicial imbroglio

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Abstract

Death penalty has been a mode of punishment since time immemorial. The Arguments for and against have not changed much over the years. With the march of civilization, the modes of death punishment have witnessed significant humanized changes. Despite several failed legislative attempts to abolish the death penalty, the Supreme Court has interpreted the Constitution to allow capital punishment in rarest of the rare cases. Though civilized and restricted in its application, death penalty is very much alive in India. The retention of death penalty, even when we stand in the 21st century, is contrary to the trend in the rest of the world. Death penalty is viewed as a 'premeditated' form of killing which is carried out in the name of punishment. It is 'barbarous' in nature since all the methods of execution involve a great amount of pain to the person being executed. It is also a fact that death penalty does not serve as an instrument of deterrence which is regarded as its main objective by the proponents of death penalty. Further, it also denies the possibility of rehabilitation and reformation of the criminal. Today, the death penalty in most of the countries in the world has been totally abolished with the UN strongly in favour of abolishing it. Despite the familiar furnishing of graphs, figures and data, that there is no convincing proof that the death penalty has a deterrent effect on heinous crimes, proposals to make capital punishment mandatory where rape and murder are both involved or to retain it, if not expand its application, proliferate. Punishment by death then becomes an expression of the impulse for individual and collective self-defense moralized by the feeling of sympathy. India's people must begin challenging the state's right to be in the business of putting people to death. Abolition of the death penalty should be the sine qua non of a modern state's 'civilizing mission'. This idea would perhaps be abhorrent for the vast majority of the people. But the idea that India must do away with capital punishment must also spring from the belief in the sanctity of all human life.

The judgment contributes significantly to the body of India's death penalty jurisprudence and tries to deal with the problem of arbitrariness post Bachan Singh. The 'rarest of rare' classification evolved in Bachan Singh was theoretically a classification intended to restrict the use of death penalty, but in reality it formed an amorphous category, allowing the death penalty to become more arbitrary. So in Bariyar court tries to come up with a solution to the problem of arbitrariness, despite acknowledging that the question of death penalty cannot be detached from the subjective element and that awarding of the death penalty depends greatly on the personal predilection of the judges. There have hardly been cases where separate evidence is required to be considered by the judges before sentencing the convict.

The author will deal with the judicial approach in regard to the death penalty and will also cover the compare the same with international scenario.

Keywords: Death penalty, punishment, barbarous, killing

Ref #: 274/IND/13

Social Adjustment Profile of Adolescents of Ludhiana City

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Abstract

This paper is an endeavor to study the social adjustment profile of adolescents of Ludhiana city. The sample consisted of 100 boys and 100 girls from 4 Government schools comprising a total of 200 adolescents of the age group 16 to 18 years from intact two parent families. Deva's Social Adjustment Inventory was used to assess social adjustment of adolescents. Statistical analysis using mean, standard deviation and chi square reveals that there is no significant gender difference in social adjustment among adolescents. Social adjustment of adolescents was also found to be independent of gender, birth order and type of family.

Keywords: adjustment; adolescent; gender; social.

Ref #: 277/IND/13

The 'legal women' in sustainable development discourse in India

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Abstract

Sustainable development has an intrinsic and reciprocal relation with women and it cannot bear fruit in absence of a concerted and systematic approach to understanding and re aligning this relationship. A male work model of an environmentally untenable and unstable economy which is discriminatory and exclusionary of women; a male heir desire which continues to eliminate, subjugate and subvert women (by increasing legal, social and economic costs of survival of women); greater empathy in women to environmental issues (for example women more likely to buy recyclable, eco-labeled and energy-efficient products than men, as shown by studies in Europe); more often than men, women in developing countries organizing and working in cooperatives producing artisanal goods are but a few examples of how thoroughly women are connected to sustainable development.

Law is a contrivance that seeks to reformulate the relationship between sustainable development and women, more so when the legal contrivance trying to reformulate this relationship, is maneuvered by a female hand. Judgments involving female judges in cases concerning sustainable development may help reveal the female discourse in sustainable development issues in India. Women judges have an important role to play in sustainable development in the sense that their participation in the judiciary helps establish that judiciary is reflective of the society of whose laws it interprets and that women experiences are included in the interpretative narrative of any law including sustainable development.

This article seeks to analyze case law involving sustainable development issues of four female Supreme Court judges viz., Sujata Manohar JJ, Ranjana Desai JJ, Fatima bb JJ, Ruma Pal JJ endeavoring to delineate their sustainable development perspective and analyzing them in the light of contemporary discourse on Sustainable development and gender issues.

The article is divided into four parts. Part I seeks to elaborate on the meaning of sustainable development and various contemporary approaches/dimensions to its relationship to women. Part II of the article analyses selective judgments of the abovementioned judges, trying to delineate their perspective on environmental issues. Part III seeks to correlate the conclusions of Part II to prevalent approaches to study of relationship between sustainable development and women as well as feminist critique of sustainable development. Part IV seeks to conclude and assimilate the outcomes in part III and IV of the article also relating it to approaches of these judges to judgments on issues concerning women.

Keywords: environment, female judges, feminism, sustainable development, women.

Ref #: 280/IND/13

**Prospects of Sustainable Development in the Naxal Dominated Landscape:
A study in ecology and economics of poverty, disparity and deprivation**

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Abstract

How alarming is the menace of Naxalism or Naxal violence that has taken a heavy toll on the country's security? It was in 2010 that the Prime Minister Man Mohan Singh, himself an economist, declared it as India's greatest internal security threat. As a student of social science, or ecological economics, I find the issue of Naxalism bewildering at least for two reasons. First, the area of its spread, which has notoriously assumed the name "Red corridor". And, second, the deeper problems of a socio-economic nature, involving a mismanagement of the resources, both natural as well as human. Both of these has one common thing - the violation of the principles of sustainable development.

The unique spatial extension of Naxalism figures from Tirupati in Andhraparadesh, India to Pashupati in Nepal covering over 200 districts. Apart from being very vulnerable, these are basically mineral rich forest areas that provide very tough and limited livelihood options to its inhabitants. Mining, both, by the government and illegal land mafia have only made these living tribes homeless. Stringent forest laws have stanchd their basic livelihood and alienated them from their natural habitat. Thus, upon examination of geographical factors and variables like land use, land cover, soil topography and conducting resource inventory, the levels of vulnerability of the naxals can be established. This paper attempts to reveal such empirical facts that in author's opinion, is the fundamental reason for people's discontent, which has got the unfortunate ugly expression in bloody Naxal violence.

The problem is further fuelled by the failure of government's trickle-down theory approach to development. India's fast growing GDP could never percolate down to them. Reasons could be many but outcome is pathetic i.e. under development and exploitation leading to mass poverty, disparity, deprivation and exclusion.

Looking it as a student of humanities and as a 'humanist', the menace of Naxalism, brings even more amusements. There is an inherent flaw in the way the principles of 'humanism' is applied to the 'idea of development' i.e. in 'humanistic approach' of development. Humanism has undoubtedly helped rescue man from superstition, dogmatism and over dependence on nature. It has put man on his feet and taught him how to walk on his own. This has brought a lot of material prosperity of which mankind often exhibits a sense of pride.

But, beyond these its merits go no further. Look at its flip side- mad race of 'only-man-centric' growth models has led us to global warming, climate change, erratic weather and climatic phenomena, Ozone holes, UV-radiations, threats of another ice-age, sea-floor spreading, frequent disastrous cyclones and thunderstorms, habitat and biodiversity loss, ecological imbalances, many new and incurable forms of diseases so on and so forth. These are ecological, environmental and natural sides of disorders. The human side includes- inequality, disparity, mass poverty, hunger, malnutrition, unemployment, exploitation and exclusion.

Thus, the 'side-effects' or 'byproducts' of this approach of development are many. These compel us to give it a second thought. It is easy to see that there is something vital missing in 'humanism' or 'anthropocentric' models of development that has almost alienated man from its surrounding, from the very environment and nature. There is an urgent need to step up to 'neo-humanism', i.e. 'welfare of all-centric approach' or 'Cosmo-centric approach' to development, which is this paper tries to argue so as to make it more inclusive, sustainable and acceptable to all stake holders.

Thus, there are two aspects of Naxal problem, namely- empirical, expressed in spatial investigation of naxal spread and the conceptual or theoretical, expressed in India's development programs and approaches. This paper undertakes both of these dimensions and tries to bring the whole picture on Naxalism. Its objective is to find out what went wrong to earn them the qualification of 'the greatest internal security frontier'.

In the concluding part, it seeks to answer the following questions: Why has Naxalism spread in the geographically disadvantageous and economically neglected regions, i.e. forests, hills and other tough terrains? Why are the social and human development indicators of these regions pathetically low? Why these regions indicate the highest degree of poverty, unemployment, malnutrition, hunger, exploitation? Why the official agenda of development of Naxals or similar tribes are discriminatory and not on par with such agenda elsewhere? Thus, my paper tries to decipher the basic inconsistencies of approaches, planning and implementation of various policies and programs by the incumbent governments. An attempt is also made to formulate some practical suggestions that can help in overcoming this menace and preventing it from spreading like an HIV/AIDS, before it gets too late.

Keywords: humanism, neo-humanism, Naxalism, Red corridor, sustainable development.

Ref #: 289/IND/13

Social Networking Sites: An Analysis into New Age Socialisation and its Effect on Family Ties

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Abstract

Social networking sites culture is engulfing the society as a storm. Social networking sites are basically a stage to make social relations with people having same interests, activities, backgrounds or real-life connections. These sites also motivate people who are seeking new relations and give them opportunity to meet new people. These sites have also gained popularity because they are easy to use and learn and at the same time inexpensive. Though many of the users also know the potential dangers involved in becoming friends with strangers but still the convenience and thrill involved overpowers all the risks involved. As these sites are an exciting opportunity to connect with the people of one's interests they get embedded in their mundane lives and become inevitable for them. Because these sites increase the social interaction, they become a great way to start relationships be it a friendship, a romance, or a partnership. This paper concentrates on how there is emergence of a new kind of socialisation amidst the immense social change that is already existing. When ways of socialisation are changing this has a great deal of impact on the basic unit of society which is Family.

Keywords: divorce, family, socialisation, social networking sites, technology

Ref #: 296/IND/13

Cognitive, Psychological and Behavioural Rehabilitation of Juvenile Delinquents

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Abstract

Rehabilitative intervention with juvenile delinquents is not always welcomed with optimism. A widespread notion that juvenile delinquents have crime ingrained in their personality and nothing can make any difference is largely responsible for this lack of hope. When we talk of juvenile delinquents, we are talking of adolescents and pre-adolescents, who are at the most impressionable stage of their life. While rehabilitation of adult criminals is an all-together different ball game, intervention programs with juveniles have a huge probability of bringing about long lasting changes in their so-called criminal mindsets. Rehabilitative interventions at this tender age can also be seen as a preventive measure. Effective rehabilitation can prevent a misguided youth from developing into a full-fledged adult criminal.

In order to develop effective cognitive, psychological and behavioural interventions, it is essential to understand the factors contributing to the making of a juvenile delinquent. Like all other behaviour, criminal behaviour is a product of the interaction between certain personality traits and the environment that one is exposed too. This paper consists of a brief summary of the factors that research show to be linked to the make-up of a juvenile delinquent, such as personality traits, neuropsychological factors, parental issues, etc. Furthermore, a few well researched, tried and tested cognitive, psychological and behavioural interventions have been suggested, such as social skills training, parental training, aggression replacement training, etc. But one must proceed cautiously. Believing that it can work for everyone, to the same extent, is nothing short of being naive. No one intervention method can be miraculous enough to work for everyone. Just as all individuals are different in their own way, methods too should be selected accordingly.

In most cases of juvenile delinquency, the crime committed is not the disease, but a symptom. In order to rid the society of crime to even a little extent, it becomes important to treat the cause of the disease, rather than to just punish the young perpetrator and expect him to learn his lesson for the future. Critics argue that why should the taxpayers' hard earned money be used for the rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents. This is a rather shallow statement. Even if one juvenile delinquent is averted from a life of crime, one can only imagine how many lives and resources can be saved that go into the tracking, arresting and punishment of a criminal. Isn't prevention as important as cure, if not more, for the development of a civilised and crime-free society? While our justice system talks a lot about emphasising on the welfare of juvenile delinquents and saving them from wrongful treatment, trauma and stigma, little is being actually done. Implementing comprehensive cognitive, psychological and behavioural intervention programs is certainly not easy, but a start somewhere is direly and urgently needed.

Keywords: Juvenile delinquents; personality; psychological rehabilitation

Ref #: 299/IND/13

Amitav Gosh's *The Glass Palace* and Ecocriticism

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Abstract

In recent decades ecocriticism has come centre stage, from deconstructing oppressive structures built by man to oppress man; the focus has now shifted to understand man *vis a vis* nature. The humanity and its relentless pursuit to gain access to maximum resources, to accomplish growth ambitions have put the very base of its existence in jeopardy. The foregrounding of concerns for environment created ethical predicament for world at large and an aesthetic dilemma for literary scholar; the beginning of the new millennium underscored new crises for exploration in literature; the imperialistic designs of a few countries, the two world wars, the paradigm of free market economy all contributed to the idea of commodification of natural resources for commercial exploitation. It forced literary scholars to take notice and frame man's position in this worsening situation. Amitav Ghosh's *The Glass Palace*, highlights some of the critical issues at the core of ecocriticism; looking back at the era of colonization Ghosh reveals the fabric of greed interwoven with extreme abuse of nature in the colonized worlds, he builds the ugly reality of invasions of European forces not only on the minds of the population but also on the landscape of these worlds. The novel points out the damage done by wars, the resultant displacement and devastation, it offers resounding critique of European powers, their 'colonial - capitalist venture' which conquered man and nature, an 'ecological imperialism'. Ghosh offers the history of South Asia, through the lens of environment. The paper attempts to explore and unravel Ghosh's distress and disquiet against the backdrop of concern for ecology and environment. It also aims to analyse the representation of nature in the text and its synthesis with literary constructions of environmental crisis.

Keywords: Ecocriticism environment imperialism' South-Asia

Ref #: 302/IND/13

Population Dynamics and Terrorism: A Geopolitical Analysis of Spain and Morocco

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Abstract

Population plays a major role in shaping our world. Whether its population growth, population decline, youth bulges, ageing societies or migration, population matters. Looking at the world through the population prism gives us a better understanding of history and valuable insight into our future, but there has been far too little discussion of population trends and their importance in geopolitics. Demographically the world is in an imbalance as the developed countries are plugged by population ageing, while on the other hand the developing countries face the problem of youth bulge. Making the matter complex, in this present age of globalization these demographic anti-poles are connected by migration, which has its own risks and gains. So, this demographic triangle together influences the present and future geopolitical situation of the world.

At present the two countries of Spain and Morocco are facing the above mentioned problem the most. Spain being a aging state, with a median age of around 41.3 years, while Morocco being a youthful one; median age 27.7 years, resides next to each other and are connected by migration both legal and illegal, which is bringing in both positive and negative impacts in the form of economic growth by bringing in much needed labour force and rising Islamic terrorism. The huge flow of legal and illegal immigrants from North Africa and specially Morocco to Spain and the rise of Al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and its coalescence with regional jihadi terror groups in North Africa raises the security concern regarding this issue of demographic change.

Most of the literatures regarding this matter look at the issue through the socio-economic prism, thus pointing out the demographic changes in Spain and Morocco and the migrant flow from Morocco to Spain but none have given a clear picture about the linkages between demography and geopolitics of Spain and Morocco, thus excluding the phenomena of rising Islamic terrorism. As all these aspects are generally dealt separately and not in total unison, so the picture is not clear. As a result it makes an important research question to be solved by dealing with all the above mentioned aspects all together and also in greater depth to get a real picture of the geopolitical aspects of the emerging demographic pattern of Spain and Morocco.

In this regard here both theoretical as well as empirical techniques are used for the geopolitical analysis of population ageing, youth bulge, the consequent migration problem and rising Islamic terrorism of Spain and Morocco. The demographic, economic and labour force structure of both the countries is analyzed here. This is further supplemented with the study of the migration pattern (legal and illegal) which develops to counter the aging and youth bulge among the two countries. To find the link between this changing socio-economic and demographic condition and Islamic terrorism socio-economic profile of the jihadi terrorists involved in terror attacks in Spain and Morocco is taken up. The needed data about Spain and Morocco's demographic and socio-economic structure: population, labour force, unemployment, legal and illegal migration etc, is collected from, - UN Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau, CIA Country Reports, Eurostat, World Bank, IMF, and the respective countries Census. These are represented in the form of graphs and maps.

In depth demographic and socio-economic analysis linked with the geopolitics of rising Islamic terrorism points towards the revival of radical jihadi ideologies based on past Islamic history of 'Al-Andalus', the present poor socio-economic situation in Morocco and rising xenophobia in Spain.

This paper points out that to understand the interaction between ageing, youth bulge and migration from the context of Spain and Morocco and its geopolitical impact in the form of rising social tension and Islamic terrorism there is an urgent need to take a holistic view of the situation by crossing disciplinary boundaries and incorporating the views of different schools of thoughts ranging from geopolitics, strategic studies to economics, development studies and even sociology. Furthermore this opens up chances for such analysis to find links between demography and geopolitics for other countries of the world facing the problem of terrorism, to properly understand the underlying socio-economic causes and find out ways to mitigate the problem.

Keywords: Ageing, Jihadi Terrorism, Migration, Youth Bulge.



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**Perception of the Household Environment and Its Effects on Academic Performance of Students
in Department of Geography Benue State University**

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Abstract

Declining quality of university education is a real issue in Nigeria Today. The quality of living quarters has effect on performance of students; therefore, this paper has tested the hypothesis that students academic performances is affected by how they perceive their living environment .The living environment quality is measured using parameters of surrounding environment, building type, cross ventilation in rooms, noise level, water supply, and waste disposal environment. The student's perception was measured using a comparative scale of good to bad. While student performance was measured by the cumulative grade point average (CGPA). Structured questionnaires were administered on students of 2008-2011 set of geography department of the Benue state university purposively sampled (n=68). Environmental parameters were used as variables and tested against the CGPA using the student's t test to test hypothesis and Pearson moment correlation coefficient to determine relationships. Results indicated that student's perception of their living quarters has an inverse influence on their academic performance. Improving students living quarters should be taken into consideration in policy decisions for improving the quality of education in Nigeria.

Keywords: Academic Performance ;Environmental Quality;Perception , Students Quarters; Urban.

Ref#: 005/IND/13

**Right to Education: Significance of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
to Reach Out to Browbeaten Sections in India**

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Abstract: It is undisputed that most of the enrollment growth in the coming several decades will be in developing countries and India will contribute a significant proportion of that expansion.

India by enacting “Right to Education Act, 2009” has set out on a go-getting path to provide free and compulsory education to all children in the 6 to 14 age group. As a result the number of students enrolled in elementary schools in far flung villages would definitely see a colossal jump. Challenges of funding, availability of qualified teachers, and building a sustainable academic culture and school infrastructure are significant and real.

The primary aim of the paper is to delve into the various revolutionary aspects of ICT in Education in reaching out to the browbeaten sections in India. Providing access to the free education for the children of browbeaten people like tribals, lower castes, and dalits is a complex issue in India wherein the fragmentation in the society along religious, ethnic and linguistic lines is entrenched. In addition, rampant poverty which is the root cause of child labor leaves no time for the affected children to undertake formal schooling.

India has always been an interesting and tractable case study for the actual and potential impact of constitutionalizing the right to education. In a nutshell the enrolment rate in rural areas nationwide was only 71%, with a gender disparity of 0.84, meaning a 16% lower rate for girls. In some states the levels are considerably lower. In Bihar only 59% are enrolled and in Rajasthan the rate is 61% with a gender disparity of 46% for girls.

Henceforth, in this paper we review various facets of and challenges in providing access to universal elementary education for the children from socially weaker sections in India. The paper also studies social divisions in India which are considered as a primary reason for creating education hindrance even now. The paper gives a critical view on how people in rural areas are still away from their basic right of education and even today the gap between poor and rich is widening by each passing day, since unfortunately education is believed to be a *game of riches*. The paper delves into various aspects of this ambitious aim and suggests measures for mitigating the risks and pitfall in India’s march towards achievement of 100% literacy of over 1 billion people. We also explore the ways in which the strengths of ICT can be leveraged in achievement of the goal.

Keywords: Browbeaten sections; ICT; India; Right to Education.

'Unfulfilled' Dreams: An indigenous community and oil operations in the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea

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Abstract

This paper is on the indigenous Lake Kutubu people of the remote southern highlands province (SHP) of Papua New Guinea (PNG). Being hosts and also living along the margins of the pristine Lake Kutubu, their socio-economic and natural environment had been seen as an integral component of ongoing project operations. However, despite two decades of oil project activity, the 'Kutubians', particularly the Foe Lake Kutubu people consistently harboured the view that their lives had never progressed from their subsistence existence. That state of development they wished to embrace has often been unclear to themselves, and to others. But they otherwise have blamed the oil operations, employees and other migrants of their marginalisation and for allowing them to bear the brunt of social costs of exposure to the oil economy. This is despite the existence of many project benefits going to them. These are often ignored as the Foe people are always obsessed with the perception that they have not effectively taken advantage of the oil project in their yard to maximise their social and economic benefits. The paper discusses these perceptions and development issues in the context of examining the project's socio-economic impact on them.

However, in the context of the literature there are two common thematic trends in works that examine the relationship between extractive companies and host communities: the first is based on the assumption that the extractive industry provides does support for communities whilst engaging in its core economic activities (e.g. Labonne, 1999; Holme & Watts, 2000); the second is informed by the view that extractive industry and social responsibility are inherently contradictory concepts (see for example Kapelus 2002; Banerjee 2007; O'Faircheallaigh & Ali 2008). These critical perspectives share in common the view that the main motivation for a company to undertake community development in host communities is to obtain social license to operate (Wilburn & Wilburn, 2011; Owen & Kemp, 2012). Scepticism in relation to community development efforts of extractive companies is particularly evident in Banks' (2006) assessment of PNG's Porgera gold mine's CSR activities as limited, and weighing more towards public relations than provision of serious social investment. In the same vein Goldthrope and Banks (2012) have characterised the PNG extractive sector as being an advocator of global 'performance standards' rather than an entity accountable to social contexts. Our pragmatic approach is underpinned by the assumption that CSR activity can have *both* positive and negative impacts in developing regions; therefore our focus is to find out *what* extractive companies are doing in terms of community development, *why* they are doing it, *how* do they do it and what the *outcomes* are.

This paper also endeavour to move beyond stereotypes of local communities as passive victims of Western-style development, taking the perspective that they are in fact active agents of socio-economic development. Research indicates that community developments such as those undertaken in host developing countries such as Zambia, Chile, Peru and PNG by global extractive companies have heralded a marked shift in thinking (Strongman, 1998). While the conventional 'enclave model' of extractive industry constructs local communities as powerless and dependent on company operations for benefits arising from compensation, royalties and employment (Strongman, 1998; Eftimie, Heller and Strongman, 2009), alternative perspectives that have emerged since the mid-1990s portray local communities as powerful and actively involved stakeholders. This paper discusses the Lake Kutubu people in this literature context and concludes that the oil company needs to do more than mere public relations activities to appease and satisfy a confused and demanding local community.

Keywords: benefits, corporate social responsibility, economic and social development, Lake Kutubu people, oil project, participation.

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Education for sustainable human and social development

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Abstract

The Earth Summit (1992) and the Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) emphasize the importance of education in raising environmental awareness, promoting sustainable development, improving the capacity of people to address environment and development issues, and generating effective action (see Simon 2006). Helmfrid, Haden and Ljung (2008) caution though that while environmental research is often carried out to inform society of potential harm and changes they should make, what is failing to occur, as evidenced by the worsening of many environmental problems, is a process whereby members of society internalize scientific knowledge and alter their behavior quickly enough to mitigate environmental harm. Acknowledging the above, this paper reports on an education intervention at a higher education institution in South Africa that utilized community based activities to promote education for sustainable human and social development.

This qualitative study which is grounded in a social constructivist framework explores the process of constructing knowledge within the learners' community of practice and through situated learning. Using action engagement within an action research approach, this study followed cyclical steps to identify problem situations in the community which led to action or intervention; this was followed interpretation of the results which informed subsequent actions or interventions. As such, students had to involve themselves in the everyday activities of the community, in other words, they had to work with members of the community to identify a problem or issue that required action or solving. They also had to hold regular meetings with members of the community to get them involved and to keep them informed of developments and progress or lack thereof.

Data was gathered by means of focus group discussions from educators and their third year students to ensure in-depth discussions within the security of a group setting. The discussions were transcribed verbatim from the audio-recordings, responses were then coded and grouped and analysed using version 18.0 of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences. Analysis of the focus group data revealed that the cyclical action research approach adopted enhanced students' understandings of environmental issues affecting the community as they were encouraged to think deeply about the issues at hand in order to find solutions to the problems faced and while they drew on their learning material and theoretical knowledge, they also learned from first-hand experience and practical activities. The students learned from each other and members of the community, and they in turn educated the community about sustainable human and social development, and mobilized them to take responsibility and ownership for their actions. The lessons learned from this study may be applied globally to promote sustainable human and social development.

Keywords: Action engagement; community of practice; education; environment; sustainable human development; social development

Ref#: 021/IND/13

How effective was the ‘incentive package’ piloted in Shahjahanpur, Bogra under ‘Alive and Thrive’ programme: A qualitative assessment.

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Abstract

Introduction: Bangladesh is one of the countries with high rate of infant malnutrition and the major cause is inappropriate breast feeding and complementary feeding practices. To improve the situation, both GO/NGO organization are working intensively on the issue. In pursuance of this, AED and BRAC became partners in the Alive and Thrive project (A&T) for improving infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices through motivation and counseling by BRAC’s volunteer community health workers as frontline workers during 2009-2013. **Objective:** The study aimed to assess the ‘incentive package’ implemented in the study area through the frontline health workers of BRAC. **Methodology:** A qualitative research design used in-depth interviews, Informal discussions, narratives and focus group discussions to gather relevant data. **Findings:** Findings reveal that in spite of heavy work load and unstable market situation from price hike, SS were not too much demoralized and continued to work because of the incentive package. All the performance indicators of the SS showed improvement. The implication of this for programme is discussed. Whereas the monetary incentive packages were the prior function and work as Social capital. Also the pathway of these function considerate not smooth to run. For that the programme functioning on some type and level of inputs include: monetary incentives, life skill training, mentoring, motivation for social services by encouraging frequent follow up and refresher meeting. **Conclusion:** An impressive and effective start has been made by BRAC through giving BRAC CHWs monetary incentive towards motivating them in promoting IYCF-related behavior change activities. The study found that aspects of the recruitment, training and work of SS were conducive to motivating them but more strengthened by the monetary incentive packages that had stopped at the time of the survey.

Keywords: IYCF services, Incentives packages, motivation, frontline health workers, effect.

Ref#: 030/CAN/13

**Development Induced Displacement of Tribals: An Analysis From Human Right,
Environmental & Sustainable Development Perspectives**

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Abstract

Development and displacement are interlinked with each others. Whenever there is development it induces displace. Development is necessary and inevitable for the prosperity of human beings. Development per se does not have any adverse impact on human being and environment, however in certain cases when there is forced displacement of the people without looking to the interest of the stakeholders it results in violation of human rights and also have an adverse impact on environment.

The doctrine of Eminent Domain empowered the king to take the property of his subjects. With the wearing away of the monarchy system, the doctrine requires two qualifications to be satisfied by the state before acquiring any property of the people. First, it says that the property should be acquired for the benefit of the public only and second, it demands adequate compensation should be paid for the property proposed to be acquired. With the pass of time, this monarchical system was replaced by the republic. Under this system, state assumed the power of acquisition of property under the principle of trusteeship. This principle asserts that the state is the trustee of the property and can acquire it when needed for the welfare and development of the society.

Normally developmental projects are aimed at fighting poverty and their outcome is beneficial; however during last three decades development induced displacement has become an explosive issue worldwide because the improved scientific and technological knowledge has enabled the modern states in concentrating on mega development projects which directly led to the large number of displacement generally of poor and marginalized section of society like tribal's, indigenous people, living in forests or rural areas. This issue is of more concern in developing countries like India where due to the lack of proper rehabilitation and resettlement measures as well as restoration of environmental degradation, developmental projects has become a government run instrument of ethnocide.

The present development model is under severe criticism from human rights activists. They argue that tribal's resources are being used as means for feeding the greed of few elites who have hijacked the welfare policy making power of state on a socialist pattern; as a result tribal's have become the object of development and the little they have are continuously being exploited by exclusionary policy of government which is now accelerating the gap between those who do not have enough and those who have more than enough; the have-not are miserable and the elite anxious to get more.

The scope of this paper is to do an analysis of the present development and resettlement policy of India with primary focus on tribal's and environmental issues. It seeks to analyze the concept of sustainable development and tries to bring out some workable suggestion.

Keywords: Development, Displacement, Environment, Human Rights, Sustainable Development.

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The Role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Education of Teachers for Sustainable Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has become a key tool and has a revolutionary impact of how we see the world and how we live. This research examines the issues of challenges of ICT in education for sustainable development. It also discusses the interconnectivity between ICT and sustainable development with relevant conceptual framework. With global introduction of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in education in an attempt to address the educational challenges. It views qualitative teachers education as an instrument for achieving the nations educational goals and philosophy which in reality translate the nation to a more productive and sustainable economy. Education is regarded as the back bone of national development; education is therefore the key to national development. ICTs are generally believed to have a dramatic influence and are conceptualized to continually determine the competitive nature of virtually all businesses. Information has been catalyst to sustainable development in the industrialized societies in the event of ICT. In the Global Information Society GIS; human capital is the most valuable asset. Information skills have become key survivals and competitive weapon in the global market place. Information Communication Technology has a role to play in development of rural communities especially in addressing rural poverty and delivering qualitative education to rural and even urban communities. The paper will also examine; ICT and teachers education; the impact of ICT on teachers and student and roles of ICT education for the nation sustainable development. This phenomenon has birth to the contemporary e-commerce, e- government, e- medicine and e- education. The paper will also focus on education in the development of Nigeria and sustainable development which is the notion and approach which has developed into global wave of concerns and economic development. It is a development seeking to meet the needs and aspirations of the people without the need of compromising the need of present generations to come. Hence, the challenge of sustainable development in Nigeria is a building of a Nigeria which is in context of rapidly changing world still emphasizes in her national objectives, while simultaneously ensuring ecological integrity and sustainability. This paper will also highlight the role of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in education of teachers for sustainable development in Nigeria. It will see ICT as a multifaceted process that has application in all shares of human endeavors'. Promotion of education of education for sustainable development through ICT equipment and infrastructure as well as integrating of ICT structures into curricula of our educational institutions at all level. Suggestion will be made of the measures that can be taken in adopting the use of ICT in Nigeria. The paper will be concluded by making recommendations on how to enhance the role of ICT in education for sustainable development in Nigeria.

Keywords: Communication, Education, Globalization, Information, and Technology.

Ref#: 039/IND/13

**Constraints of Participants to the Effective Performance of Agriculture
and Rural Development Programmes in Nigeria: Yobe Ifad-cbardp Experience**

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Abstract

The effectiveness of roles and Performance of Agriculture and Rural Development Programmes in Nigeria should be measured against their ability to engender the preconditions to the attainment of rural development objectives. The major thrust of this study was to examine the constraints faced by participants of IFAD-CBARDP in Yobe State, after the first phase of its programme. Objectives were achieved using multi-stage sampling techniques. A well-structured questionnaire was used to elicit primary data from respondents. Secondary data were journals, Annual reports and baseline data of IFAD-CBARDP, previous researches and other related periodicals. Descriptive Statistics were utilized for the analyses. The findings revealed that, majority (51%) of respondents were male with age ranging between 20 and 65 years averaging 40 years. About 97% were married having a household size range of 5-10 persons and about 68% had formal education. The result revealed that, cultural factors and inadequate capitals were among the major constraints that hindered the effective performance of the Programme. It is therefore recommended that, mass sensitization should be adopted as a tool for curbing the cultural predicaments and participants were also encouraged to form cooperative groups in order to pool their resources together so as to improve their financial capability. Programme planners and implementers are therefore urged to intensify awareness creation among rural dwellers and adopt the use of community driven development approach (CDD) in the execution of rural development projects with poverty alleviation thrust as in the case of IFAD-CBARDP.

Keywords: Constraints; Ifad-cbardp; Participants; performance; Rural Development.

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Determinants of Child Mortality in Tanzania: A Systematic Investigation

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Abstract

Tanzania's child mortality rate was well above the world average, a figure between 103 and 130 deaths per 1000 live births. Findings show that no health intervention is playing a major role. Regression analysis findings focus on specific determinants of child mortality based on the mother's fertility behaviors, such as birth intervals, age at childbirth, and multiplicity of birth, rather than on other determinants of socioeconomic and healthcare services. Children belonging to the group of higher birth order faced the odds for dying of 0.17. A birth spacing of 24 months or longer was observed in the successive birth interval for 76% of the respondents. This is possibly a good sign for reducing child mortality. Focusing on the study findings, encourage longer breastfeeding (36 months) practice this will help to produce a healthy baby. Special fund allocation is essential. Monitoring and evaluation are important to eradicate child mortality in Tanzania.

Keywords: Infant mortality, child mortality, health care services, causes of child mortality, public health

Ref#: 046/IND/13

Women Empowerment as an Economic Force in Rural Employment in Nigeria: Need for the Empowerment Framework Approach

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Abstract: The fourth item on the agenda of the recently concluded International Labour Conference, 97th Session, 2008 was a general discussion on the promotion of rural employment for poverty reduction. Promoting decent work in rural areas is fundamental to achieving the MDGs. The bid to reduce poverty level worldwide led to the declaration of Millennium Development Goals in the year 2000. The Millennium Development Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (MDG.3) is recognized not only as a goal in itself but also as an essential step for achieving all other goals. In order to alleviate poverty and promote gender equality in rural employment, researchers, scholars, donors and policy makers have recognized the importance of empowering women. Women are central to overcoming rural poverty because of their role in productive activities and in the household economy. However, there are key challenges to achieving these goals at the country and local levels which military and democratic interventions, international expertise and financial resources have not adequately or sufficiently address. The paper therefore examines the need for the Empowerment Framework Approach (EMFA) towards empowering women in order to promote rural employment. Thus the paper spans two important interrelated themes:

(a) A brief overview of the current field of rural employment with a focus on The World Development Review 2008,

(b) Articulating the link between gender inequalities and rural employment,

(c) Outline of EMFA which involves five interrelated steps. I) welfare level analysis; ii) access level analysis; iii) critical awareness level analysis; iv) participation level analysis level; v) control and ownership level analysis.

This paper will argue that women's empowerment can come in a diversity of ways such as education which is deeply embedded in the African culture. The challenges of women's empowerment are more cultural than technological, more about people and systems than about digital tools. This paper will offer suggestions for the future of rural employment and development. Lessons learned will form a firm foundation for the paper and a bibliography for the future study on this topic will be included.

Keywords: (Five words in alphabetical order): Empowerment, Gender Inequality, Household Economy, Nigeria, Rural Employment

Fair-Trade and Social Labeling Practices: Teenager Apparel Consumers' Perspective

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Introduction

The world of apparel fashion may be stylish, glamorous, exciting and rapidly changing fashion styles are ornamentally significant for wearers. High earnings from private sector jobs have uplifted economic status of middle class, resulting in increased awareness and purchasing power, especially greater fashion consciousness and consequently higher apparel purchase. Now, due to globalization, many international brands have emerged in the Indian textile marketplace and these are compelling Indian textile companies not only to perk up the quality of their brands as per international standards at premium prices but also towards sustainable fashion production, fair-trade and ethical labor practices. From the social point of view, the clothes we wear and the textiles they are made from can cause a great deal of problem to the workers engaged in the production which, in turn, provided a way for innovative thinking to improve the living standard of textile workers, i.e., Socially Conscious Fashion.

Sustainable fashion is a part of the growing design philosophy and trend of sustainability, the goal of which is to create a system of social responsibility. US and the EU authorities have introduced code of conduct, alike SA8000 voluntary standard, based upon eight human rights components: Child labor, forced labor, health and safety, freedom of association, discrimination, discipline, working hours, and remuneration. Fair-trade and Social labels provide information to the target consumers regarding certain concerns of working conditions during garment production; encourage them regarding the sustainability of their clothing choices, thereby promoting socially responsible business.

Teenagers constitute a powerful consumer segment at present in India. The annual spending power of teenagers in India is \$ 10.5 billion and is rising at the rate of 12% per annum. Highly developed information technology and communication facilities, various socio-cultural changes have influenced the apparel purchase decisions of teenagers, making them significant apparel consumers.

Major Objective of the Study

Proceeding with the radiance of the foresaid theme, the study was an attempt to map down knowledge, attitude, beliefs and expected buying behaviour of teenage apparel consumers regarding incorporation of fair-trade and social labeling practice in fashion garments.

Research Design and Methodology

The sample selected for investigation comprised of 400 college students (200 female and 200 male), age ranging between 17 to 19 years. Multistage stratified random sampling technique was followed to select the respondents. The survey approach was applied and a closed cum open-ended structured questionnaire was administered in the present study to collect data from the focus group regarding their knowledge, attitude, beliefs and expected buying behaviour associated with ethical issues in the fashion industry, i.e., fair-trade and social labeling in fashion garments and its effect on purchase behaviour.

Key Findings

The results indicate that the marketing of certified – fair-trade and social-labeled – fashion products appeals to a segment of socially conscious teenage consumers as most of them were willing to pay extra money for the welfare of the workers. The majority of the respondents believed that the fair-trade and social labels assist in improving conditions of the workers engaged in textile and apparel production hence they would prefer a label that ensures certain good working conditions during garment production. Though a large number of the scholars inquired believed that less advertising, prices higher than customary garments and the unavailability of fair-trade and social labeled garments in the local shops and supermarkets were the significant causes resulting in low popularity of such garments. The teenagers interviewed experienced the call for better quality, distinctive features, diversified designs and effective communication from the fashion companies providing social labeled apparel. Nearly all of the respondents advocated the necessity for designing of Government policy to label and certify sweatshop free and child friendly garments. Concurrently, they insisted for consumer awareness campaigns for promotion of social labeling in the textile and apparel items.

Conclusion

Through this study, it can be concluded that the teenage consumers, in general, express their concern for the workers occupied in manufacture of textile and apparel and declare their enthusiasm to contribute for the welfare of textile workers by willingness to purchase sweatshop free garments at comparatively high prices. Though, the sustainable fashion industry is still in its infancy, the main responsibility at the moment lies with clothes manufacturers and fashion designers, who need to start using sustainable materials and processes.

Practical Implications/ Relevance of the Study

This study was intended to contribute an improved perception of ethical fashion consumption and utilization of fair-trade and social labels in fashion garments. In addition to this, it provides a guideline to contemporary as well as potential textile and apparel marketers to anticipate tremendous magnificent prospects in the teenagers' market round the globe. Being chief future consumers, teenagers' attitude, beliefs and buying behaviour are quite significant for prospective international marketing strategies.

Keywords: Fair-Trade, Social Label, Sustainable Fashion, Teenagers, Textile Workers.

Chain Analysis as Catalyst for Gender Mainstreaming

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Abstract

This paper examines the value chain analysis as catalyst for gender mainstreaming. Gender activities in the global world have revealed that, one sex has been marginalized by the other (UNDP, 2004). While acknowledging that women are sometimes disadvantaged in, or excluded from chains. Value chain analysis has emerged since the early 1990s as a novel methodological tool for understanding the dynamics of economic globalization and international trade. The approach focuses on vertical relationships between buyers and suppliers and the movement of a good or service from producer to consumer (Lone R. et al 2010). Value Chain analysis as a concept describes the full range of activities that firms, farms and workers do to bring a product from its conception to its end use and beyond. Ensuring that gender issues are taken into consideration in value chain-related interventions is vital for facilitating the development of inclusive value chains that benefit both women and men. From time immemorial, gender is conceptualized as the constructed difference between women and men (Kabeer, 1999). Thus gender is about how society gives meaning to differences in femininity and masculinity, and power relations and dynamics that come about as a result of this (Laven et al, 2009). Gender roles and activities differ, some base on physical ability. It was aimed at transform mainstream policies by introducing a value chain analysis in a gender equality or equity discourse. Achieving gender equity is now regarded as critical to sustainable development. In all societies women's and men's roles are socially constructed, but all too frequently gender-based disparities exist that disadvantage women; this impedes their development and hence that of mankind. Despite decades of effort in the area of gender equality, the overall progress in improving women's lives has been inconsistent. Moreover, environmental benefits and burdens affecting human capabilities are inequitably distributed. Women are still under represented in all levels of government and other decision-making arenas, whether at work or, for many, at home. However, it has been largely use as an alibi for neutralizing the negative action. The policy of gender mainstreaming incorporating gender sensitive aspects into external and internal policies and practices has been widely adopted throughout the international development community since the world conference on women in Beijing in 1995. Women are statistically the global majority (Augusto 2005); women cannot be treated as "a special case" but their needs and interests must be as and integral a part of any development policy as those of men. The overall purpose of this article is to look into which gender issues are important when and where in value chains. This paper gives an insight of value chain analysis in gender mainstreaming.

Keyword: Catalyst, Gender mainstreaming, Gender equality, Value chain, Marginalized.

Ref#: 061/IND/13

**Crime against Indian Women – Women Crime Susceptibility Index (WCSI):
A Principal Component Analysis**

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Abstract

This paper assesses the women vulnerability to crime across 28 different states and 7 Union Territories of India on the basis of various indicators, Rape, Kidnapping and Abduction, Dowry Deaths, Cruelty by husband and relatives, Assault with an intent to outrage modesty, Insult to Modesty, Immoral Trafficking and Dowry cases. Principal Component analysis has been adopted to combine these variables to form Women Crime Susceptibility Index. The Index ranks the regions according to exposure and defenselessness of females to crime. A higher index value is indicative of higher crime susceptibility. The paper also briefly relates the index to selected different demographic patterns. Thereby, besides building the crime susceptibility in a clean framework, the paper is directionally indicative of policy actions to reduce women susceptibility to crime. The paper also aims to reflect on the contribution of different factors to the final index. Thereby would provide guidelines as to the areas that need attention in different states as each region is facing different issues with differing intensities. The major findings of the analysis are West Bengal and Assam rank highest on women susceptibility to crime followed by Tripura and Delhi. The safest states for women are Goa and Mizoram.

Keywords: Crime against women Index; Principal Component Analysis; State Female Population Proportion; State targeted policies; Women Laws

Ref#: 065/IND/13

Campsites Designing of Recreational and pleasant : Silvana , Iran

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Abstract

Campsites are the resorts which have been located between roads or in recreational and pleasant areas. Normally campsites include a relatively wide location of the open lands. In the past, campsites have been supposed as an entertainment for nature lovers; however, nowadays such activities have been changed into standard vacations for a vast number of families. Camping design project has been a national and basic which is prepared according to a couple of designing samples and technical regulations including the architectural samples of recreational resorts on the basis of the five-type climate, the construction type and selection of materials, ecological characteristics, earthquake, fielding, criteria and regulations of the field use.

Campsites have special characteristics such as being closeness to sightseeing resorts and touristy attractions, recreational facilities and services. They can be divided into general recreational camps, nature-seeing camps, scouting student camps, congressional camps, sports camps, military camps, scientific camps, industrial-residential camps, refugee camps, winter camps and special activity camps. According to the dominant functions of the camps, a series of common uses will be settled in them. In this paper, after investigating the physical bases and plans of the camps, it'll be aimed to design them.

Keywords: Campsites, Designing of recreational, pleasant, Silvana , Iran

Climate stand in designing the touristy camps: Silvaneh, Iran

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Abstract

Silvaneh district is located in west Azerbaijan in Iran and is supposed as one of the oldest parts in Iran having quite pleasant climate. The aforesaid district, because of geographical width, mountainous shape and wet Mediterranean airflows, has got cold/wet winters and hot/dry summers. Pleasant climate and appropriate humidity of the district has a chief role in creating rich and productive watersheds. The conditions have also created green and wide grasslands and fruitful trees. The average rain in the area is 244/4 mm. Silvaneh city is located on the borderline heights of Iran and Turkey. The city, in the width, has got cold/wet winters and hot/dry summers and includes the average steepness from south west to north east and the level, on the top floors of 1650 m, reaches 80 percent that the intense steepness in south west has caused lack of development in the city. In return the southeast part of the city, the area between Silvaneh and Rajan Village, is the most productive body of the city. Besides the mentioned area the extended field on which the city is located, the steepness has been decreased and reaches almost about 6 percent or less; indeed, it must be noticed that the river erosion on the altitudes and piling in the area have played an important role in the formation of Silvaneh valley. In fact the formation of all geologic periods can be supposed in the area. Permin formation, including grit quartzit, lime, Dolomite lime of the first period, expansion of the area of cretaceous (the second period) and lime stones like Sazand of Qom related to the third geologic period, are examples of it. Being located on the mountains and altitudes from one side and also instable climate during a couple of years from the other side creates an intensive climate reduction followed by heavy snowfall and long term frosts which suit skiing. Around the city, there is Silvaneh barrier which is an appropriate area for planning and designing recreational and touristy camps. In the following paper the effectively climate variables in designing recreational and touristy camps will be investigated.

Keywords: Climate stand, designing, touristy camps, Silvaneh, Iran.

A Functional Classification of Government Spending and Economic Growth in Latin American Countries

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Abstract

The objective of this article is to determine the effects of different components of government spending on the per capita economic growth rate in a set of Latin American countries over the period 1975 – 2000. Within the neoclassical framework (Solow, 1956; Swan, 1956), government spending, and public policy in general, has no role in determining the long-run economic growth rate, since this is determined by the exogenous population growth and technological progress rates. On the other hand, in some endogenous growth models developed mainly since the early 1990s, such as Easterly (1990), Barro (1990), Barro and Sala-i-Martin (1992, and 2004), Cashin (1995), Bajo-Rubio (2001), and Milbourne et al. (2003), fiscal policy affects the long-term growth rate through decisions on either taxes or expenditures.

The empirical literature tends to reject the prediction of the neoclassical model of no role of fiscal policy in determining the growth rate in the long term. However, results are far from conclusive. As long as theoretical models about the influence of public spending on growth is concerned, some of them such as Barro (1990), Cashin (1995), Bajo-Rubio (2000), and Milbourne et al. (2003) predict that a positive effect is expected to be found in countries where the size of government is smaller than a certain threshold, and a negative one in countries where the size of government is bigger than that. Therefore, since generally speaking, with few exceptions, one finds very large public sectors only in developed countries (DCs), studies evaluating the impact of public expenditure on growth should analyze DCs and less developed countries (LDCs) separately. Within the recent growth literature framework, the study uses a generalized method of moments, as suggested by Arellano and Bond (1991), to obtain consistent and efficient estimates for a dynamic model, such as an economic growth model.

Some literature finds growth promoting effects of government spending on education and health, which have been associated with spending on human capital. Nevertheless, these effects were not found in this study. The findings suggest that the only component of government spending significantly correlated with growth is that on transport and communications. Therefore, it is possible to conclude that the composition of government spending does matter for growth in the set of Latin American countries considered here.

Keywords: Economic growth, Endogenous growth, Generalized method of moments, Government spending, Less developed countries

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**Annual august meetings as a stimulator for female empowerment:
Case study Udi local government area of Enugu state, Nigeria**

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Abstract: (400 – 800 words).

Women's economic participation and empowerment are fundamental to strengthening women's rights and enabling women to have control over their lives and exert influence in the society. The economic empowerment of women is a prerequisite for sustainable development, pro-poor growth and the achievement of all the millennium development Goals (MDGs). For women to be in development they need to be empowered morally, socially, economically and financially and this is why women in Udi Local Government Area of Nigeria meet every August, the eighth month of the year to discuss matters relating to the pursuit of women empowerment, community welfare and national development. This exploratory study depicts how annual august meetings serve as a stimulator for female empowerment with a case study udi local government area of Enugu state, Nigeria. The paper finds that "August Meeting" is a regular annual occurrence in Udi Local Government Area Enugu State, Nigeria particularly for married women and is designed to better the lot of women, the child, family, the church and the Community. Through this forum, with its seminars and workshops, women have the opportunity to learn everything about womanhood and how to chart new courses of action and sources of empowerment. The gathering gives women the opportunity to be integrated into their community development projects, and having women as stakeholders and not mere observers helps guarantee a speedy and steady community and overall national development progress. Funds are raised for community development projects through annual dues, levies, donations, fines, sales, income from money-yielding ventures, endowment and investiture. Annual August meeting also known as "Mothers Summit" is indeed a powerful stimulator for female empowerment. Support and invigoration of this women initiative is essential for sustainable emancipation of female gender, not just in Udi Local Government Area of Nigeria but globally.

Keywords: Annual August Meeting, Mothers' summit Nigeria, Udi LGA, Women empowerment.

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Innovation in Green Technology leads to Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Green technology, clean technology and sustainable technology plays an important role in both reducing and minimizing the adverse impact of human activities on the environment. Due to various forms of industrial productivity, the environment has been badly polluted. Green technology aims to counter such negative effects, and thus boost the quality of life in all living communities. It seeks the conservation and the more responsible use of natural resources, with emphasis on finding more renewable resources. Products, systems and equipment that fall under the banner of green technology adhere to the conditions that they reduce any, if not all negative impact on the environment, and emit either very little or no greenhouse gases. Furthermore, they should work actively towards the conservation of energy, natural resources, and foster the use of renewable resources. Green technology as a concept encompasses technology, policies, conservation and resource management, among other things, to reduce anthropological damage to the natural environment. The Green technology will support and enhance a good life the Earth's ecosystem or the prospects of later generations. A good life requires essentially that basic human needs are met and aspirations for freedom, belonging, and self-realization are fulfilled as much as possible. It does not necessarily mean the maximization of material production and consumption. Thus, we consider technological innovation in the context of the good life and how it can be supported or threatened, depending on the way technological innovations are influenced and steered by human decisions and institutions. This paper concludes, green technology include is it fuel efficient? Is it sustainable? Is it renewable? Are the materials being used recyclable? Is this technology safe for humans and the environment? In terms of application, green technology includes matters such energy generation, building technology, waste management, air purification, transportation, home efficiency and even food production. In a nutshell, green technology equals green living.

Keywords: clean technology, recyclable, renewable, sustainability

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The Challenge of Democratic Governance in The African Region: The Nigerian Experience

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Abstract

The welfare of the people is the hallmark of democracy and this is implied in Abraham Lincoln's definition of democracy. Government exists to cater for the citizens and that is democratic governance. The main challenge to welfarism in post colonisation Africa was touted to be the economic challenges faced by most if not all the countries in Africa. This necessitated recourse to borrowing from their former overlords, international agencies such as the Brentwood organizations. These loans or aids came with conditions and conditionalities which necessitated the adoption of such economic programmes as the Structural Adjustment Policy (SAP), austerity measures, deregulation of currencies and other International Monetary Fund (IMF) conditionalities. These programmes or policies became the buzzwords and eventually became (un)popular with African countries since the mid-1980s. In Nigeria for example SAP was introduced in 1986. One of the dictates of SAP is the reduction of welfarism by the state. This generated protests from all segments of the nation as the average citizen questions the justification of his continuous obligation to a state which cannot longer play its role to its citizens. S. 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of Federal Republic Nigeria 1999 (CFRN'99) provides that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government. The incessant disturbances, riots, strife, unrests, agitations, insurgencies, terrorism and general insecurity now prevalent in Nigeria can be described as reactions of the average citizen to such perceived injustice. The continued existence of the state is thus threatened by the citizenry. This has in turn forced authoritarian response from the state. Such authoritarian responses pose a great challenge to democratic governance and sustainable development in the country touted as the "giant of Africa" with a teeming population of over 160 Million as at the last census. This paper assesses the responsibilities of the government to its citizens. It examines the level of state participation in provision of basic amenities for the citizenry. It argues that aside from economic challenges, corruption, ignorance and illiteracy remain the major hindrances to welfarism and consequently democratic governance in Africa in general and Nigeria in particular. The paper assesses the African Union (AU) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) efforts at ensuring democratic governance in the continent and the sub-region respectively. The paper concludes that the Nigerian state, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU) need to take important steps in stabilizing the economy of member states towards promoting democratic governance in the state, sub region of West Africa and the African region. It therefore recommends certain implications for policy implementation.

Keywords: Democratic Governance, State Welfarism, Sustainable Development

A study of adjustment (academic, social and to the urban environment) among Malaysian students at Jordanian universities and its correlation with their academic achievement

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Abstract

The adjustment is important factors to help university students in the success of learning, particularly those who are studying abroad. On one hand, a university is a new environment and dramatically different from the school. On the other hand, the international students face a bigger challenge when they are studying in a socially and academically different culture which is also different in natural, domestic and urban environment. Therefore, it has been found that several studies recommended that it is necessary to create a set of procedures and activities that help students to adjust to the new environment. Other studies suggested that the coming students to the new country need to take initiatives to adjust to the emerging conditions. They need to make efforts to change their day to day strategies and the ways they usually use in dealing with other people.

This paper aims at examining the adjustment (academic, social and to the urban environment) and its correlation with academic achievement among Malaysian students in selected governmental universities in Jordan. Relevant qualitative and quantitative data were collected and analyzed. 386 Questionnaires were distributed randomly. The questionnaires were designed to measure the extent of academic and social adjustment and the adjustment to the urban environment. They were backed up with a brief interview covered 100 students and revolved around the difficulties the students faced during their stay in Jordan. The findings revealed that the students reached a moderate level in each one of the adjustments. The male students achieved better social and academic adjustment than the female students while the adjustment of female students to urban environment was more than that of the male students. The mean of academic achievement for females was better than that for the males. Further, there is a positive and strong correlation among the adjustment dimensions. Furthermore, there is a correlation between each of the adjustments and the academic achievement. The data analysis showed that the three predictors together were able to predict only 5.9 percent from the whole CGPA of the students. Which meant that the three dimensions of adjustment (social, academic, and urban environment) explained only 5.9 from the whole students' achievement.

Keywords: social adjustment, academic adjustment, urban adjustment and academic achievement

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The New CSR Act: Promises and Probabilities to The New CSR Law: Promises and Probabilities

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Abstract

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) entails the idea of balancing potential social, economical and even environmental damage by ways of largely positive non-profit investment in its recuperation. India has constantly tussled with the scourge of inequitable distribution of wealth, where rich becomes richer and poor, poorer. CSR is seen as a way of checking the accumulation of wealth coming at acute social costs like that of malnutrition, poverty, displacement, bad health etc.

Recently enacted CSR Law provides for mandate on similar lines. Paper shall seek to peruse whether the textual ideology of the bill resonates well with the 'ought to be' notion of corporate social responsibility. It shall be analyzed if mandating can really be the final step or it has to be succeeded by appropriate inspirational exercise as a significant follow-up. Further, a clinical probe shall bring forth the substance behind anti-CSR Act arguments from left, right and centre. The law now provides that companies of certain size shall spend at least 2 percent of annual profits on CSR activities. Notwithstanding the fact that post liberalization, by default, welfare activities lay under government's domain, and, not to be a puppet government was one of reasons of this approach, state still surprisingly finds it convenient to delegate a significant portion of its primary responsibility to corporate sector. This, irrespective of high probability that spending from corporate houses may not go to democratically determined priorities owing to absolute absence of any enforcement mechanism in the new statute. Therefore, findings will largely be inclined towards the averment that although Section 135 of the CSR Act is a well intentioned provision, nevertheless, it has enough loopholes of potential circumvention. In the absence of explicit penalty and ancillary vagueness about admissibility of reasons behind no CSR expenditure, the 'shall' word in Section 135 loses its gravity by rendering it more of a formal guideline than a well implementable law. Suggestions will thus be two pronged - either plug the loopholes by providing for effective enforcement mechanism and penalties, and, delegate CSR activity as per the priority areas to competent companies OR reconsider the provision in the milieu of adding the 2% clause in tax laws rather than in Companies Act, as it will transfer the revenue directly to public funds and 'state' will then be able to extend benefits to prioritized public expenditure targets and retain its 'welfare entity' role with certainty. However, the later suggestion does come with a cautionary marker. Since there is already a thirty percent tax operating on big corporate houses, incentives have to be pre-fixed in case 2% clause is brought in tax slab. Therefore, paper shall conclude on the note that this law is not the end; criticism that it has received has to be given a good heed so that the purpose behind it does not fail. Since, now we already have a living provision, it is more prudent to think on making it more effective rather than retracting and making oneself vulnerable to further economic chaos.

Keywords: enforcement, inequitable distribution, loopholes, priorities, welfare state

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Ethical Marketing in current times : Social Responsibility in Indian context

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Abstract

It is often said that Marketing and ethics cannot go together. Those supporting the argument always have a long list of marketing activities from various companies which make even a die-hard marketing fellow feel guilty about his/her profession. On the other hand, critics of the argument can also come up with numerous marketing activities from various companies which can make the worst critic of marketing activities doubt his/her own criticism. So where does the debate go from here. It only intensifies as more and more companies in every category of products and services are always making efforts to increase their market share through marketing strategies which they call innovation oriented but others call unethical thereby generating arguments within them as well as in the minds and hearts of consumers as well as potential consumers. This paper looks at the consumer perception about the degree of ethics in marketing followed by companies across all categories of products and services and its impact on the society on the one hand and company growth on the other hand.

Keywords: Criticism, Ethics, , Innovation, Marketing and Society.

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Role of NGOs in Developing a Sustainable Environment for the Society: In the Indian Context

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Abstract

Service has always been the main motive of mankind. To give an actual meaning to this, the Non-Government Organizations came into existence. Along with serving the society, they have always aimed at maintaining a sustainable environment. They not only help in uplifting the weaker sections of the society but also contribute to the concept of inclusive growth which India is aiming at from past few years. Despite having limited resources, these organizations could optimize them and offer their services to the society. Thus, aligning themselves to move on the path of sustainable development. This paper aims at answering the questions, as to “How the NGOs help in Sustainable Development? How far have they been successful in developing a sustainable environment for the society? And how well have they managed to make a judicious use of the resources for the welfare of the society?” The NGOs have very well expanded their scope to various sectors like education, health, environment, human rights etc. This way they have shaped a secure and sustainable environment for the deprived sections of the society. NGOs have created an environment where people can live, grow, learn and also develop themselves. Sustainable Development aims at bridging the gap between ecological services and the quality of life and NGOs have very successfully merged the two, as they are in harmony with the nature and in the cradle of the same nature they nurture mankind. NGOs today are also looking after the environmental issues and promoting eco-friendly practices and with the same ideology they are marching towards the development of the viable society. This way these have built a symbiotic relationship between the environment and the society as both are mutually benefited. It is a cyclic process as the development of the weaker section of the society will contribute in growth, and growth again will result in more opportunities for the rise of the deprived sections. This is how these organizations help in creating a sustainable environment. This holistic approach of these organizations makes them a very influential tool to achieve sustainable development. The country today, needs a model which addresses a long term development in the rural sector by optimizing the use of resources on a sustainable basis and NGOs are surely working in this direction.

Keywords: inclusive growth, optimization, social service, sustainability, symbiotic relationship

Human Rights Approach to Environmental Protection

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Abstract: Environmental protection and human rights are interrelated, interconnected, and mutually responsive as both of them intended to the well-being of humanity. Safe and healthy environment is the pre-condition for the enjoyment of fundamental human rights. The linkage between these two approaches has recognised in various international and regional instruments, resolutions of the UN subsidiary organization, the outcome documents of international conferences, and the judicial pronouncement of tribunals, which consider the human rights framework as an effective means to achieving the ends of environment protection. Despite the evident relationship between these two, human rights violations and environmental degradation have been treated by most organizations, governments and even academia as unrelated issues. Environmentalists have tended to focus primarily on natural resource preservation without addressing human impacts of environmental abuse. A state of natural imbalance has been developed by many human-centric activities such as the industrialization, urbanization and the large scale exploitation of natural resources damaging the environment led to many serious repercussions on a large scale including Global Warming, drought, flood, environmental Refugees and migration, health issue, Ozone Depletion. Such issues involves not only environmental factors but other factors as well i.e. political, social, economic factors which requires the integration of both approaches to tackle the issues more holistically. The result of looking these two approaches separately is that the victims of environmental degradation are unprotected by the laws and mechanisms established to address human rights abuses. Linking human rights with the environment creates a rights-based approach to environmental protection that places the people harmed by environmental degradation at its center. Articulating the fundamental rights of peoples with respect to the environment creates the opportunity to secure those rights through human rights bodies in an international forum as well as the national tribunals. In this regard, the contribution made by the Indian judiciary for the protection of environment and to provide remedies to the victim of environmental harm by applying the right based approach to environmental protection is a clear example of how the framework of human rights can contribute in the protection of environment and the very existence of the humanity. The concept of sustainable development is very well served to interlink these approaches as it comprising three interrelated dimensions: environmental, economic and social. The present study is intended to describe the interlink between environmental protection and human rights approaches by analyzing instruments, initiatives taken by environmental and human rights bodies and the judicial pronouncement of various tribunals. Further it also evaluates how far the mechanism of human rights is helpful to provide remedies to the victim of environmental degradation and to provide better protection to the global environment.

Keywords: Development, Environment, Human Rights, Sustainable Development

**Human Development and Poverty in Papua Province
(An Analysis Of Simultaneous Approach on Panel Data Regression)**

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Abstract

Recently, development orientation shifted from economic development which only focuses on simply economics growth to be human-oriented development. From some previous researches, one of the indicators used to measure the success rate of development of a society is the Human Development Index (HDI). HDI value already created by the United Nations for Development Programme in 2010 and had ranked Indonesia at 108 of 169 countries with a HDI score of 0.600.

Indonesia known as big country in the world, either in size or in population (has around 235 million population in this 2012). This population spread or scattered in 34 provinces. From those 34 provinces, there are still many provinces are categorized as underdeveloped provinces but Papua province is debatable, due to its tremendous natural sources. This study is aim to analyze the two-way relationship between HDI and Poverty Level in Papua Province. In addition, other relevant variables are also analyzed in this study and their impact on the both main variables. Its formulation described as follow: (i). the impact of fitted Poverty Level; government expenditure for education, government expenditure for health, and economics function toward HDI; and (ii). the impact of fitted HDI, population growth, and open unemployment toward Poverty Level.

This study uses secondary data from Statistical Central Bureau and also from Finance Ministry. The method used in this study is simultaneous approach 2SLS manual on panel data model fixed effect in 20 districts and cities in Papua Province from the period of 2007 – 2011.

Result on HDI equation shows that two explanatory variables (fitted Poverty Level and economics function) have significant impact on HDI, while government expenditure for education and health function have no impact on HDI. Meanwhile, the analysis on Poverty Level equation shows that fitted HDI, population growth, and open unemployment have significant impact on Poverty Level. It can be concluded that there are no good policies in government expenditure and also there are a high level of poverty as well as population growth in Papua province.

Based on the result of estimation of both equations, HDI has negative and significant impact on poverty level, the opposite way is the same as well, poverty level has negative and significant impact on HDI. Therefore, this study supports the statement that there is two-way relationship and negative impact between HDI and poverty level. The proposed of managerial implication is that effects to reduce poverty level should be done hand in hand with effort to increase human development because human capacity is a determining factor for someone's ability to free themselves out of poverty trap.

Keywords: Government Expenditure; Human Development; Panel Data Regression; Poverty; Simultaneous Approach.

Constructive Teaching in Teacher Education Colleges for Sustainable Development

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Abstract: Education is the index of Development and teacher is the facilitator in the process of sustainable development. Teachers of today's world have to meet the needs of the present education system without compromising the ability of future generation teachers to meet their own needs. Educational technology has given birth to "Edudemic" and constructive teaching is the need of the day. The traditional teaching has to keep pace with the changing society and knowledge has to be constructed instead of just transmission. The present day teacher-education programs need to be instrumental in developing such techniques where theoretical inputs in teacher education are to be integrated with technologically advanced practices in teacher education. Teacher Educators of today need to prepare dynamic, enthusiastic, constructive teachers who understand the community prognosis and sustainable development. Creativity is a divine gift and each individual has a certain amount of this gift. Constructivism is a theory which assists learners to construct knowledge of their own which in turn enhances creativity. It also emphasizes presenting learning activity in a meaningful context, provides an alternative theoretical foundation for rethinking and redesigning teaching practices. The present paper deals with a study conducted to compare the effect of constructive teaching and traditional teaching on creative teaching attitude among student teachers. The objectives were to assess the creative teaching attitude and to compare the creative teaching attitude between student teachers of government & self financed colleges. Various constructive teaching techniques were enlisted and some innovative strategies were developed. Another objective was to orient teacher educators with the innovative videos, power point presentations, modules, dramatization and other constructive strategies for student teachers, so that they can prepare would be teachers for the future generations. The sample was raised randomly from different teacher education colleges in Punjab at secondary level. After administering the pre-test on the whole sample, the experimental group was taught with these constructive techniques and the control group was taught with traditional techniques. After the experiment the post-test was conducted on the whole sample. Data collected was tabulated and statistically analyzed. The results threw a valuable light on the effects of constructive Vs conventional teaching on the creative teaching attitude of would-be teachers. Constructive teaching was better than conventional teaching. The creative teaching attitude was higher in those students who were taught with constructive teaching strategies. The paper explains how various constructive techniques can be used to minimize cramming and helps students explore themselves. It can also be used to bring out the inhibit talent of student and increase his confidence. This paper provides answers to improve the professional ethics of teachers and provides great motivation amongst student teachers. It was observed that science teachers showed keen interest in creative teaching methods. It is suggested that constructive teaching strategies should be introduced as the part of curriculum of pre-service teacher training programs so that the future generation students as well as teachers comprehend sustainable development in our knowledge based society.

Keywords: Constructive Teaching; Creative Teaching Attitude; Self Financed Colleges; Teacher Education.

Impact of Geographical Indications on livelihood Development of Craftsmen Communities in India

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Abstract

Geographical Indications is unique in nature for its collective rights perspective. The community holds ownership right over the property equally and collectively¹. The indication of the product and ingredients used in the produce are inextricably linked up with the place of origin and community. The input of the community in discovering the use of a locally available ingredient and efforts in maintaining and preserving its natural quality needs to be rewarded as an incentive to appreciate their contributions and skills. The theoretical perspective of 'incentivising the community' is a stronger objective of Geographical Indications in India.

In global market the traditional goods have solid market as it is produced by craftsmen. The globalisation has helped trans-border trade of handicrafts and the export of crafts grew over the years. It is well established that "a carefully structured legal protection of GIs could facilitate the socio-economic development of producers of GIs products including those local and village communities in developing countries"². Being the GI owner, the benefits should percolate to the community to be divided amongst the members. Such a natural commercial exchange would obviously result in improvement of livelihood of craftsmen. The reflection of improved livelihood would manifest in socio-cultural-economic and political life of the communities. However, it is witnessed that the livelihood conditions of craftsmen communities have not ideally developed as it was envisaged even after the grant of GIs. This indicates that there are certain issues like economic losses, third party intervention, lack of marketing techniques and legal awareness etc. that has impacted negatively on the communities. "According to the United Nations, over the past 30 years, the number of Indian artisans has decreased by 30%"³. This indicates the necessity of protecting the craftsmen and also crafts from dying out. Less livelihood potential from crafts amidst of increased cost of living forces the craftsmen to migrate to cities and to unorganised sectors. Their skilled resources get underutilised and often the Government schemes fail to implement schemes at rural level. There is need to re-invest in artisans to safeguard history, culture and an important source of livelihood for which GI is considered to be an important tool. Therefore, it is important to find out the real situation of the GI communities and factors that blocks them from complete use of their legal status.

The craftsmen and artisans who belong to unorganised sector in India are still struggling to earn their living. "Livelihood" is a broader terminology that includes "the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living"⁴ which is also linked with use of natural resources. It is in this context, it requires a study in order to assess the livelihood development of craftsmen communities after the grant of Geographical Indications. There is community ownership over the economic benefit derive out of the GI products. But it does not protect the traditional knowledge surrounding the product or product itself. It just protects the name of the place where it originates from to indicate that the product has certain qualities of particular place.

The study is significant for the reason that it is going to map, review and analyse the impact of the Geographical Indications Act, 1999 in improving the livelihood standards of marginalised section of population who upholds rich intangible cultural heritage through handicrafts. It is a study also to explore the possibilities of extending the scope of special protection to handicrafts beyond grant of GI. The impediments in registration process, institutions acquiring registrant status on behalf of craftsmen communities, ambiguities around acquisitions of authorised user status in such cases, establishment of institutions to guide the communities to register themselves and acquire rights directly etc. would be elements of analysis.

Keywords: (Five words in alphabetical order): Craftsmen Communities, Geographical Indications, Livelihood Development, Marginalised or Unorganised Sector, Traditional Knowledge,

¹ N.S. Gopalakrishnan, Prabha S. Nair & Arvind K. Babu, *Exploring the Relationship between Geographical Indications and Traditional Knowledge*, A Study Commissioned by the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD). (2007).

² D. Rangnekar, *The Socio-Economics of Geographical Indications: A Review of Empirical Evidence from Europe*, UNCTAD-ICTSD, Geneva, (2004).

³ Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, *Working Group Report on Handicrafts for 12th Five Year Plan, 2011*; Crafts Council of India, *Craft Economics and Impact Study: Stage 1 & Stage 2, 2011*

⁴ *Guidance Note on Recovery: Livelihood*, Study Conducted by UNDP, UNISDR, IRP,

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Sustainable Social and Human Development

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Abstract

State lawlessness has put India on a path of unconstitutional economic development. The Constitution of India mandates that primary education, public health, nutrition and an adequate means of livelihood shall be principles “fundamental in the governance of the country”. Under the international economic model marking a country as developed on the basis of the percentage of its population in agriculture, industry or services, official economists of India’s Planning Commission have successfully pushed through successive Central Governments, the pushing out of the majority of India’s village population from agriculture to city slums without any information, consent, law or executive order. Even though the official economists knew this consequence of driving millions into illegality to occupy any urban land, yet no planning /resource allocation was done for this massive migration. This defeats each of the constitutional principles, leaving no hope for sustainable development based on official quantification, research and advertising of the Indian way of life of living with and not against nature. The officially documented corruption of the political class explains why sustainable development is never an issue in Parliament or in the elections. Official legal aid for the poor has still to wake up to this unconstitutional treatment of India’s villagers and the fundamental rights issues of sustainable development that it raises. Consequently the 1995 Supreme Court’s binding judgment on how any ruling political party is to allot natural resources for ensuring sustainable development, remains unimplemented. The Supreme Court in 1999 reaffirmed the sustainable development and precautionary principles but its subsequent judgments in 2000 and 2006 clouded these. With the Supreme Court refusing to find time for the Ganges and the Taj Mahal pollution cases there is little hope of revival of even the legal debate on sustainable development

Keywords: Ganges, Lawlessness, Taj Mahal, Unconstitutional

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Options for Financing Sustainable Development: Lessons From the Study of Micro-finance Institutions in Kano State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Over the last few decades, Nigeria made several attempts, employing different financing models, to reach out to the active poor entrepreneurs, whose capacity to continue to supply food, fibre and raw materials for the country's economic growth is rapidly declining. Little success was recorded. Among the key constraints identified were socio-economic factors, inadequate and ill-timed supply of critical inputs and low access to credit which the establishment of microfinance banking opportunity, in 2005, is expected to improve significantly. The pioneer microfinance institutions (MFIs) therefore, developed a number of strategies meant to improve access through different lending methodologies so as to accommodate more poor borrowers and pave the way for sustainable credit supply. To evaluate the performance of the new strategies employed by the MFIs this study was conducted. Eleven pioneer MFIs were selected using multistage sampling technique and information on the financial resources of the institutions, mode of operations, sources and uses of funds, performances as well activities financed were collected using sets of structured questionnaires for three years. Descriptive tools of analysis, financial ratio analysis including the use of efficiency and subsidy intensity index (ESII) were employed to measure some performance indicators and sustainability trends. Levels of savings generated by members, microlans packaged and delivered, women participation, levels of profits generated as well as returns to investments were also measured. The results showed that three categories of MFIs operate in the area namely: formal (FFIs), semi-formal (SFIs), and informal (IFI) finance institutions each with its unique features and mode of operations. IFI and SFIs are quite efficient in use of resources and exhibit great potential for sustainability going by their level of independence from subsidy. They reported returns on asset of 38% in 2006 from a mere 4% in 2004; operational self-sufficiency improved from 2.1 in 2004 to 2.6 in 2006 and cost efficiency declined from 23.3% to 16.6% over the period. For FFI, cost efficiency (CE) improved from 60% in 2004 to 44% in 2006 while operational self-sufficiency (OSS) declined from 26% in 2004 to 14% in 2006 heralding a difficult operational future ahead if the trend continues. Returns on assets for IFI and SFI were higher (at 6%) than the African average of 2%. The average microlan size is far below the African average but growth has been high among them. Operational self-sufficiency (OSS) slightly declined from 2.37 in 2004 to 2.27 in 2005 and 2.25 in 2006 but all remain higher than the African average of 1.22 which suggest the viability as well as sustainability of IFI in the area. Main activities financed by MFIs were many and varied: petty trading, food vendors/restaurant services, processing equipment for rice and groundnut; livestock rearing (including poultry), artisan, household item production, and fishing in that order respectively. Main sources of fund are borrowed funds which rank first for all category of MFIs followed by equity and reserves in the case of FFI, but members' savings in the case of IFIs is second; Equity and reserves ranks' last in the case of IFI while members' savings comes last in the case of FFIs. The computed values of ESII that combine all the key indices show negative values for IFI and SFI which suggest independence from subsidy and fairly efficient operations. With most of the parameters, the reverse is the case for FFI: operations were not profitable, highly subsidy dependent, low resource use efficiency revealing an overall negative real numbers of ESII indicating poor performance. It is recommended that policy makers and other stakeholders should promote the IFI and SFI approaches and recommend the model for mass adoption to improve access to finance for the poor while the FFI approach should be reviewed to improve its efficiency.

Keywords: Finance for development, performance of micro-finance, sustainable growth,

Public Health in India: Challenges ahead

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Abstract: As the world's largest democracy and the second most populous country in the world, India has experienced sea change since its independence in various facets of development. However as per public health is concerned, 22 % of our population is mal-nourished, 48 % of our nation's children are stunted (UNICEF report) and which is already responsible for the two-third morbidity burden. Adding to existing glaring difference in access and equity to people, the ratio of beds in hospitals available to population in rural areas is fifteen times lower than that for urban areas. The ratio of doctors to population in rural areas is almost six times lower than that in the urban population. The reduction on public health expenditure and the growing inequalities in health care are taking its toll on the marginalized and socially deprived population. The Infant Mortality Rate in the poorest 20% of the population is 2.5 times higher than that in the richest 20% of the population.

The paper acknowledges the persistence of inequities despite increased investment and some improvements in service provision in recent years. The paper delves into multiple areas such as a) legislative/regulatory issues, b) organization and operational matters and thirdly c) the competing demands for finite resources. In India, however, pre-existing inequality in the healthcare provisions is further enhanced by difficulties in accessing it. These access difficulties can be due to geographical, socio-economic or gender variables. The paper also seeks to provide an overview of some of the issues relevant to equity of access to health and personal social services in Indian context. It also addresses the question of the contribution of health services to health status and further examines the principle of equity which is one of the key principles underpinning the National Health Strategy. Suffice to mention here that while many of the initiatives listed have the potential to improve the public health scenario, coherent implementation and monitoring framework have remained the challenges.

India ranks third in the South East Asia region in highest out of pocket expenditure on health even behind Nepal and Pakistan which have 49 % and 41 % respectively. The poor state of health of our country is evident from the *WHO's world health statistics 2012*, where it was stated that in India 60 % of health expenditure was paid out of common man pocket in 2009. These health expenditures are exacerbating poverty with 39 million people going poor every year due to these expenditures. Per capita expenditure on public health is seven times lower in rural areas, compared to government health spending for urban areas. Though the spending on healthcare is 6% of GDP, the state expenditure is only 0.9% of the total spending and the rest of it is from people using their own resources. Thus only 17% of all health expenditure in the country is borne by the state, and 82% comes as 'out of pocket payments' by the people. This makes the Indian public health system grossly inadequate and under-funded. Only five other countries in the world are worse off than India regarding public health spending (Burundi, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sudan, Cambodia).

Further this paper will discuss strategies for removing this inequity and how to provide equal access of these health services without creating any burden on them. The basic objective of the reforms to be brought should be to provide the whole nation with basic medical and health services as a public product, and ensure that everyone, regardless of location, nationality, age, gender, occupation and income, enjoys equal access to basic medical and health services. The Government with a similar *intention* in mind has taken a step forward in introducing the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in the 12th five year plan. The Public Private Partnership (P-P-P) model is extensively being used to cover the gap between the demands of supply health care and by making the public delivery system (primary healthcare facilities and hospitals) to deliver the agreed service package.

Therefore, until any concerted actions are taken to ensure that health systems are reached to the disadvantaged people more effectively, such inequities will continue. Undoubtedly, the menu of options are long out of which some are untried, but we cannot rely on a particular method since there is no guarantee that such method will be successful.

Keywords: Infant Mortality Rate; World health organization; Maternal Mortality Rate; Mal-Nourished; Stunted.

Ref#: 110/IND/13

Eradication of Poverty, Social Welfare Policies in India: Initiatives and Policy Implications

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Abstract

India is essentially a nation of villages. It is predominantly an agricultural country where about 70 percent of the people are dependent upon land for their livelihood and 75 per cent live in rural India. Indian villages are suffering from economic distress due to the lower per capita income, illiteracy and wide spread malnutrition and under nutrition. They also suffer from the absence of basic amenities such as better housing facilities, transportation and communication services. In view of the recommendations of the commission appointed from time to time in accordance to the policies and programmes implemented from government and other agencies for socio-economic development of rural people the paper explores government initiatives, implications and explores the connotations of development of rural people. Further, the manuscript seeks to examine, explores the poverty in India with special interest with rural population and evaluation of the programmes and policies and implementation of social welfare programmes particularly. Finally, the paper concludes eradication of poverty in rural India and extent of improvement of livelihood of rural people and achievements of the commitments made by the government and other agencies in present conditions of globalization. An effort is also made to suggest the ways to increase women empowerment of rural people's economic development which is a driving force of rural economy.

Keywords: Poverty, Social Welfare, Policies, Initiatives, Poverty Eradication, Socio-economic

A study on national notifiable infectious diseases surveillance system in India A managerial perspective

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Abstract

Despite the fact that significant progresses has been made in the prevention and control of infectious diseases and decrease in the risk, as a health problem, was expected, the disease is still one of the major causes of suffering, disability and death in the world. To control and prevent these diseases, it is vitally important and necessary to collect precise, timely, and complete data to discover and study epidemic and to develop sound control strategies based on collecting data. The present study on National Notifiable Infectious Diseases Surveillance System(NNDSS) was conducted in India in 2008, and proposed an appropriate model for India, which can be a major help source for managers and officials in the Ministry of Health.

Methods

The present cross-sectional study conducted in 2011-12 aims at finding an appropriate model for NNDSS of India. Tools for data collection of the research was libraries, Internet, consultation with experts in the country through e-mail, review of national rules, regulations and guidelines in this regard. Taking into account socio-economic and cultural conditions of India, a model was proposed for NNDSS of this country. The model was tested by Delphi method in three stages. In the first and second stages questionnaire were developed and in the third stage specialist were invited to discuss their views in a meeting. In the end, an appropriate model was proposed for NNDSS of India.

Findings

The findings indicated that in order to make optimal improvement in NNDSS of India, it is necessary to revise data structure, criteria for patients' admission, data collection process, data analysis methods, dissemination of information methods, diseases classification system data quality control methods and guidelines and policies for safeguarding the privacy of information in NNDSS of India.

Keywords: National Surveillance System, Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Emotional Intelligence (EI) of Mothers of Children with Intellectual Disability and its Relationship with their Quality of Life (QOL)

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Abstract

Raising a child with an Intellectual Disability requires emotional strength and flexibility (Boyd, 2011). Parents who are high in emotional and social competence (self-management skills, empathy, and stress management) might report higher QOL and report less stress than those low in EI (Ken Nowack, personal communication, May 23, 2012). The present study aimed at ascertaining the level of Emotional Intelligence and Quality of Life of mothers of children with Intellectual Disability. The study also intended at finding the relationship between them. Sixty mothers of children with Intellectual Disability, who were homemakers were selected by purposive and snowball sampling from Mumbai (India). Two self-constructed scales namely, Emotional Intelligence Scale that covered four main domains; Self Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness and Relationship Management, and Quality of Life Scale that covered 11 domains were used to study the respective variables. Cronbach's alpha was computed on 60 participants to establish the internal consistency of the tools. Each scale had high internal consistency - Emotional Intelligence Scale (.911) and Quality of Life Scale (.962). Quantitative analysis was done using SPSS package (version 19). Results revealed that out of the total sample, a substantial number of participants perceived themselves in the average levels of Emotional Intelligence (22) and Quality of Life (25). For Emotional Intelligence competencies like Emotional Self Awareness, Self Confidence, Emotional Self Control, Adaptability, Initiative, Empathy and Communication, that were found to be most essential in literature for the mothers to take care of their children with Intellectual Disability, considerable number of mothers perceived themselves being at an average level. Likewise, Physical Symptoms, Social and Recreational, Financial, Emotional Functions, Support System, Safety, Sexual Functions and Life Satisfaction were the Quality of Life domains where a substantial number of mothers perceived themselves at an average level. Further, a moderate significant positive correlation was found between Emotional Intelligence and Quality of Life ($r = .556, p = .000$) indicating that higher the level of Emotional Intelligence, higher was the Quality of Life perceived. It was also revealed that in comparison to the Social Awareness and Relationship Management domains of EI, the domains of Self Awareness and Self-Management of EI had a higher correlation with all domains of Quality of Life. To name a few, higher correlations were found between Self Awareness domain of emotional intelligence and Social and Recreational ($r = .570, p = .000$), Emotional Functions ($r = .422, p = .000$), Cognitive Functions ($r = .424, p = .000$), Support System ($r = .564, p = .000$), and Spiritual Functions ($r = .461, p = .000$) domains of Quality of Life. Similarly, higher correlations were found between Self-Management domain of emotional intelligence and Social and Recreational ($r = .571, p = .000$), Emotional Functions ($r = .499, p = .000$), Cognitive Functions ($r = .450, p = .000$), Support System ($r = .455, p = .000$), and Spiritual Functions ($r = .621, p = .000$) domains of Quality of Life. This indicated that higher the perceived Emotional Intelligence competencies like awareness of own emotions, knowing one's strengths and weaknesses, ability to deal with stress and exercise emotional self-control, ability to adapt in different situations, multitasking, being optimistic, higher was the perceived Quality of Life. Since Emotional Intelligence competencies are teachable and learnable (Bar-On, 2006), this research was assumed to be of vital contribution for parents of children with Intellectual Disability. This was confirmed by Ken Nowack (EI expert) when he commented, "This study might be useful to begin developing training and coaching interventions to teach parents skills to cope effectively with the management of their own stressors and emotions in coping with children with disabilities" (personal communication, May 23, 2012). Thus, based on the findings, guidelines were formulated to direct training programs for mothers of children with Intellectual Disability. Guidelines focused on enhancing the Emotional Intelligence competencies of mothers at both the levels, personal and social. At the personal level self-related competencies were included; knowing, understanding and managing one's own emotions. The social level emphasized on developing competencies beyond the self; knowing and understanding other's emotions and managing relationships.

Keywords: Children, Emotional Intelligence, Intellectual Disability, Mothers, Quality of Life.

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Effect of Sin Tax Law to Health Campaign against Smoking and Drinking

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Abstract

This research was focused on the assessment of the effect of Sin Tax Law to campaign against smoking and drinking in Atimonan, Quezon. Specifically it determines whether Sin Tax Law strengthens or weakens the campaign against vices. Through purposive sampling use, 200 respondents were selected and subjected to questionnaire to gather data. Descriptive design was used throughout. Steps taken were validation of the questionnaire; to determine effects of sin tax law to campaign against vices, data were gathered, tallied, treated, and interpreted to give meaning. The following are the findings; the respondents greatly believed that Sin Tax Law taught people how to use their money wisely on other necessities. However, the respondents hesitated that Sin Tax Law discouraged the use and selling of such articles related to vices nor it activates health consciousness of the society and reinforces other health campaigns against vices. Furthermore, the researcher had developed an audiovisual campaign material based on the insights of the respondents about the effect of law to vices and provides additional information that is useful for the greater population. The campaign material was then utilized by health care workers in promoting campaign against vices and was also used as a proposal for the local law makers to develop new ordinance against smoking and drinking.

Keywords: Campaign, Development, Effect, Law, Tax,

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Slum Redevelopment by linking social conditions with spatial fabric through morphological study

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Abstract

Cities represent the social cultural economic development. For the sustainable urban development physical, economical, social, cultural, and environment plays equally important role. The current planning process focus more on land use, infrastructure and transportation network, the development is mechanical with less regards for the rich layers of our cities which needs to be excavated downwards, into its earlier past, horizontally to be able to fold and integrated the complex. (Hall, 1988) Histories, texture and memories of our urban environments and their populations into the planning process. In case of developing nation where almost overall of urban population lives in slums and squatter settlements the social factor become impatient. In India slums, where is equal to be the largest in the 2030, the present urban population 37.7 % of total population and out of urban population, 7.75 % is the slum population. (NUHM, 2008-2012) Urban poverty and slums were always on the policy radar of India but still the problem related to the slums shall persist.

The city fabric reflects the social-cultural conditions. The slums are seen as grey patches in the city fabric, one big challenge before urban professionals is to upgrade this ugly patch with rest of the city. The present paper examines the reflection of socio economic conditions, particularly the pockets housing urban poor on spatial fabric through study of morphology of slums. It further attempts to understand how the social development can be made more sustainable by changes the morphology of slums. This exercise find the relevance as large scale development interchange as policy place keep in slum in mind. This effort will help planners to work at micro level i.e. at neighborhood level.

Keywords: morphology; redevelopment; slum; social sustainability

The politics of exclusion: How Nigeria's public schools impede the attainment of its developmental goals in education

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How can an education system put in place by a country to help it in achieving its national goals and international conventions on education to which it is a signatory be said to be impeding its development? Using relevant policy documents, educational sector status reports, and statistical data on the implementation of the Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme in Nigeria, this paper argues that the country's public school system systematically excludes many disadvantaged children who are most deserving of its services. This claim can be appreciated better when it is considered that by 2008 the Education for All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report (GMR) identified Nigeria as being at risk of defaulting on EFA goals by 2015. In addition, the 2009 GMR reported that Nigeria had more primary-age children out of school than any country in the world, and trend projections to 2015 forecasted a net primary school enrolment of just over 70%. In 2010, Nigeria admitted that its total number of children out of primary school was over 10million. The implementation of the UBE was meant to reinforce the attainment of EFA goals as well as the second of the eight Millenium Development Goals that focuses on universal access to primary education education (MDG2). Both of these international frameworks are based on the understanding that the needs of children implied by the "ALL" in EFA are diverse and can most effectively be satisfied when countries develop all of their learning channels (formal and non-formal; academic and vocational) into integrated learning networks that serve common goals. Through a study of the different formal and non-formal provisions for the delivery of basic education and the levels of their mutual interactions, the study would interrogate the extent to which Nigeria's education system conforms to this fundamental tenet of inclusiveness.

In its final argument, this paper submits that in order to understand how educational systems can systematically exclude particular categories of learners, we have to understand the socio-cultural dynamics of schooling. This would require us to probe into how public schools' emphases on urban, Western or elite values, language and behaviours, could structurally marginalise rural and poor children, as well as many others who are simply culturally-different from the normative pool of regular school intakes. The paper would therefore present a demographic analysis of Nigerias out-of-school children: who are they? Where do they come from? What socio-cultural traits do they bring to school that could affect their participation in formal education? Answers to these questions could provide the basis for understanding why the demand for education is as critical as its supply in determining the success or otherwise of programme of mass education such as the UBE in Nigeria.

Keywords: Education, EFA, MDG, Nigeria, UBE

Ref#: 129/IND/13

The Third Sector Institutions: A Tool to Meet Environmental Sustainability Challenge

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Abstract

Today, there is a great need to strive towards effective and collective efforts to bring about some sort of balance between development and environment. Protecting the environment is not a liberal idea, but it's everybody's business. Environment sustainability means maintaining the factors and practices that contribute to the quality of environment, protection of ecological systems, economic development and physical and social well-being of people on a long-term basis. The environment sustainability in every field has become the most crucial issue. It is required to sustain, conserve and enhance community's resources, so that ecological process on which life depends is maintained. It has been difficult for the political leaders to take an action against environmental degradation, as they are not focused towards the issue. Government also proved to be extremely incompetent in repairing the environment not only extremely corrupt but less focused. There is no mention of environmental sustainability in five year plans even. Moreover, Private sector believes in earning revenue as they are profit motivated. It is the Third Sector that seeks to prove its value not by profit margins, but by demonstrating how it converts its resources into wider economic, social and environmental benefits, which in itself is a great challenge for them.

In view of the significant role of and the challenges that they face in the search of sustainability, this paper explains the management of Third Sector organizations carried out in relation to the environmental sustainability. The paper further points out the challenges undertaken by the third sector institutions. The paper deals with understanding of concept and characteristics of third sector institutions in sustaining the environment. The attempt is made to find out the areas that need the improvements. Lastly, the recommendations and strategies on part of Third Sector Institutions to achieve better environmental sustainability are discussed.

Keywords: Third Sector organizations, Environment sustainability, environmental degradation, Economic, Social and Environmental Benefits

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Position of Women in the Sustainable Development Debate: A Feminist Standpoint

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Abstract

The basic concept of sustainable development as well as its practice is critiqued on the grounds of being fundamentally gender biased in that it ignores the contribution of women to environment management. Women have been portrayed as invisible entities to the operation and implementation of sustainable development theories. However, women are not just 'victims of a larger degree' when it comes to environmental degradation but also stark catalysts to promotion of sustainable development theories. The feminist perspective seeks to challenge the gender bias in working economic fields.

The research methodology of this paper is structurally doctrinal and draws up a hypothesis pertaining to its objectives to derive a conclusion for the same. Numerous scholarly articles, journals and books have been referred to, on the basis of which this paper has been formulated .

The objective of this paper is to provide a holistic and comprehensive outlook towards the role of women in augmenting Sustainable Development by employing such a feminist perspective. This paper is divided into three parts.

The first part is an introduction to the position of women all over the world- their current day predicaments along with a brief look at their historiography. It examines how a contemporary subject like Women's Studies helps create a legitimate standpoint for women in the Sustainable Development Debate by delving into the inter-relationship of the receptacles of politics, sociology, economics, history and media with the feminist landscape. Women's studies basically help propagate a combination of conjectural and methodological analysis of gender, race, and sexuality at a transnational level; thereby helping strengthen the societal role of women, making them consequently imperative and indispensable towards the process of sustainable development.

The second part, which is the crux of this paper, aims at instilling and applying a feminist perspective to the theory and debate of sustainable development. A feminist perspective towards sustainable development helps excogitate a dynamic policy that is universally acceptable and befits both, the natural and social environment. This paper also challenges the conventional approach towards combating sustainable development by making its blueprint - ethical, culturally relevant and inclusive of 'inter-people' relations in addition to a basic interaction between the people and environment. Thus, it emphasizes a need for ethical enrichment at the heart of Sustainable Development.

Lastly, this paper acquires an anti- discriminatory tone elucidating upon starkly inequitable practices against women in all aspects of the society and how they are an impediment to the implementation of Sustainable Development. It seeks to explore ways in which each woman can execute integrated sustainable development operations at regional level and thus, help promote a judicious use of scarce resources in an international community.

To conclude, this paper aims to explore and analyse the feminist dimension of sustainable development and how women, world over, can be equipped with an equal percentage of responsibility towards a safer future.

Keywords: Anti- discrimination, Feminist perspective, International community, Sustainable Development, Women's studies

An Analytical Argument Concerning Re-Victimization of Women and Victim Compensation

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Abstract

‘Are the Women victims being re-victimized? Is the legal process itself further compounding the trauma of the victim?’

Victimology as a term was first coined by Mendelsohn around 1940 from a combination of sociology and criminology. In its real sense, it refers to the analysis or the examination of the treatment of victims from the period of Saxon courts to current legal system across the world. From the inception of Victimology, it was predictable that the possibility would arise where women might share some degree of responsibility with the lawbreakers for their own misfortunes. Over the years, such ideas have come to be perceived as victim blaming.

Women, considered as soft targets, are victimized in ways such as female infanticide, rape, molestation, sexual harassment, domestic violence including dowry killings, workplace harassment, forced prostitution etc. They are often blamed for provoking the offender in ways like indecent dressing or being alone late at night, especially in the cases of sexual assaults.

The paper apart from analysing the status and the plight of the victims in general shall in particular be an analysis with ample support of statistical data, cases, research data, survey data and reports, of the re-victimisation of the women victims and the compensation, both monetary and non-monetary, which is being granted to them.

It will deliberate on the question that whether the legal process itself compounds the trauma of the victim? Even though it is found that this issue is often raised with respect to rape trials, it is observed that one fifth of all the victims are reported to be intimidated simply by their appearance in the court. This paper will, in brief, empirically analyse and question the common idea about a victim, preliminarily beginning with the ‘ideal victim’ concept including victims of racist and religious hate crime, domestic violence, honour killings and same-sex crimes. Furthermore, briefly the notion of the deserving and undeserving victim will also be articulated in the paper.

The text shall evaluate the initiatives taken by the Governments for backing the victim and to provide a voice to them like the Victims' Charter, the initiation of witness care units and victim impact statement. The paper shall answer about how these victims might be better served providing the solutions ranging from court design to the provision of specialist courts for rape trials and for children. The text will discuss about the desirability of alternative models of justice such as restorative justice and the inquisitorial criminal justice system.

The paper ‘in toto’ will introduce the readers to the study of international Victimology as victimology has become an international discipline, it would consist of an overview about international protocols like European Union (EU) Framework Decision on the Standing of Victims in Criminal Proceedings and the United Nations Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power. It will also explore new horizons in victimology, analysis of the plight of female victims and their relation with the judicial system, ways to avoid ‘re-victimization’ and reducing the trauma of the victim in the aftermath of the crime, legislative initiatives and general recommendations for improving the conditions of the Women victims, the compensation granted to them and the need for international co-operation.

Keywords: compensation, protocols, re-victimization, sexual harassment, victimology

Ref#: 139/IND/13

**Solving Community Problems through Participatory Planning: Role of CBO
(A Case Study Of Monipuripara, Dhaka)**

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Abstract

Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, has undergone rapid urbanization in an unplanned manner over the years. The high growth rate of urban population has made the city unable to cope with the changing situations of urban life. This large proportion of urban community is bestowed with various types of problems throughout their daily life. This paper provides an overview of the existing problems at community level in an urban area through PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal) approach. In this research, an attempt has been made to investigate the physical and social characteristics of the community, activities of the Community Based Organization (CBO), its relationship with other institutions and stakeholders, existing problems of the community, the underlying causes and effects of those problems etc. Finally some internal and external factors reflecting the prospects and limitations of the community, possible solutions of the problems have also been discussed in this research.

CBOs are nonprofit groups that work at a local level to improve the standard of life for residents within the community. A CBO can hold a great role for the overall improvement of a community and can also be used as means to route information and other resources for improving the living conditions in a community. The CBO of Monipuripara residential area of ward no. 27 of Dhaka City Corporation North, named “*Monipuripara Kallyan Samiti*” has been selected for this study. Different PRA tools have been used (i.e. social and resource map, time line, pair-wise ranking, cause-effect diagram, Venn diagram, SWOT analysis) to identify and evaluate the problems, obstacles, prospects and solutions toward a self-sustained and convenient community as a whole.

The research identifies that the community leaders of the study area and *Monipuripara Samabay Samiti* (an organization, providing microcredit facility) have great influence on the CBO. They take almost all decisions in CBO considering others’ opinion. It is revealed from the local residents that the community faces several problems among which traffic congestion, increased number of roadside hawkers and inadequate community services are severe. Key Informant Interview has been also conducted to verify the identified problems and cause-effects of those problems.

Throughout the research the mass people and the CBO of this locality have been facilitated to share, enhance and analyze the knowledge of their own neighborhood. However, the community itself affirms possible solutions for the associated problems and some recommendations have also been drawn by the facilitators considering the strength and weakness of the community to reach to a credible conclusion.

Keywords: Community; Community Based Organization (CBO); Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC); Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)

Ref#: 145/IND/13

**Rural to Urban Migration in search of Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth:
Pros and Consequences**

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Abstract

Increase in rural to urban migration flows in recent decades has been an important element of economic integration at both the global and regional levels, notably in India. The global financial crisis has put a temporary halt to this trend and even in India also global crisis impact was there tremendously. This paper looks at the susceptibility of rural to urban migration India and response of such regimes towards sustainable inclusive growth. Further the paper highlights with the pros and cons of rural to urban migration in terms of social development, economic development and human development index pattern in rural India. In this backdrop the paper also deals with the Rural to urban migration which usually leads to a loss of necessary man power to work on the farm lands. It also leads to congestion in the urban centres, thus a high unemployment level, poor housing situations and an increase in crime levels. On the other hand, increased man power in urban centres provides cheap labour to the industries in these areas. Finally in conclusion the India's inclusive growth policies in the country while transformations of this kind are most evident among long-term absentees (and their families), similar processes are beginning to emerge among non-migrant resident families that are adopting attitudes and lifestyle choices that take them away from traditional occupations and potentially lessen overall interest in community ideals.

Keywords: Migration, Inclusion, Consequences, Rural Development, Human Resources

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International obligations towards gender justice: Judicial gavels for Indian dilemmas

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Abstract

Equipped with time tested scriptural guidelines and constitutional provisions, India has abundant strength to deal with the issues of gender justice. That is why India is always on the forefront to be a part of international movement to convert the fragile myth of gender justice into a palpable reality. Well in keeping with the spirit of our constitutional provisions as enshrined in the Preamble, Article 14, Article 15(1), Article 15(3) and Article 21, India has committed itself to almost all international obligations by acceding to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights 1966, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1966, Beijing Principles of Independence of the Judiciary, 1995, International Convention on Political Rights of Women 1954, the Declaration of Elimination of Violence against Women 1993 and Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

But the real and practical challenges come from archaic customs, superstitions, illiteracy, patriarchal social ethos, cultural pluralism, compulsions of caste, creed or religion, the traditional domestic roles in the four walls of the house and coalitional compulsions of present day politics. As and when attempts are made to overcome these challenges, pressures of deep seated cultural traditions and pulls of our international obligations appear to clash with each other throwing us in the domain of dilemmas. Therefore, at times, India has to take many steps backward while acceding, ratifying or cosponsoring international conventions or protocols. For instance, in October 2013, India refused to co-sponsor the first ever Global Resolution for Elimination and Prevention of Child, Forced and Early Marriages at the United Nations General Assembly despite, the fact that India has passed Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006. Perhaps, this refusal has been made in the view of the pressure of Khap Panchayats and Muslim organizations which use child marriage as a preventive step towards rape or oppose the law banning the child marriage on grounds of Personal Law.

Not with standing such dilemmas, the silver linings come from gavels of judicial pronouncements aiming at sustainable, social and human development through gender justice. Some of the pronouncements date back to pre- independence era of the custom ridden society, when gender justice laws were virtually non existent. Our enlightened Judiciary granted coparcenary rights to Devdasis as early as in 1864 (*Chalakonda Alasani vs. Chalakonda Ratnachalam*, 1864), upheld the dignity of a dancing girl by granting legitimacy to her son (*Ramnath Zamindar and Anr vs. Doraiswami*, 1882), divested Indian husbands from their traditionally self proclaimed right of wife beating in 1936 (*Emperor vs. Subbaiah Goundan*, 1936), ruled that the prosecutrix in rape case cannot be treated as if she were an accomplice so far as her credibility is concerned (*re Boya Chinnappa*), reiterated the modesty of a prostitute upholding her entitlement to equal protection (*re Ratnamala and Another*, 1962), upheld pre- nuptial settlement claims of a woman (*Srinivasa Padayachi v. Parvathiammal*, 1969), declared uninterrupted maintenance to wife and children a statutory obligation in the face of personal law, (*Amanullah vs Pedikkaru Mariam Beevi*, 1985) scrapped the law as asking a woman to produce no objection certificate from her husband for getting a job, as being obnoxious and arbitrary, (*Rukmani vs. The Divisional Manager, Marapalam Tea Division*) and upheld a girl's right over her body without being trapped by extraneous questions, (*V. Krishnan vs G. Rajan @ Madipu*) and so on. Similarly our Judiciary has thrown open a lot many gender justice opportunities through their rulings in cases like *. Vasantha R. vs. Union of India and Ors*, 2000, *Vishaka and Others Vs. State of Rajasthan and Others* and *The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013* and invocation of various clauses from international law.

Of late, our judiciary taken big leaps towards development of human rights jurisprudence by harmonizing Fundamental rights with directive principles as enshrined in our Constitution. The most seminal and path breaking Judicial contribution towards social and human development is seen, felt and realized through innovative expansion of the role of judiciary through the instruments of public interest litigation, epistolary jurisdiction and alternative dispute resolution through Lok Adalats. Coupled with legal literacy campaigns, these instruments have converted the adversarial Court procedure into collaborative one and knocked down the barriers of locus standi doctrine through services of amicus curiae etc. It is through these innovative gavels that India looks forward to meet its international commitments and obligations towards gender justice.

Keywords: Constitutional Provisions; Gender Justice; Human Rights; Jurisprudence; International Conventions; Judicial Gavels.

NGO, Social Capital and Microfinance: A conceptual model

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Abstract

One of the major programs advocated by NGOs worldwide and, more specifically, in South Asia is 'credit' provision along with their other social agendas. NGOs providing such credit have become known as microfinance institutions or MFIs. By advocating and implementing microfinance programs, MFIs aim to assist and enable their members to have an improved quality of life. Theoretically, these successes rely heavily on the conception that MFI members or borrowers can make use of their social capital to overcome many of the problems associated with asymmetric information in credit markets, such as adverse selection, moral hazard, collateral and contract enforcement, etc. Together these concepts constitute the notion of 'wellbeing' and are made up of human development, physical assets, social capital and increased income. On the other hand, Bourdieu's (Bourdieu 1986b) definition of social capital as 'economic, cultural and social' forms of capital which can be converted into money or may be institutionalized into a form of a qualification, or as a form of 'social obligation' that can be institutionalized as a form of a 'title of nobility'. Bourdieu put forward the argument that economic capital is the 'bottom line' whereas social and cultural capital is instrumental to improving one's economic standing or economic capital in capitalist societies. The social effect of microfinance can lead to higher social status, and also help in the formation of social capital in society. Thus, microfinance programs around the world have a strong pivotal role in harnessing social capital for its successful programs as well as complementing the formation or further strengthening of social capital in a social or community setting. This paper discusses aspects of non-government organizations (NGOs), given their importance to the microfinance sector. It includes their typology, early development and the theoretical underpinnings of their growth, followed by a review of the more controversial schools of thought around the emergence of NGOs. Then a discussion on social capital provides a theoretical link with NGOs, in this case, to the context of Microfinance Institutions. The paper presents and concludes with a conceptual model that shows how the intervention of microfinance can impact positively on several elements of social capital and improve the socio-economic situation and vice versa.

Keywords: Microfinance, contract enforcement, social obligation, social capital

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Food Security, Policies, and Human Development: The Experience of India

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Abstract

This paper notes the substantive achievements made over the last 60 years in food security in India, but points out areas of continuing concern, including high rates of under-nutrition, especially among women and children, and especially in rural areas. The main planks of government food security policy comprise increased agricultural production, the holding of buffer stocks, subsidized food prices for sub-sets of the population, and the incorporation of food and other provisions into 'transfer' schemes of various kinds, including Food for Work-type schemes. In Indian policy circles, the international market is not seen as a means of ensuring food security, except as a last resort. All of the food-based provisions are costly, the performance of almost all is weak, and the champions of liberalization have been pressing for their removal. However, government perceives substantial political cost in reducing or removing such schemes, so that the more realistic quest is for a switch of resources among different types of scheme, towards those offering better prospects for food security. This paper recommends a transfer of resources from predominant 'supply side' towards 'demand side' strategies of this kind. This will interface squarely with production-focused policies by strengthening demand in local markets, many of which are outside mainstream marketing channels. Food-based schemes will have to continue so long as surplus stocks persist.

Key words: Food Security, Food policies, Health, Public Distribution System (PDS)

Biodiversity: Planning for Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Biodiversity may be a catchphrase, but as a concept it sits at the heart of the ecological and legal research and especially when concepts like sustainable development are gaining pace. Since the earth, and everything on or in it, is limited, the economic formulas developed over the past few hundred years to keep track of the values involved in human transaction cannot make it any larger, nor give us any more of the productive systems and commodities on which we depend. Biodiversity represents not only the organisms living in an area and the ecological processes necessary for their maintenance, but includes the interaction between these components which can be translated in the capacity of the ecosystem to support a number of living organisms. The preservation of biodiversity can be accomplished only as a part of an overall strategy to promote global stability. Contrary to the wishful thinking embodied in some cornucopian scenarios, the earth and its systems can either be used in such a way as to provide a sustainable context for our operations, or we shall destroy them. We are currently losing our biodiversity on which we depend.

Human activity cannot be divorced from biodiversity. Growing population and modernization have brought about change in the ecology and biodiversity. In particular, the following factors have contributed to the degradation of natural ecosystems and loss of biodiversity: deforestation, human encroachments, excessive grazing, man- animal conflicts, forest- fire, illegal logging, cash cropping and plantation, excessive grazing, developmental activities etc. the need of the hour being mitigating these adverse factors, and to prepare a comprehensive plan for biodiversity management.

The conservation of biodiversity is a thrust area in the national and international agenda. Therefore every attempt has to be made to consummate the importance and preservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use both nationally and internationally through various legislations. At the international level, India has contributed to biodiversity conservation by signing to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992, Kyoto Protocol, 1997 etc. Conservation of biological diversity has been given high priority in India as reflected in various enacted national legislations viz., Biodiversity Act, 2002, National Forest Policy, 1988, Forest (Conservation) act, 1980, Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 etc. In June 1992 the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro explicitly recommended through the United Nation's Agenda 21 development patterns based on the satisfaction of basic needs of the environment. The summit choose three major areas namely, biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development.

Protecting our environment, while stabilizing our population and adequately feeding the people who will share the earth in the next generation is the largest challenge facing human kind today. For the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use it is vital to understand the root causes of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation and therefore, all informal and formal institutions have to work together (politics, policy and people) to generate awareness and technical demonstrations to maintain and conserve biodiversity that could well support the future livelihood and generations to come. This would necessarily involve social equity issues, improved agricultural and forestry practices, capping the activities that are leading to global warming and other drastic alterations of the earth's environment, and limiting over consumption in industrialized countries to levels that the world could sustain.

Keywords: Biodiversity, degradation, ecosystem , human, sustainable

Students' Initiative for Integrated Rural Development

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Abstract

The progress and development of rural India has been the focus of attention of successive governments since independence in 1947. But, the results were not commensurate with the efforts proposed. The challenges of centralized planning, lack of coordination among development agencies and implementation failure are the major inhibitors of progress in rural India. This project attempts to examine a sustainable and synergistic rural development model which thrives on integrated efforts of industry-academia-government-society to address the challenges aforementioned. To counter the challenge of centralized planning, a target village has been identified to work with. The methodology adopted in selecting the village was kept scientific, fair and clear. In accordance with the framework being applied, various demand driven initiatives specific to the targeted community have been identified by surveys and subsequent cogitation. These are then accomplished by synergising the efforts of various stakeholders involved. The initiatives have been integrated with existing academia projects, CSR programmes, government schemes, autonomous education institutes and bodies, and industries.

SIIRD has evolved with the objectives of developing an identified village by evolving 'demand driven initiatives based model' by synergizing the efforts of multiple stakeholders, specifically, villagers, NGOs, government, industry and academia for holistic rural development; Sensitizing students of IIT Roorkee with rural ethos and developing a sense of social responsibility amongst them; To be a model student group for India; source of inspiration for students in various educational institutions to work for rural development.

The various initiatives undertaken since the identification of the village in March 2008 are in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), health, renewable, computer education and agriculture. The enthusiasm and active participation of the local community aided the 'capacity building', one of the crucial essences for sustainable development. Initiatives have actuated the community towards ICT awareness, energy independence, health improvement, agricultural advancements and overall development of a positive attitude for progress. This project is an attempt towards tapping students' potential in such developmental activities. The conclusion can be drawn that various government and non-government bodies are working towards achievement of a common goal for development of rural India but a body with embodiment of community youth will help to synergize all the efforts for rural development to impact the lives of beneficiaries. Thus, SIIRD has succeeded in sensitizing the students with rural ethos and has also planted the seeds of developing rural India in the leaders of tomorrow.

Keywords: Initiative, integration, SIIRD, stakeholder, sustainable, synergy

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Sustainable community development efforts in Nigeria: the effect of integrating sustainability principles into the community development process

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Abstract

The survey observed elements of sustainable community development (SCD) in the South Western States in Nigeria and the extent of its adoption. 250 respondents were polled about their opinion on the level of adherence to SCD principles and the results reveal that the level of incorporation of sustainability principles is rather low. The implication is that the future of the nations will be compromised and the rate of development slow, if sustainability is not interwoven into CD efforts.

Keywords: community development, method, sustainable community development (SCD), sustainability

CSR Issues Relating To Multinational Corporations: Case Studies

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Abstract

The awareness about environmental problems is growing because of which the customers are becoming more demanding. They want the companies to be more responsible with respect to the impacts they have on society, and to realize their economic, legal, ethical and philanthropic responsibilities. The aim of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is to embrace responsibility for the actions of a company towards the environment, its consumers, employees and every member of the public whether they are related to the company or not. This policy functions as an innate and self regulating mechanism, whereby a company can ensure its compliance with ethical standards, laws, norms, etc that are made for environment protection and for the ones living in it. In a way, CSR activities can be taken up as an investment opportunity. This is because the companies can make the people of their 'working area' happier with their initiatives and when they will have a sense of belongingness with the company, they can contribute in it and finally end up with marvelous outputs. The world is evident of instances of overexploitation of resources by the leading Multinational Corporations in many nations, mostly, developing and under-developed nations. The world is also evident of their CSR initiatives as an answer to the opposition they face there. It has been seen that the behavior of the MNCs differ from one society to the other. In a developed nation, it will be at a lower stance because the state limits its powers through laws and rules and the people know their rights. On the other hand, we see that the same corporation, if working in a developing or under-developed nation will be violating an end number of rights of its workers, human rights, laws related to environment, etc. This actually is due to an 'over-liberal' stance of the Government or due to dearth of laws relating to the limitation on the over usage of the resources or due to lack of knowledge of such laws amongst the common mass. Though the company may exploit the resources of a place at a particular time, but by doing so, it gives a blow to itself. It tarnishes its image at its own hands. By doing so, it is hated by the people for its deeds which further would reduce the inclination of both, the workers as well as consumers towards the company which eventually would result into losses to the company. By starting initiatives for the betterment of the people and the environment, the company can create a positive image which will help it in gaining more consumers. The paper deals at length with various case studies of CSR initiatives of leading MNCs and how it has helped them in improving their position in the society after a series of conflicts. It aims at showing a symbiotic relationship between Environment Protection and Goodwill of the Company without compromising the outputs. It also shows how these CSR initiatives help the companies in the appreciation of their goodwill in the long-run of their business. An effort has also been made to discuss the Indian perspective with the recent inclusions in the law with relation to CSR in India and what can be its pros and cons. The recent laws have an eye for changing the behavior of the companies that have immensely violated the existing regulations and it has made it necessary for the companies to 'pay back' in some way to the nature and the people, what they extract from them. The paper concludes by suggesting some additional and innovative initiatives which can be taken to conquer the long road which lies ahead in the area of Corporate Social Responsibility.

Keywords: Corporate Social Responsibility, Multinational Corporations, Sustainability reporting, Environment protection, Workers' rights

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Balancing Development with Rights of Indigenous People: The Indian Scenario

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Abstract

Sustainable development has been a subject which has seen a wide variety of interpretations in modern day world. However, most scholars and researchers agree that sustainable development undeniably means that resources should be shared between people equally and in a calculated manner ensuring access even for the poorest of the poor.

With the rapid rise in growth rates in many developing countries, there has been a never before seen run for resources which has raised tensions between people living in the resource rich areas and the explorers of the resources, i.e. the Governments and the Government permitted private or public institutions. This conflict has been more pronounced in Africa and South East Asia owing to the high population density and widespread poverty.

In India, the problem of natural resource utilisation has become more complex owing to the fact that land holding patterns have not been officially clarified even decades after independence. People have laid claims to notified forest areas as they have been living there for generations. With the increased conflicts for rights over forest land between the locals and the public bodies, the Government explored for a legislative solution which could protect the interests of both the forest dwellers and the potential resource explorers. This was done with an aim to prevent a recurrence of the situation in Africa wherein numerous communities have undertaken protests claiming that they have been forcibly displaced from their homes under the guise of wildlife protection or mining thereby permanently changing their lives and pushing them into abject poverty and hardships.

The Indian government tried to prevent such a conflict from rising in India and promulgated the Forest Rights Act, 2006. It was a path breaking legislation which for the first time in independent India tried to provide rights to forest dwellers over the natural resources in their dwelling areas. The act tried to remove decades of injustice wherein the tribal people and forest dwellers were considered as unwanted people in their own home lands.

The implementation of the legislation has however been far from satisfactory. Even after six years of its implementation, the benefits of the act are yet to reach the intended beneficiaries. The act has got entangled in a bureaucratic quagmire with multiple governmental agencies trying to usurp the implementation powers under the act. It has also brought about a power struggle between the forest department and the tribal people who believe that the provisions of the act encroach upon each other's rights and powers. The act has also suffered due to non-clarity of rules and their arbitrary interpretation by the implementation authorities.

In this paper we look into the loop holes in the implementation procedure of the act and the hurdles in ground level implementation. Further, we look into the main reasons which led to the power struggles between the Government agencies and the common people. This understanding would help us to prevent a repeat of such a situation in other countries across the globe where demands for legislative provisions for protection of indigenous people have been raised.

It is established that the support of the people is of utmost importance for undertaking any developmental process and the paper also looks into the possible hurdles which are faced by Governments while allocating resources to the industry and the ways in which the balance could be maintained. The successful implementation of the Forest Rights Act and other similar legislations across the globe is essential to ensure integration of the indigenous population into the development process and the initial gains made should not be lost in power struggles.

The paper concludes by looking into the recent developments to streamline the implementation process and the possible solutions to the problems along with an overview of the recommendations by the Government appointed committees and the National Advisory Council of India for smooth implementation of the act in India and possible positives which can be garnered for use in other countries.

Keywords: Conflict; Indigenous; Resources; Rights; Struggle.

The Mercury exposure: Impacts on human health and its prevention: A review

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Abstract

Mercury is ubiquitous in health care. Mercury distribution in the environment has been a focus of scientific attention because of the potential health risks posed by mercury exposure. Never before in the history of mankind has there been such a vast multiplicity of environmental risk factors, nor there such an expression of concern regarding inherent danger of mercury and its likely impact on diverse aspects on human health. Human and wildlife can generally tolerate the extremely low levels of this naturally occurring substance. The prescribed Indian and WHO standards are 0.001 mg/l (for drinking water). Since this element is toxic at very low concentrations, even slight increases in the minute concentrations in the environment can have serious effects on humans and wildlife (Bioaccumulation).

Human being can be exposed to mercury all routes viz. Ingestion, Inhalation and Dermal exposure.

Preventive measures

In order to achieve this WHO has laid down five core strategies (WHO-HCWH, 2010) viz. (a) To establish an international mechanism to certify the accuracy and efficacy of mercury-free alternative medical devices, (b) To raise awareness and mobilization of the health care sector towards alternative devices and educate societies, (c) To support the development of model policies and catalytic activities that leverage resources to shift demand at global, regional, national, state and municipal levels, (d) To define safe elimination strategies for existing mercury equipments, (interim and long-term management plans) and, (e) To support the establishment and adequate expansion of production facilities for mercury-free devices with an emphasis on developing nations.

Patient Education

Unfortunately, a clinician can do little to prevent mercury toxicity. Public education can raise awareness about the risks associated with easily preventable sources of toxicity, such as contaminated herbal preparations or mercury thermometers. Similarly, publicizing the amount of mercury contained in frequently eaten fish can help to reduce toxicity on a local level.

Physical Examination

Although no physical findings are pathognomonic but constellation of gait ataxia, tremulousness, hearing loss, visual field constriction, dysarthria, and distal limb sensory loss, coupled with cognitive and emotional dysfunction, is suggestive of mercury poisoning.

Inpatient care

All patients in unstable condition need an intensive care unit (ICU) care with regular careful monitoring. Supportive care begins with the ABCs care followed by removal of contaminated clothing and copious irrigation of exposed skin.

Medication management

Activated charcoal is indicated for GI decontamination because it binds inorganic and organic mercury compounds.

Use chelating agents (British anti-lewisite [BAL], 2, 3-dimercaptosuccinic acid (DMSA or succimer) if the patient is symptomatic, if systemic absorption is anticipated.

Haemodialysis is used in severe cases of toxicity when renal function has declined.

Surgical care

Surgery does not have a much role in the treatment of mercury exposure but surgical intervention occasionally has been employed to remove ingested mercury that has become lodged in the intestine or colon

Diet

Seafood rich in organic mercury should of course be avoided. Predators such as sharks and tuna should be avoided, especially in utero, pregnant women and nursing mothers.

Deterrence and Prevention

Workplace hygiene and careful monitoring and disposal of mercurial waste are equally important in mercury poisoning prevention.

Conclusion

To be mercury-free is not only an ethical motivation to protect people and the environment, cut the costs, but also provides protection to life by reducing occupational exposures and releases of mercury to the air, water and land from wastewater discharges, spills and land fillings.

Public education and promoting safer, non-mercury alternatives can raise awareness about the risks associated with easily preventable sources of toxicity rather the medication and surgical intervention for the management.

Keywords: Disposal, Exposure, Impact, Mercury, Poisoning

Ecochem: A Conceptual Study of Green Chemistry and Sustainable Development with Special Reference to India

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Abstract

This paper will throw light on reasons for ecological imbalances which results in environment degradation and an introduction of green chemistry which leads to the need of sustainable development in industrially advanced nations. Further it will deal with the real examples of green chemistry practices in different nations and will end with the suggestions and conclusions.

Indiscreet use of chemicals, careless disposal of chemical wastes causes ecological imbalance whereby it became a considerable threat to the whole world. Subsequently, such detrimental consequences has led to the promulgation of several legislation, environment protection and awareness conferences and declarations in the industrially advanced nations like USA, UK, Germany and Japan. Hence the great concern for sustainable development i.e. development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, was felt. It is a way of thinking by which one can secure our present and future generation. Globally every country including most developing nations like India and China are much concerned about it because of their future generation who will have to suffer lack of resources which is most central to survive. But the concept of sustainable development is related with the present generation also. The right to development means the right to improvement and advancement of economic, social, cultural and political conditions that can be improved the global quality of life. Improvement of global quality of life means the implementation of changes that ensure every person's life of dignity and at same time citizens realize their human rights. Sustainable development ensures the well-being of individual by integrating social development, economic development, and environmental conservation and protection. It is necessary for the sustainable development that the policies and technologies be green so as to meet the environmental ability. For that purpose there was introduction of green chemistry. Chemistry, sustainability and innovation—three key components are for the future of our society because chemistry is an essential tool to protect and preserve our environment, biodiversity and natural resources against further degradation and also a primary driver both for the growth and sustainable development of the world economy. Sustainable chemistry has wider amplitude for the reduction of hazardous substances, waste and the environmental impact of the chemical industry; thus being a part of strategic long-term vision for the future of society.

Chemistry plays a major role to provide solutions for the crucial problems of the next century such as Energy; Use of Renewable Resources; Green Pharma and Health; and Elemental sustainability. A fundamentally different approach to chemistry thus becomes necessary, since the traditionally employed oil-based chemicals normally lack functionality. This new chemical toolbox is so designed to guarantee the demands of future generations at a reasonable price. Encouraging innovation, while integrating green chemistry and engineering into drug discovery, development and manufacturing of new pharmaceuticals is one of the most important issues in the health and pharmaceutical sector. Real world examples of green chemistry can be cited country wise like in Japan, development of TiO₂ photocatalys, Second- generation titanium oxide-based photocatalytic systems for the purification of polluted water; in United Kingdom, the fast and selective bromination of aromatic substrates using supported zinc bromide: Acid-activated montmorillonite (K-10) or mesoporous silica which is environmentally friendly catalysis using supported reagents, the new Upjohn route to hydroquinone for production of polymeric materials. In United States of America, the concept of atom economy and the synthesis of methylmethacrylate aiming for synthesizing chemicals for elegant efficiency, enzyme catalysis, Iron-catalyzed olefin oxidation. If we consider India for the application of green chemistry, there is development of solid support reagents and catalysts useful for organic transformations: 'Clayan'¹⁷, Mg–Al–O–But-hydrotalcite¹⁸, montmorillonites, and a layered double hydroxide fluoride–solid base catalyst for C–C bond formation, reactivity of peroxometal compounds, especially oxidation of halides, research group at IACS, Kolkata initiated a programme to develop green synthetic methods by designing reaction protocols without involving organic solvents like

- (a) Reactions on solid surface of benign solid inorganic support without solvent;
- (b) Reactions in aqueous media;
- (c) Reactions in ionic solvents, and
- (d) Reactions in neat without solvent.

Another important development is Kidwai's dry media reactions used for the preparation of heterocycles.

Ending the paper with some suggestions that the chance of success in the domain of Green chemistry is surely not grim. But, it is necessary to teach value of green chemistry to tomorrow's chemists. The problem is where to make a beginning and how to go about? Thus, it is quite indicative that the Green chemistry education material must be prepared for different levels of education in our country. This is expected to bring about a 'think green' culture at an early stage of learning. Such practice of introduction of Green Chemistry be included in an interdisciplinary Science and Technology course at the graduate level for both science and engineering students. At the level of research, Green chemistry and the related projects may be especially encouraged and appropriately funded. In order to ensure global environmental protection while keeping scientific and economic development on the forefront, the policy makers should understand the role of 'green' science and technology and make pollution prevention, rather than pollution control, their motto. Hence sustainability can be maintained by the application of green chemistry in India and all over the world.

Keywords: Chemistry, development, India, sustainable, etc.

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Importance of diversified workforce

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Abstract

Corporate initiatives play a major role in affecting human life development of human and natural resources. The public sector enterprises controlled by the government have from its inception had social goals to achieve for the betterment of human life. With Liberalization and globalization of the economy the protected nature of the public sector has taken way to competitiveness with the private sector along with closing down and restructuring of some enterprises which were earlier shored up and allowed to function. Affirmative action is an important initiative that affects the internal HRM policies, for SC/ST/ weaker section, minorities, physically challenged, sons of soils, women etc .the affirmative action endeavors to reduce effects of actual or perceived past or current discrimination that is regarded as unfair for inclusive growth. This is commonly achieved through targeted recruitment programs aimed at applicants from the groups .Sustainable development is derived from ecological concepts wherein diversity is prerequisite to adaptation Affirmative action and diversified workforce of corporate for corporate Sustainable development is studied within the sphere of Indian Public Sector Enterprises with reference to navratnas and the constitutional and regulatory mechanism of Reservations

Keywords: Ability pool , Affirmative action, Corporate citizen, Diversified workforce

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Foreign Aid and Economic Development in India: A Co-integration Analysis

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Abstract

Foreign aid is considered as an important financial tool to finance the developmental programs of the developing countries particularly in their initial stages of development. In the era of globalization and economic integration, no country in the world is self-sufficient to meet all its financial needs. They have to depend upon on foreign aid to finance their developmental activities. The rationale behind the foreign aid inflows is to build self-reliance worldwide. The major purpose of the foreign aid programs is to accelerate the development process up to a point where a satisfactory rate of growth can be achieved on a self-sustaining basis. Since after Second World War, a huge amount of foreign aid has been coming from the rich countries to the third world for the welfare motives including India. Still most of the cases the remaining problems are not solved completely and in some cases they are aggravated. In this context, the present study empirically investigates the impact of foreign aid on economic development of India by using time series data over the period 1961-62 to 2010-11. This study has taken Per-capita Gross National Income (PcGNI) as the dependent variables while Official Development Assistance (ODA), Trade Openness (TrO), Wholesale Price Index (WPI, as an indicator of inflation rate) and Gross Capital Formation (GCF) as the explanatory variables. Before going for empirical analysis this study has test the stationary property of the variables by using the unit root test. This study has used the Co-integration Technique to examine whether there exist any kind of long run relationship between foreign aid and economic development in India. Next it employs the Granger causality estimation to examine causal dynamic relationship between foreign aid and economic development in India. From the empirical analysis the study has found that there is a long run relationship exists between foreign aid and economic development in India during the study period. It also shows that there is uni-directional causality exist between foreign aid and economic development. The study concludes that there exist a long run relationship between foreign aid and economic development in India. But the impact of foreign aid on economic development is not that much significant. The study has found that foreign aid programs are not properly working in India. The failure of these aid programs may be caused due to its inefficient utilization. Adding to this, persistence of mass poverty, corruption, lack of coordination among aid agencies, lack of transparency in aid distribution system and poor economic management are some of the factors responsible for this failure of aid programs. In the light of the empirical analysis and research findings, it suggests that we have to be more concerned about its effective utilization rather than its amount of inflows.

Keywords: (Co-integration test, Economic Development, Foreign Aid, India)

Making Corporate Social Responsibility mandatory in India: Its Impact

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Abstract

Corporate Social Responsibility is fundamentally an inspirational exercise and it is inherently very difficult to legislate aspirations. The concept of Corporate Social Responsibility has become so pervasive that it has acquired its own acronym: CSR. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a term describing a company's obligation to be accountable to all of its stakeholders in all its operations and activities. It has been defined by World Business Council (2006) as "The continuous commitment by business to behave ethically and contribute to economic development while improving the quality of life of the workforce and their families as well as of the local communities and societies at large".

In its oldest forms, corporate responsibility in India included the concept of corporate philanthropy and the Gandhian Trusteeship Model. Over the years it has evolved from these notions to the multi-stakeholder approach that is the current global trend. Thus concept of CSR is not new to India and being viewed as a means to achieve sustainable development of an organisation, the Companies Act Bill, 2013 has been passed by both the Houses of Parliament on August 8, 2013 with the objective of making the companies consciously work towards that objective. Businesses have to be socially responsible corporate citizens and also contribute to the social good. Though there are mandatory CSR reportings in several countries including Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands, Denmark, France, and Australia, yet it's a historical move that a government for the first time has made CSR activities mandatory for a large number of companies. The new Act mandates that companies above a certain size have to ensure that they spend at least 2% of their annual profits on CSR activities specified in Schedule VII of the Act and this will be applicable from the financial year 2014-15.

CSR is supposed to be win-win. The company makes profit and the society benefits. But is this benefit outweighed by losses to society in other areas of the company's operations? After all, why will a company give away its shareholders money unless it sees some profits in it? Some argue that the term Corporate Social Responsibility is inherently contradictory. Both critics and enthusiasts agree that CSR is voluntary by nature. The new Act mandates that companies act voluntarily. This paper will discuss the concept of CSR as understood by India over the years and trace its evolution, in the era of globalisation and expanding markets. The paper will further highlight examples of successful implementation of CSR by various business groups. It will be followed by a detailed analysis of the provisions of the new Companies Act, 2013 with respect to mandatory CSR highlighting the conflicting opinions about it. On one hand, some view CSR as a vehicle for cheap advertisement and as a way for government to delegate its responsibilities to the companies or as the proposed law being an enforcement nightmare by virtue of being too vague, but on the other hand, it is being welcome as a means to achieve long term sustainability in the world economy. Though there is a sound logic as to why other countries haven't implemented CSR, making it mandatory is not the worst thing in the world either. This paper will further focus on certain loopholes in the new law and suggest certain measures to improve the false image of CSR. The Article hence concludes that the future of CSR is bright in India and its importance will continue to grow because of the special emphasis laid on it throughout the world. In the author's opinion though making it mandatory does have its fair share of criticism, it is a welcome step and any measure which does benefit the society, benefits humanity.

Keywords: Benefits, Conflicts, Criticism, Evolution, Mandatory

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The role of Music in Growth or The role of Music in Evaluation

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Abstract

There is always some inspiration which is the driving force behind a creative work. It is the paramount duty of a man to face obstacles successfully in order to expand and have growth as a human being. This process of growth makes a man more creative and dynamic, and even a second's pause can seriously hamper this process. As we know, there are many ways by which creativity can be developed successfully but music is one of the best mediums to do the same. Music helps a man to develop an all round personality and succeed in life.

The music of a society is an actual mirror of the culture of society. If the society of a nation and its culture are fragmented into different parts then that nation can never have a constant force which propels its growth. This makes any discussion on 'Music' which is Divine, Infinite, transcendental, creative, dynamic and experimental a very important one. This note is an attempt to highlight the importance of music in our lives.

Music is an experimental and visible art where we need not only our mental faculties but also constant practice, guidance and a great amount of hard work in order to have success. Music plays its role in the growth of a human being's life through various mediums and forms (religiously, creatively, culturally, scientifically, spiritually and internationally).

Music is a medium for those who want to achieve Nirvana and a state of bliss through self knowledge. Music propels a man more towards spirituality. Take anything and it is sure that you will not find anything complete without music. This is the sole reason why music has become a medium of earning bread for so many musicians, composers, creative writers, recordists, directors, dancers and singers. Another quality of Music is that no one is able to distinguish and create a divide in the name of caste/creed of its creator. The seven notes of music are the same throughout the universe. Music due to its omnipotent nature is also connected with nationality. To have success in the field of music, one has to start working right from his childhood with great amount of hard work. To make a nation strong and successful, its youth must develop these qualities of hard work and patience and thus music plays its role as a catalyst in making them like that. Rabindranath Tagore recognized the value of Music in the development of human mind and that's why he purposely kept Music as a subject in his school 'Shanti Niketan'. The new age science has accepted the importance of music and proved that the effect of music is not only on Humans but also on animals and plants and trees.

The main emphasis of this essay is on Music and its relation and impact on culture, religion, spirituality, ethics, nation, and science. The main of education is to develop the personality of a man and music as evident is a special skill is prevalent in all of the above. Music helps a man to feel good from inside. He feels blessed, unique and dignified. Music is a medium for self knowledge and strong thoughts. When a man will be manifested with these qualities he will become an asset for the nation and boon for the society.

Keywords: Evolutionary growth, Creativity, Music, Ethical.

GM Crops in India: Agricultural Sustainability at Stake

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Abstract

Introduction of genetically modified crops (GM Crops) has been entranced in severe controversies in India. Following Bt-Cotton, Bt-Brinjal the first genetically modified food crop, has caused a conflict of beliefs and generated heated debates regarding its safety throughout the length and breadth of the country. The Government of India is caught between strong proponents dominated by business houses and small farming community and general public as strong opponents to the proposal. Because of the long term ecological and health issues involved, even scientific community is divided on it.

Concerns regarding the release of GM Crops in environment are many. Effect on non-target species, flow into the host DNA, increased invasiveness, biosafety etc, all have affected its acceptance, research and development. On a bigger canvas, countries and continents stand divided. These divisions on contesting lines are getting stronger and stronger as the time passes by. The issue gets more polemic and complex in India as agriculture is the backbone of our economy.

Government of India is ceased of compulsions and limitations, as also the potential dangers of GM crops. For such reasons, policy framework of the Ministry of Science and Technology (Department of Biotechnology) and Ministry of Environment and Forests, has enforced certain guidelines like: (a) Rules for the Manufacture, Use/Import/Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989. (b) Revised Recombinant DNA Safety Guidelines, 1994. (c) Guidelines for Research in Transgenic Plants & Guidelines for Toxicity and Allergenicity Evaluation of Transgenic Seeds, Plants and Plant Parts, 1998.

The most important enforcing agency, Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is responsible for testing the environmental and food safety of GM crops before clearing it for commercial release in the country. Further, in an effort to bring the multi-departmental and multi-ministerial control of GM crops under one roof, Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI) Bill 2010 has been proposed in the Indian Parliament. But it has been slammed by many NGOs and concerned citizens for being highly partial and inequitable.

The development of GM crops has raised a variety of novel legal questions, which our regulatory system fails to answer. Instead, the current regulations burden in form of time and cost, abandonment of research, as well as exploitation of farmers. It is imperative that the regulatory attitudes must change. There is an urgent need to change the fundamental underlying statute to suit the needs of current innovations/ technologies and their repercussions on the society.

The inherent power of GM Crops and genetic engineering cannot be doubted. However their sustainability in the current agricultural and legal set-up of the country is highly questionable. The current synthesis is an attempt to dissect the nuances of implications of GM Crop cultivation on the agricultural set up of the country in the wake of weak policy framework. The primary aim of the synthesis is to trigger thought process and underpinning research in this field.

Keywords: Agriculture, Bt-cotton, Biosafety, Genetically Modified Crops, Indian Policy

Ref#: 200/IND/13

Legislating safety nets: Comparing recent social security laws in Asia

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Abstract

This paper examines recent legislation in India and Indonesia on social welfare and social and economic rights, and considers how these laws might contribute to sustainable social and human development.

In recent years, several Asian countries have begun moving away from patchwork welfare programmes, towards more comprehensive social security provision. This is a significant shift in a region where social welfare has not been politically popular, and the family has traditionally absorbed the burden of supporting the young, the old and the ailing. Asian governments are, it seems, trying to tackle chronic deprivation and inequality with fresh seriousness. Two of these countries – India and Indonesia - have opted to put new social security initiatives into law. By legislating, rather than simply formulating executive policy, the governments of these countries seem to have imposed harder-edged social security obligations upon themselves.

In this paper, I examine how recent social security laws in India and Indonesia facilitate social security provision, and whether they effectively accommodate the many challenges of implementing social security programmes in large, diverse countries with high levels of inequality. How do these laws formulate the obligations on the State, and the corresponding entitlements of the citizen? If these laws create justiciable rights, what sort of remedies do they provide if these rights are infringed? How does new Asian social security legislation create norms and institutional mechanisms that can accommodate the scale and diversity of potential beneficiaries? How has civil society interacted shaped these laws, and used them?

I look in particular at India's National Food Security Law, passed earlier this year, and Indonesia's laws on the National Social Security System, passed in 2004 and 2011. While the Indonesian law was a top-down initiative driven by the national government, the Indian law was shaped by a long civil society campaign, including public interest litigation in the Indian Supreme Court. I will reflect on how these different journeys shaped each law's approach to the questions above. I argue that the Indonesian social security laws do little to pin down the executive's obligations and create enforceable entitlements for citizens. Nevertheless, having legislation rather than policy has allowed civil society groups to demand concrete progress from the Indonesian government. The Indian law lays down government responsibilities in far more detail, and in its very specificity might limit how fully it can be implemented. Based on my analysis, I draw lessons for social security legislation in rapidly developing Asian countries.

Keywords: food security, social security, social welfare legislation

Women from Cradle to Grave in the Patriarchal Society-An Indian Perspective

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Abstract

“Being a woman is a terribly difficult task, since it consists principally in dealing with men.”

Women's Status has been marked by both ambiguity and uncertainty in India. There have been many challenges confronting women in pre and post era. Though the impediments have been arising increasingly women continues to survive and constitutes an important part of the society. Modernization and women's increasing role in society is quite evident. Still there are many practices hitting women's dignity time and again. Dowry, Women harassment, Rape, Abduction and kidnapping, Murder, Wife battering, Female foeticide, Child marriage, Domestic work, sexual harassment and violence, Trafficking, Widow exploitation, Sex selective abortion are some ill- practices in India which are becoming more wide-spread. Most of this violence are not unique and will have an increasing role for many more years if proper measures are not taken. Around 80% of the total trafficked people are women and girls. Gender discrimination is not an episodic, ephemeral or a situational phenomenon. Its ramifications correspond with social and cultural differences in the Indian society. Research of violence against women is increasing day b y day, but we still couldn't find an agreed definition that could be further be used in more accurate findings. The main cause for these cruel practices are the lack of education among women, no appropriate laws are there, weak governmental measures. The practices are quite resistant to change; however, the social consequences of these practices are visible and are a question on the face of the democratic structure of the nation. To find the reasons why still they are prevailing in the Indian society is the task to do. Are the reasons, the changing materialistic culture, the societal structure where the women stand, the never changing mentality of the people, old customs or something else or Is it because the Patriarchal society is just about dominion are some of the questions to which the submission will focus upon. Education employment and women empowerment are some of the topics which will relate to the solutions in the biggest democracy of the world. There will be a discussion about ill-practices which are happening worldwide including data and the so called laws which are relating to women's care and protection. To bring prosperity to the nation it has to ensure respect for its women. A nation devoid of the participation of the women can never develop.

“There are no limits to masculine egotism. In order to understand the world, we must look at it through the eyes of women”.

Keywords: Democracy; Discrimination; Violence; Women

Ref: 203/IND/13

Total Factor Productivity in the Bogota Manufacturing Industry, 1985-2005

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Abstract

The objective of this article is to measure and to analyze total factor productivity –TFP- growth in the Bogota manufacturing industry over the period 1985-2005. From the early 90s Colombia applied several policy actions aiming at increasing trade openness of its economy. Taking this into account, this article analyzes performance of several subsectors of the Bogota manufacturing industry before and after trade liberalization. TFP growth is measured by using Harberger's Two-Deflator Method, which although it is a robust method, is not difficult to use, and the amount of data needed for calculations is easier to handle with, compared with traditional methods. The results of the paper show most of the subsectors analyzed had positive TFP growth rates during the period 1990-2005, which corresponds to a period of more openness of the Colombian economy, compared to eight out of the twenty subsectors with negative TFP growth rates in the period pre - trade liberalization, 1985-1990. On this basis, the results suggest a possible positive effect of trade liberalization of the Colombian economy on TFP of manufacturing industry of Bogota.

Keywords: Economic Growth, Growth Accounting, Manufacturing Industry, Total factor productivity, Two-Deflator Method.

Ref: 211/IND/13

The Indispensability of Women Social Freedom for Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Sustainable development being the buzz word nowadays has found its extension in almost every field. Its increasing inevitability can be extended to something as basic as the concept of freedom. The work in this article is essentially inspired by Isaiah Berlin's 'Two Concepts of Liberty'. This paper aims at defining social freedom and presents the current status of women in the society within that framework. This paper not only dismisses the idea of Positive and Negative freedom as incompatible but establishes the necessity of both to attain the desired social freedom by women. The objective of the paper is to establish the need and importance of women social freedom for sustainable development of the society.

Keywords: Negative Liberty; Positive Liberty; Social freedom; Sustainable Development; Women.

Human Development Index: A Sustainable Study

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Sustainable Development is a proven catalyst for Xerox innovation.

-Anne M. Mulcahy

Abstract

The literatures and debates on human development on the one hand and sustainability on the other share much in common. Human development is essentially what sustainability advocates want to sustain and without sustainability, human development is not true human development. Sustainability is much requirement for the human development as it maintains the balance between upheld and the downhauls. Sustainability is often seen as a matter of equity between the present and future in regards to the human development. To attain the stage of human development there should an ample interpretation, exercise and awareness of concept of human rights. Yet the two strands of research have largely been separate and this paper shows how they can learn from each other. I put forward a concrete proposal on how human development and its measurement in the form of the Human Development Index (HDI) can be linked with measures of both weak sustainability that are downhauls and strong sustainability which fulfills the criteria of the upheld.

Weak sustainability is built on the assumption within environmental economics which states that different forms of capital that is 'human capital' can be substituted by the 'natural capital' whereas strong sustainability rejects the notion of substitutability for certain critical forms of natural capital. In other words strong sustainability assumes that 'human capital' and 'natural capital' are complementary, they are not interchangeable. If human development is about enabling people to lead long, healthy, educated and fulfilling lives, then sustainable human development is about making sure that future generations can do the same. Thus, bringing sustainability in development of human is the main need that arose in the today's global environment.

Human Development Index can be linked with sustainability. Empirical results over the period 1980 to 2006 show that many of the lowest performing countries on the HDI also face problems of weak unsustainability, as measured by genuine savings. Countries with high to very high HDI performance, on the other hand, typically appear to be strongly unsustainable, as measured by ecological footprints, mostly because of unsustainably large carbon dioxide emissions. Two of the biggest challenges facing mankind this century will be to break the link between high human development and strongly unsustainable damage to natural capital on the one hand, requiring a very significant and rapid decarbonization of their economies, and assisting countries with very low human development to overcome weak unsustainability by raising their investment levels into all forms of capital on the other.

This paper will help us to provide a disciplinary forum on global sustainable development for practitioners and academics that will further create equity between the present and future human development of practitioners and academics.

Keywords: Weak sustainability, Strong sustainability, Human Development Index, Genuine Savings, Ecological Footprints, Climate Change.

Ref #: 224/IND/13

Inclusive Education in Indian Context and its integration with Virtual Schooling

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Abstract

The advent of internet technology may be traced back to the 1990's, the time when the dot-com bubble hit the technology sector and since its inception the internet technology has evolved from strength to strength. Around the same time, one of the major landmark conferences was being held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil famously known as the Rio Summit held in 1993. The most significant product of this conference was the adoption of Agenda 21, which was at that time perhaps the foremost comprehensive action plan for the insurance of sustainable development at a global platform. The 300 page document described its success to be contingent upon two essential pre-requisites, *technology transfer and education*. The action plan recognized these two facets as the cornerstone to sustainable development. The advent of modern day technology has facilitated data transfer and provided for real time dialogues reducing the hindrance of distance. But, the same has not been true for the spread of education. Education still, especially in context of second and third world countries like India, remains a distant dream for many. This paper shall seek to highlight the roadblocks existing in the present day education system, in the Indian context, which pose hindrance towards sustainable development of the nation. Besides the paper shall also endeavor to suggest suitable mechanisms by integration of technology and human output coupled with local resources so as to pave way for an ideal system of educating the masses, and thus root out the functional drawbacks existing within the present system. The Right to Education was enacted in the house of Indian Parliament on April 10, 2010 but is yet to yield any satisfactory result due to the lack of planning with respect to the implementation of the proposed bill. The education network in India requires a wide array of tools so as to effectively reach the masses and provide for effective mechanisms to ensure that the qualitative aspect is not lost sight of. Besides, there exists a vast diversity within the country which needs to be looked upon. For instance, setting up of a smoother channel of education for the specially-abled; ensuring the continuous sustenance of quality education in the Central Schools, also known as the Kendriya Vidyalayas and, the catering of varied courses at all centers of education, sound infrastructure to ensure efficient delivery of superior educational values are some instances which the present way of education fails to delve upon.

In modern day context, a system of education is required which is not bound by distances, which provides for quality assurance, wherein the reach of masses is possible, whose continuous & comprehensive evaluation maybe prescribed to for the purpose of its accountability thus providing for a holistic curricula for the younger generation to explore upon. For the same purpose, the paper shall present an alternative channel for the intention of educating the youth in order to do away the aforesaid limitations. The paper shall embark upon introducing the concept of virtual schooling as paraphernalia to tackle the roadblocks prevalent.

Virtual schooling entails use of digital media as the primary mode of education. The system provides for online courseware platforms to store course content which is made available 24x7, teaching and problem solving through video conferencing so as to remove the barrier of distances in the way of education, customized setting for students, and quality monitoring systems for both the pedagogy and the pupils. The mode helps to cater towards the special needs of disadvantaged which form a significant 5 to 6 per cent of the Indian population according to the UN Fact Sheet on Disability, 2012, providing education to remote areas where teachers and essential resources like book stores are not within reasonable reach of the people, and most of all assuring accountability within the system. With the advent of One Laptop per Child Scheme; Akaash Tablet; emergence of open course wares and online real time communication platforms like Skype which are easily accessible, this project gains further viability through a culmination of all these into one comprehensive mode of spreading education to the masses. The mode of virtual schooling provides for fulfilling the idea of inclusive education, continuous sustenance of superior standards of pedagogy, thereby ensuring sustainable development and countering roadblocks which pose hindrance to the pathway.

Keywords: Education; Inclusive; Synthesis; Technology; Virtual Schooling.

Ref #: 227/IND/13

Making existing homes Green and Energy Efficient: Case Study of Studio Apartments in Delhi and NCR

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Abstract

The study was conducted to explore Interior Products to make Existing homes Energy Efficient in 2012 and assess the awareness level regarding energy efficient interior products amongst interior designer and occupants. It was also conducted to make people aware about the implementation of energy efficient interior products and framing guidelines that will help people in implementing and making their existing homes as energy efficient. 15 designer and 35 occupants of studio apartments were interviewed to gain insight into the awareness level regarding energy efficient features and products that can be implemented in an existing home.

The results showed that most of the occupants (73%) and almost all (93%) the designers were aware about the energy efficiency concept but they were not aware about the practices that can be done to conserve energy. Most of the designers believe that the concept of energy efficient features will be highly successful in Delhi if implemented properly as it is the need to conserve energy for present as well as for future.

Both the designers and occupants are ready to spend more on energy efficient features being implemented provided it saves their energy and money.

Keywords: Energy Efficiency, Green Building, Studio Apartments, Sustainability, Energy Conservation.

Ref #: 228/IND/13

Towards Sustainable Tomorrow: Exploring Energy Efficiency of Malls in Delhi

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Abstract

The rapid growth of population and economic development has put severe stress on the natural resources, infrastructure and environment of the country. Malls are the new generation window to the country's commercial activity. They are in the luxury mode by spending extravagantly on facilities and services. The study was an effort to explore the energy resources used for facilities and services in selected malls and also assess the experience of comfort level of employees working in the malls as well as customers visiting the malls.

The results of the study highlighted that maximum power was consumed by HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) systems and motors used for pumping water followed by escalators and elevators as compared to energy used by lighting system and security services. Carbon emissions were alarming from each mall as the minimum emissions per day were 8032.12kg to a maximum of 44097.46 kg per day. As regards energy efficiency rating on the parameters of GRIHA developed by TERI, none of the selected malls could obtain minimum score of 50 to be qualified as green structure even though couple of them adopted water recharge pits to ensure zero discharge of waste and rainwater into municipal drainage. In some of the malls the HVAC and the lighting systems were switched off manually when not in use. However, the effort was insignificant. A substantial percentage of respondents i.e., the mall employees and the customers reported discomfort due to heaviness in eyes and high illumination levels.

There is a need to design and build such structures on sound concepts of energy efficiency and apply suitable retrofit options to existing buildings to minimize energy consumption and environmental pollution.

Keywords: Sustainability, Energy Efficiency, Energy Security, Energy Conservation, Green Buildings.

Ref #: 231/IND/13

Family Planning and Sustainable Development: Lessons learnt from India's Social Policy Plans
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Abstract

The link between sustainable development and population growth was first exposed by Thomas Robert Malthus, a British scholar and economist, who in his book "Essay on the Principle of Population (1798)" correlated uncontrolled population growth with scarcity of resources. Out of the two balancing processes in this regard; positive checks which include natural counters like war, famines and disease, and negative checks like delayed marriages and abstinence from sex, **Family Planning** is of the species of the latter set.

In India, the need for Family Planning at a functional level was felt as early as in 1951 when the first draft of the **First Five Year Plan** contained a section "*Population Pressure: Its Bearing on Development.*" However, most Indian policymakers, at that time did not view it as a pressing issue as they believed that as per the **Demographic Transition Theory**, high economic growth would in turn take care of the population rate just as it had in Europe in the early part of the twentieth century. However India did not have the luxury of utilizing resources from its colonies to feed its growth like the European powers had done in the colonial era and with increasing health facilities, increasing life expectancy and lower mortality rate, an enormous strain on the country's resources, despite advents like the green revolution, was evident, and the government was forced to intervene.

Over the decades, family planning as a government policy has yo-yoed over different extremes. The methodologies have varied from a position in the early 1950s where the then Minister of Health only considered the "rhythm method" as morally correct and distributed beaded necklaces to women to determine their safe days, to a more hardened approach of coercive vasectomies and tubectomies in the 1970s wherein camps were set up, government employees threatened, and in states like Rajasthan, more than 7.8 million men were sterilized. However despite all legal and extra legal efforts, the population growth rate remained steadily high.

A variety of reasons can be attributed to the failure of these policies. Most important of them emanate from the socio-economic peculiarities of India. **In this paper**, the population control aspects of **all the Five Year Plans** since independence and the **National Population Policy of 2000** have been examined in varying detail. For this, first the policies have been contextualized and then their effectiveness, i.e. their effect on the birth rate has been scrutinized using empirical statistical data and research literature. Following this, the shortcomings of the policies have been touched upon and their reasons, especially the ones which are still pertinent in today's context have been elaborated upon.

Under Indira Gandhi's tenure, three main obstacles for family planning in India were identified. First was the lack of contraceptive supplies, the second was inadequate medical personnel and finally the lack of awareness about the importance of birth control. However, these fail to go to the root of the problem.

In India, the varying **gender roles** are a major contributor to this issue. In traditional Hindu societies, sons are supposed to be the ones who have the duty to perform '*pinda dan*' and are considered as the propagators of the family line. Additionally, it is believed that through marriage, women become a part of their husband's family. It was the son who apart from being the economic breadwinner was responsible for ensuring the wellbeing of his parents during their old age.

Other factors in this discussion include the aspect of **religion based misgivings to contraception**, the **high mortality rate** triggering a failsafe mechanism and the **vicious cycle** of having a high percentage of population in the reproductively active age.

For population control plans to actually succeed, their importance in the private lives of individuals needs to be evident, as was corroborated in the Harvard sponsored **Khanna Study**, conducted in the early 1950s and for that, rather than just birth rate, an holistic overall health approach needs to be adopted that includes the well being of the mother and the child, even after birth.

In this paper, the population policies from the countries like, *inter alia*, China and Indonesia, which face a similar population problem, have also been examined and their best practices have been extracted to arrive at suggestions to improve the presently ineffective Indian system. Many of these suggestions can also be adapted to suit the needs of other similarly placed nations. **Family Planning** is a highly complex, multifaceted, yet compelling issue and the fact that it is intrinsically linked with sustainable development makes it an exceptionally relevant and pertinent topic in the Indian as well as the international scenario.

Keywords: Family Planning, Indian Social Policy Plans, Population Control, Sustainable Development

Ref #: 232/IND/13

Big River Dams Vis-À-Vis Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Starting from the primitive age human civilisation has gone through various phases of development. The growth of human civilisation in deed makes it necessary to have enough energy sources. With the growth and development of human civilisation it is almost impossible to think of a world without sufficient energy. This need has made it almost mandatory for the human race to explore new and efficient source of energy continuously as the available known sources of energy has been degrading day by day. In such a quest, the human race adopted the method of producing electricity from water currents of rivers, lakes etc. by constructing dams on such water bodies. The development projects and need of the development of the human civilisation to ensure sufficient electricity power to carry on the development have strengthened the need of river valley projects to produce electricity. Consequently, dams have been constructed all over the world in the last centuries. In this quest many large dams or big dams have been constructed in order to ensure energy to maintain the development process. But, this large scale of dam construction has caused immense threat to the environment. The threats apprehended from the Big River dams are evident from the various reports at the international level as well various movements going on against these big dams. The report of the “World Commission on Dams” shows the devastating effect of big dams on the environment all over the world and the threat these dams cause thereby to the ecology. Also, the report named “Biodiversity Impact of Large Dams” given by IUCN under the United Nations Foundation also makes a clear scenario of the large scale devastation of the big dams. Consequently, there have been various anti- big dam movements going on all around the world including India *viz.* Movement led by Medha Patekar against the “Sardar Sarovar Project”, movements going on in the North-Eastern states of India etc. These movements also show the devastating effect of large dams on the environment and life of the people. Therefore, it is clear that in order to fulfil the need of the Developments the environment is put at risk thereby casing risk to the present and future generations. It cannot be acceptable as “development and environment cannot grow equally” is an obsolete concept. The present accepted approach is that development and environment can grow equally through sustainable development. In fulfilling the need of the present generation the future generation and our environment cannot be put into risk. There cannot be any development at the expense of environment as well as at the need of the future generation. Therefore, such methods should be adopted which can assure sustainability. There can be other alternatives for big river dams such as smaller dams at smaller scale. Also, electricity from wind power, solar energy, nuclear energy etc. can be other alternatives to big river dams. These alternative sources have minimal effect on the environment as compared to the big dams. So, in order to avail sustainable development and to protect environment and the interests of the future generation it is essential that the focus should be given on other sources of energy mentioned here. Then only, the human race will be able save the earth and the interests of the future generations.

Keywords: Starting from the Primitive Age

Ref #: 233/IND/13

Balancing Development with Rights of Indigenous People: The Indian Scenario

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Abstract

Sustainable development has been a subject which has seen a wide variety of interpretations in modern day world. However, most scholars and researchers agree that sustainable development undeniably means that resources should be shared between people equally and in a calculated manner ensuring access even for the poorest of the poor.

With the rapid rise in growth rates in many developing countries, there has been a never before seen run for resources which has raised tensions between people living in the resource rich areas and the explorers of the resources, i.e. the Governments and the Government permitted private or public institutions. This conflict has been more pronounced in Africa and South East Asia owing to the high population density and widespread poverty.

In India, the problem of natural resource utilisation has become more complex owing to the fact that land holding patterns have not been officially clarified even decades after independence. People have laid claims to notified forest areas as they have been living there for generations. With the increased conflicts for rights over forest land between the locals and the public bodies, the Government explored for a legislative solution which could protect the interests of both the forest dwellers and the potential resource explorers. This was done with an aim to prevent a recurrence of the situation in Africa wherein numerous communities have undertaken protests claiming that they have been forcibly displaced from their homes under the guise of wildlife protection or mining thereby permanently changing their lives and pushing them into abject poverty and hardships.

The Indian government tried to prevent such a conflict from rising in India and promulgated the Forest Rights Act, 2006. It was a path breaking legislation which for the first time in independent India tried to provide rights to forest dwellers over the natural resources in their dwelling areas. The act tried to remove decades of injustice wherein the tribal people and forest dwellers were considered as unwanted people in their own home lands.

The implementation of the legislation has however been far from satisfactory. Even after six years of its implementation, the benefits of the act are yet to reach the intended beneficiaries. The act has got entangled in a bureaucratic quagmire with multiple governmental agencies trying to usurp the implementation powers under the act. It has also brought about a power struggle between the forest department and the tribal people who believe that the provisions of the act encroach upon each other's rights and powers. The act has also suffered due to non-clarity of rules and their arbitrary interpretation by the implementation authorities.

In this paper we look into the loop holes in the implementation procedure of the act and the hurdles in ground level implementation. Further, we look into the main reasons which led to the power struggles between the Government agencies and the common people. This understanding would help us to prevent a repeat of such a situation in other countries across the globe where demands for legislative provisions for protection of indigenous people have been raised.

It is established that the support of the people is of utmost importance for undertaking any developmental process and the paper also looks into the possible hurdles which are faced by Governments while allocating resources to the industry and the ways in which the balance could be maintained. The successful implementation of the Forest Rights Act and other similar legislations across the globe is essential to ensure integration of the indigenous population into the development process and the initial gains made should not be lost in power struggles.

The paper concludes by looking into the recent developments to streamline the implementation process and the possible solutions to the problems along with an overview of the recommendations by the Government appointed committees and the National Advisory Council of India for smooth implementation of the act in India and possible positives which can be garnered for use in other countries.

Keywords: Conflict; Indigenous; Resources; Rights; Struggle.

Ref #: 236/IND/13

A research of effectiveness of Mobile learning for sustainable development of corporate employee

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Abstract

With the marketplace becoming increasingly competitive, corporations are continually seeking to redefine their competitive advantage by grooming their distinctive and distinguishing competencies, or the Competencies that the competitors find difficult to replicate. A natural corollary to underneath this advantage is learning to do things differently and better. Therefore, the need to learn and constantly build the competitive skill inventory is essential to businesses driven by hyper competition.

However, the very hyper competition that makes organizational learning vital is also demanding on the time of the professionals. Not surprisingly therefore, the pure lack of time on the part of learners, Notwithstanding the enthusiasm to learn or organizational appreciation of the desirability of learning programs, is often the stumbling block in making organizational learning happen.

This document investigates the possibility of leveraging the ubiquitous handheld devices, such as cellphones, iPods and PDAs, to enable anytime, anywhere learning and empower employee to break free from the constraints imposed by time.

Purpose: This study assesses 1) the effectiveness of mobile learning for skill development at organizations. 2) Employee experience of mobile learning

Litreture: Some of the literatures talk about this is to cope with a changing world, any entity must develop the capacity of shifting and changing of developing new skills and attitudes; in short, the capability of learning Guess[1] It's accepted that people are the most important ingredient in any organizational initiative but it's also accepted that the 'people stuff' – changing values, behavior and culture – is the most difficult aspect of organisational change. Any shift towards sustainability involves organizational change, and leading that change is a complex challenge. Facilitating organizational learning becomes a vital component of the leadership equation Germein, [2] .

Mobile learning is emerging as one of the solutions to the challenges faced by education. UNESCO's programme of activities is therefore based on growing partnerships geared towards exploring how mobile technologies can enable the achievement of Education UNESCO [3].

Method: Reviewed the education literature. For each study I wrote a summary, which included study design, outcome measures, effect sizes, and any other information relevant to the research conclusion.

Results and Conclusion: While few people debate the obvious advantages of mobile learning .A research is required to confirm that employee at organization are actually attaining and consuming the talents that are being taught using mobile , and that Mobility is the one of the best way to achieve the outcomes in a organizational environment.

Keywords: M-Learning; Cloud Based Learning, Portable Device Based Learning, Digital Formats; Learning on Move

Ref #: 243/IND/13

Corporate social responsibility: a relationship between business organizations and the society

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Abstract

A very simple understanding of the word corporate social responsibility is that it is a relationship between business organizations and the society with which they interact. Under CSR, business organizations voluntarily embark on various developmental activities for the welfare of the society. CSR has assumed a new meaning in today's world, given that it has extended the boundaries of the firm into the society. But it is a highly misunderstood & misinterpreted term in India. Some Indian companies believe that merely complying with laws & regulations fulfills their need for social responsibility. A responsible corporate recognizes that its activities have wider impact on the society in which it operates.

Corporate social responsibility is one such niche area of corporate behavior & governance that needs to get aggressively addressed & implemented tactfully in the organizations. At the same time CSR is one effective tool that synergizes the efforts of corporate & the social sector agencies towards sustainable growth & development of the societal objectives at large.

This paper emphasizes that how CSR has become the linchpin for development of any corporate organizations. This paper tries to bring out CSR initiatives taken by various organizations in India. It will help the readers to understand the current state of Indian CSR, its impact on the Indian society.

Keywords: Business, CSR, Corporate, India, Responsibility.

Ref #: 244/IND/13

Relationship of Life Insurance with Sustainable Economic Development: An Empirical Analysis with Reference to India

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Abstract

Financial system plays an indispensable role in every country because of significant positive impact on total factor productivity, which is translated into sustainable economic development. In other words a well developed financial system influences savings and investment decisions resulting economic growth, via following functions: (i) mobilization of savings and investments; (ii) proper diversification and efficient management of risk; (iii) extension of alternative investment avenues at low cost; (iv) mitigating the negative consequences of random shock in financial market; and (v) expansion of trade and commerce. All these functions counteract the underlying imperfections in the financial market and hence reduce transaction costs, improve liquidity and solvency in the financial market which in turn promote economic development with more efficient allocation of available economic resources. The insurance sector is one of the main components of the financial system and is expected to contribute towards the sustainable economic development. Accordingly, the purpose of the study is to examine the relationship of life insurance with sustainable economic development with reference to India.

The relevant data concerning life insurance and economic development is collected and analyzed with the help of VAR-VECM model to find out the long-run and short-run relationship if any exists between life insurance and sustainable economic development in India. Besides this, the Granger Causality test is applied to suggest any causal relationship between these two.

Findings and Suggestions: This study found that the long-run relationship exists between life insurance and sustainable economic development in India. At the same time the result of the Granger Causality test also revealed that the life insurance sector improves the overall economic development in India. It is therefore recommended that government and insurance regulatory and development authority should create a good environment for insurance activities in India so as to accomplish the objective of sustainable economic development.

The study has both theoretical and practical implication not only for the life insurance sector but also for the Government of India (GOI) as well as for Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA). The study documented the long-run relationship between life insurance industry and economic development in India and found that the life insurance sector improves the overall economic development in India. These results will help GOI and IRDA to understand the implications of the life insurance market for sustainable economic development and accordingly both the GOI and IRDA will strive to create environment for the development of life insurance sector which will ultimately lead to the development of economy.

There is a dearth of literature on the relationship of insurance with Indian economic development, more specifically the relationship of life insurance sector with sustainable economic development. Accordingly, this is an attempt to study the relationship in the form of impact of life insurance development on sustainable economic development in India.

Keywords: Life insurance, Sustainable Economic Development, VAR, VECM, Granger Causality

Ref #: 248/IND/13

A qualitative decision-support model for evaluating Indian states and Union Territories

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Abstract

This paper “A qualitative decision-support model for evaluating Indian states and Union Territories” deals with hierarchically defining the requirements for sustainable development of India by analysing socio-economic indicators and presenting qualitative results. India is one of the most diversified nation in terms of social, cultural and economic factors. As per the International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) world economic database, 2012, India ranks as 10th largest economy in the world by nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 3rd largest in the world by its purchasing power parity. But, to develop a sustainable nation which is at peak of diversity requires further considerations at deeper levels rather than the global variables referred by GDP. Therefore, further sub-categories relating to the socio-economic development of India need to be considered to analyze the standard of living and development of its dwellers, who are the major stakeholders of any sustainable nation. This work deals with the development of qualitative parameters for measuring the overall current condition of states of India based on such socio-economic indicators using a multiple-attribute decision making (MADM) tool called DEXi. DEXi is a widely used decision making tool which provided an effective qualitative data for various important attributes concerning different states in India and their state of holistic development. DEXi is a complete shell for qualitative multi-attribute decision modeling and support. During the last decade, it has been applied several times in complex real-world decision-making. Further, Modified Digital Logic (MDL) is also used for assigning weights to different attributes to produce an effective and suitably weighed analytical results. The qualitative data is reasoned from actual quantitative data which is analyzed using DEXi. The socio-economic indicators used for the analysis are education; basic living, awareness and health care; economic status and energy consumption; crime and public protection and social status of women. These six main topics are further subdivided to make a deeper level in the hierarchy and henceforth, provide useful and ease to interpret qualitative results using linguistic terms. For e.g.; for any state, under the basic living, awareness and health care indicator; households having safe drinking water facility, households having permanent structure, media exposure, HIV awareness, hospitals (per unit population) and life expectancy at birth are the sub categories considered. The result of this in-depth MADM analysis provides the measurement of root socio-economic causes in different states of India. This work emphasizes on different weak points of the Indian states (including the capital; Delhi) and provides with different areas on which improvements can be made to for improving the conditions of states and nation as a whole. This analysis can be acted upon any developing nation which aims to find the variables effecting its socio-economic development. Hence, the work could be mainly used by developing nations like Asian nations like China and many African and European nations like Nigeria, Kenya, Somalia, etc. This study can help policy makers (for e.g.; for the amendments in energy policy) and higher level dignitaries involved in strategic development of five year plans to address to the issues of great importance.

Keywords: states, qualitative, DEXi, MADM, policy

Ref #: 250/IND/13

Glass ceiling of women in top management in organization: critical overview

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Abstract

With more and more women are being educated, confident, self-reliant, skilled, competent enough to give tough competition to their male counterparts in management sectors. But sadly despite all the existing legal provision women are still struggling more than ever to reach the top positions and this has been labelled glass ceiling. A research by International Labour Organization (Breaking through the Glass Ceiling 2004) being one of the most comprehensive international studies reveals that the attainment of top executive positions for females in the world in general and India in particular is complex.

Over a period of time number of highly educated women in the workforce has increased and in some way has achieved commendable success in male domain of the corporate world. However gender discrimination in working world has adversely affected the advancement of women. Women today comprise only 2 percent of the total managerial strength in the Indian Management sector. Although there is an increase in the female workforce but professional development opportunities for them remain negligible or not up to the mark. Thus we can say it is easier for females to enter the managerial jobs but it is all the more difficult to make progress regardless of her credentials.

This paper focuses on the reality of the glass ceiling, the invisible barrier that women experience in their upward career mobility which prevents them from reaching the top of the organization. Specific personal characteristics and activities are regulated to the background. The presupposed female stereotype dominates the relationship, since it's difficult to describe the career growth possibilities and upward mobility. Here we review some of the gender inequalities that lie behind the phenomenon of the glass ceiling. A major source of discrimination stems from strongly held attitudes towards women's and men's social roles and behaviour. If one compares the effective roles played by women and men rather than looking at women as an isolated group it becomes apparent that each has different access to resources, work opportunities and status. The consequences of gender inequalities include women being "crowded" into a narrow range of occupations where there is less responsibility and/or lower pay, or having to work part time where are fewer opportunities for advancement. While this situation can be explained to some extent by men's and women's perceptions of their respective social roles, these roles have in fact been undergoing substantial changes in recent decades. Labour force participation patterns of men and women, and social attitudes, have been gradually evolving to reflect these.

Keywords: Barrier, Glass Ceiling, executive positions, Succession Planning, Women Advancement.

Ref #: 256/IND/13

Participation of Women: A Case study in India

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Abstract

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion,.....birth or other status. However, it is the most unfortunate that women have suffered inferior position to men in almost all societies of world. In ancient India, the woman enjoyed equal status with men in all spheres of the life. Women of later periods spanning between the middle and modern ages have been denied their rightful place of honour and a vortex of innumerable caste and communal combinations, has paid scant regards for the education and welfare of women culminating in child marriage, sati, ban on widow marriage, and divorce, to name a few atrocities on them. The ability to challenge the subordination was seriously affected by the omission of women from positions of power in all its manifestations. The leaders of both pre and post independent India paid nothing but lip service to the upliftment of women in various walks of life including rightful representation in the legislatures, both at the centre and in the states, with the result that even now women do not enjoy place of pride in the power centres of legislation, administration and party leadership. At the international level also, on women's issues, women's political empowerment was at the center stage of all the discourses, but still, in any political system, participation of women is very low as compared to men right from the developed to developing countries. No doubt, the principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution. The Constitution of India guarantees adult franchise and provides full opportunities and framework for women to participate actively in politics. But it is pity that the decades following independence witnessed a decline in the participation of women in the politics. The state and society seem to be lagging behind in offering them political reservations that were long overdue. Of late, the Women's Reservation Bill has been a political ball for nearly a decade and half. It has always triggered heated debates within Parliament and outside. The proposed legislation to reserve 1/3rd seats in the Parliament and State Legislatures for women was drafted first by the H D Deve Gowda-led United Front government. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on September 12, 1996. Although it has been introduced in Parliament several times, the Bill could not be passed because of lack of political consensus. Though our Constitution and various other legislative enactments and different Commissions established for women from time to time have made a number of efforts for the achievement of the objective of gender equality, yet in actual practice, the planned efforts to emancipate women educationally, economically and particularly politically did not yield the desired results over the decades after independence. This paper deals with the women emancipation through its political participation. Realizing women's subjugation and subordination and affirmative discrimination against women in general there has emerged the need of their empowerment – both political and economic. The objective of this paper is to support and encourage the enactment of the Women's Political Reservation Bill. Additionally its aim is to stimulate the initiatives for stopping corruption, criminalization and communalization of politics, for enforcing stringent ceiling of funding expenses incurred for election campaigns and creating awareness in the society in order to inculcate the values of gender equality and gender justice. In order to achieve these objectives, the present work is based heavily on United Nations reports, International norms and conventions, Indian Constitutional provisions and other statutory enactments providing favourable laws rendering special privileges for the benefits of women, Government of India reports, NGO reports and important works by modern jurists who contributed a lot towards the evolution and growth of feminist jurisprudence and studies.

Keywords: Feminist Jurisprudence; Gender equality; Political Participation; Reservation; Women Empowerment.

Ref #: 259/IND/13

The path to a Sustainable Social Environment

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Abstract

*Only when the last tree has died
Only when the last river been poisoned
And only when the last fish been caught
Man will realize he cannot eat money.*

The world today is more advanced and progressive, thereby making it more dependent on technology, than it was as latest as a decade ago. In all these transitions, man has forgotten his primary role in society which is to live and let live. We allow our lives to be made more comfortable at the cost of other living things never once pausing to consider the harmful effects that might be caused. It may be a simple matter of whale harpooning or creating nuclear weapons for so-called 'self-defense'. What is the meaning of self-defense in a world where doom in the next half-century is evidently permanent? The purpose is to prove superiority over all other living creatures never once thinking that our dependence for survival as a species does depend on them too. The smallest plants are also responsible for our breathing and respiration. Smaller animals that depend on them are, in turn, fed upon by the larger creatures. The food cycle in this way represents the cycle of life by depicting the love for complexities of nature.

Sustainable development has come as an answer to the growing degradation of the Earth. We need to conserve resources not only for ourselves but also for generations to come and if we do not take any steps soon, the doomsday prophecies of the world ending by 2020 will come true because of our doings. We have taken everything for granted what has been provided by Mother Earth but unless we take concrete steps to minimize the damage we are inflicting on the Earth, we will reap the consequences sooner than we have imagined. Human species have forgotten the God of little things in their mad race for money and above all insatiable lust for the illusion of power.

The social effects that are faced by the mankind because of rapid development have led to social awkwardness and nervous behavioral environment. The ripple effect caused by the activities of man has within a short span of industrialization started to cause tremendous environmental repercussions like tornados, earthquakes, volcanoes and the like along with social harms like obesity, communicable and resistant germs, terrorism and so on. This environment of social and natural upheaval resembles hell as conceived by Dante centuries ago. It will not be long when the system sustains life on Earth collapses and the hell becomes a reality.

This research initially expounds on the realities facing the planet in terms of degradation, pollution, population explosion, social degradation and socio-political issues. The paper shall also discuss the faults and harms that are associated in these phenomena and also the positive aspect. It then, paves way for understanding the laws that India has domestically come up with to tackle these problems and compares it to the laws and privileges enjoyed by the developed western world on the same issue. The various international conventions and the praise-worthy work of voluntary international associations are also dealt with in detail in the paper. The paper in its next section takes a shift from legal aspects to purely social and behavioral impacts of the natural calamities and the resulting scarcity of the resources. Another important section that the research includes is the economic complexities and problems of trade resulting from the above listed ill-activities of man. This research concludes by making an appeal to the masses to take a holistic view on development.

Keywords: Appeal, Degradation, Holistic, Human-menace, Insatiable-greed

Ref #: 260/IND/13

Main Areas of Rural Development Policies

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Abstract

Rural areas, generally, include those parts of a country which are sparsely populated and are also isolated from the fast moving world which grows up rapidly. With low density of population, these people are self employed with small contribution to the National Income. Agriculture being the major source of income is in turn based on quality of land and the amount of rainfall that occurs during the season. This unstable source of income is the major reason for underdevelopment of these regions involving more than half of the population of the developing nations. Thus developing the quality of live and economic well being of the people living in rural areas form a major part of any development program of a country. Initially the development programs were centered at improving the land resources and increasing the agricultural outputs. However, changes in global production network and increased urbanization have changed the character of rural areas. Improved techniques of agricultural production, proper physical and social infrastructure, quality education and governance are, now, some of the basic requirement of a rural habitant. Thus there is need for the government to approach rural development with a wider perspective focusing on broader range of development goals.

This paper aims to identify the major areas of rural development and the major policies formed by the government to improve the conditions these areas. At present the basic requirement of the people in rural areas is much different than they used to be in 20th century. Now with agricultural development and poverty eradication, every development program also focuses at women empowerment, transportation and health facilities, drinking water and sanitation and waste land development. Policies with multidisciplinary approach are prominent. For example Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna aims at development of transportation facilities and also tries to provide maximum days of employment to rural people. The major flagship program of India MGNREGA promotes wage employment and thus helps in eradicating poverty. This paper has segmented the major areas of rural development and has tried to study the major policy formed for the development of the fields. It includes the effects of these programmes, an analysis that, how far these polices have helped in rural sustainable development.

The concern this paper has tried to raise is that how far the development of these major areas helped in developing the rural areas and whether these areas enough for rural development programmes or there are more where development is needed.

With praising some of the policies and criticizing others, the paper concludes that Indian rural areas have witnessed considerable growth due to development in these fields. But now since the time has changed and so does the requirements of the rural areas, government has to identify new fields of development. Not only India but also in foreign countries rural development forms a major part of their growth. Thus it is important to identify the major areas of rural development.

Keywords: employment, MGNREGA, poverty eradication, rural areas, rural development

Ref #: 261/IND/13

Social Aspect of Sustainable Development: A Comparative Study of South Asian Social Charter and Unfpa

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Abstract

The United Nations has been working on the sustainable development since 1972 when the Conference on Human Environment was held. Later, other initiatives like International Union for the Conservation of Natural Resources presented several views on conservation of natural resources in the form of reports etc. that constantly kept the limelight on the human development aspect and the challenges it may be posing to natural resources of this planet. The first conference on Environment and Development although was organised by the UN in 1992 at Rio de Janeiro. The conference adopted an Agenda 21 for the twenty first century in which it mentioned that "Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature." (Rio Declaration, Principle 1).

The Rio Declaration agreed and acknowledged the need for human development and higher living standards, but at the same time the declaration raised its voice in favour of a balanced approach of growth; a growth which is in harmony with nature. In its Principle 8 the Rio declaration mentioned: "To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate demographic policies." Similar idea was put forward by Inter-national Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo, Egypt, in 1994. It mentioned that: "Sustainable development as a means to ensure human well-being, equitably shared by all people today and in the future, requires that the interrelationships between population, resources, the environment and development should be fully recognized, appropriately managed and brought into harmonious, dynamic balance. To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate policies, including population-related policies, in order to meet the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." (ICPD Programme of Action, Chapter II, Principle 6)

The above mentioned initiatives taken by the United Nations had focus on people and their role in creating a balance between the human needs and protection of environment. Inferring from this a new debate or a new point of view emerged that believed that there is a strong social aspect of sustainable development and therefore, the efforts to deal with the sustainable development related issues respective societies have a great role to play. The UN's Department for Economic and Social Affairs highlighted wide concerns with population dynamics in 2010. Reportedly, more than two-thirds of the governments of the world's least developed countries have expressed major concerns with high population growth, high fertility and rapid urbanization. This is an otherwise ignored or less popular aspect of sustainable development which is fast gaining support among the experts and academicians. The United Nations in order to bring back the population agenda into the sustainable development discussion has identified the following points: (a) Population dynamics have a significant influence on sustainable development; (b) Efforts to promote sustainable development that do not address population dynamics have, and will continue to, fail; and, (c) Population dynamics are not destiny. Change is possible through a set of policies which respect human rights and freedoms and contribute to a reduction in fertility, notably access to sexual and reproductive health care, education beyond the primary level, and the empowerment of women.

The population aspect of sustainable development is much more applicable on the societies of south Asian region. In 2004 the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation adopted a Social Charter in which the social aspect of development has been addressed. This paper is an attempt to analyse this document of the region of South Asia vis-a-vis global concerns over sustainable development. The South Asian Social Charter in its Principles, Goals and Objectives reiterates the Rio Declaration's focus of keeping people at the centre point of all development. The Charter also speaks of the region's 'responsibility towards present and future generations by ensuring equity among generations, and protecting the integrity and sustainable use of the environment.

Keywords: South Asia, United Nations, Sustainable Development, Social Charter

Ref #: 263/IND/13

Sustainability and Impact of Environmental Pollution on Cultural and Religious Heritage of India

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Abstract

"All of life is interrelated. We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied to a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly." Martin Luther King Jr.

The concept of sustainable development and its relevance to the impact of pollution on heritage of any country is elaborated in these few words by Martin Luther King Jr. More than one hundred definitions of sustainable development exist, but the most widely used one is from the World Commission on Environment and Development, presented in 1987. It states that sustainable development is "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Sustainable development promotes the idea that social, environmental and economic progress, are all attainable within the limits of our earth's natural resources. Sustainable development approaches everything in the world as being connected through space, time and quality of life. The earth's connection to time is demonstrated in how we, today, are either benefitting or suffering from the choices of our grandparents and other ancestors, how the choices made in one generation effect the upcoming ages. In the paper, we study how the environmental pollution impacts the heritage of India - the basis of beliefs, culture, faith and religion in India. The choices that we make today, or even those that have been made in the preceding decades of technological advancements and industrial boom, that pollute the environment, and tend to harm the vicinity that we belong to and also that has passed on from generations to us as a legacy of our culture and traditions and has to go down the generations. The sustainability of these monuments and elements of heritage and pride, which though are artificial in nature, but down the years has become as much a part of our natural environment as the genetic environment, is as important and relevant as the latter. It is pertinent to note that Indian culture denotes much importance to the natural resources as a part of their religion by worshipping them. Nevertheless, sustainability of these resources also forms a part of the paper. Furthermore, the paper discusses certain initiatives taken by the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests in this regard. The role of Judiciary in this field is significant in worthy to be noted and appreciated. Certain recommendations in this regard mark the end of the paper.

Keywords: Environment, Heritage, Impact, Pollution, Sustainable.

Ref #: 265/IND/13

Equality and Social Justice: Is Affirmative Action in India Justified?

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Abstract

In ancient India, the people were divided into four classes namely; *Brahmins*, *Kshatriyas*, *Vaishyas* and *Shudras*. The Shudras were considered as untouchables, and were excluded all together from the society. After thousands of years, with the help of many social movements, a revolution was brought up. Mahatma Gandhi, B.R Ambedkar, J.L Nehru, and many other freedom fighters confronted the caste system and when our constitution was being framed, a special provision was made under Article 46, Article 15(4), Article 16(4) and few others for the uplifting of these backward classes.

The government under prime minister V P Singh, on the basis of the findings of second backward class commission reserved 27% seats for socially & backward classes on 13th August 1990. The decision caused a civil disturbance throughout India, and there was a huge loss of persons and property. Public Interest litigation was filed in the supreme court of India and decided in *Indira Sawhney v/s Union of India* AIR 1993 SC 477 in favor of the union of India, although certain regulations were imposed upon the reservations.

This reservation of seats in educational institutes and government jobs has faced the most opposition in the recent times. The protagonists of the reservation system say that affirmative action compromises for the discrimination of past policies, which have left a legacy of unequal caste representation in the society. Those who opposes the reservations says that it is against their right to equality, and even though there was injustice against the lower caste people in the past, but that does not mean that reverse discrimination is the way to heal it.

The main objective of this research is to discover if the present system of reservations in India is justified. Since, the issue of affirmative action, is directly related to the question as to "What is Equality?" it was considered necessary to answer that question first. The research takes into account mainly three concepts, namely, 'Libertarianism' by Robert Nozick, 'Nicomachean ethics' by Aristotle, and 'A Theory of Justice' by John Rawls along with others, to figure out 'what is equality?'. However, this part of the research has a limitation, since it is an ethical approach, which is relative, and not everyone may agree with the conclusion, however a proper reasoning is provided as a justification for the conclusion reached.

The research paper considers various statistics provided by Census of India, National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), and other data provided by the union and state ministries, to figure out the present situation of backward classes, and the implementation of reservation policies. The research paper, apart from the theories and statistics, also records and considers the statements of few people who are directly or indirectly affected by the reservation policies (backward people, students and their parents, etc.) in order to really know, how the reservation policies effects the citizen of the country, and how far have they actually succeeded.

In the end, it was established that affirmative action promotes equality in opportunity, but the implementation in India has failed to show any desirable result, it has rather become a tool for political parties to fill their vote banks, the backward class people still suffers, and untouchability still persists.

Although the research is focused on the sociological analysis of affirmative action implemented in India, it has a much generalized approach in reasoning, and even a part of the conclusion states the repercussions of affirmative action in general, apart from being specifically for India.

The research paper suggest some political and social reforms to be implemented in future, so that affirmative action can bring positive result, and helps in establishing an egalitarian society. Even though the title suggests so, the research paper is not aimed at justifying affirmative action, but only makes a persuasive argument for accepting and implementing affirmative action for the overall benefit of the society.

Keywords: Affirmative Action; Equality; Caste System; Positive Discrimination; Reservations in India.

Ref #: 268/IND/13

Livelihood status index: A tool for policy planning and development in a developing country

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Abstract

The level of development in Gujarat is not uniform in terms of spatial distribution and across sectors. The tribal districts of the state are lagging behind in socio economic terms, these districts have low food grain productivity, low milk productivity, higher level of poverty and low female literacy. Although Gujarat is emerging as an important state in agricultural and industrial front, the benefit of green revolution has not reached to rural and tribal people in the districts which are rainfed, drought prone, flood affected with hilly terrain and mountainous. Gujarat needs to adopt an employment-intensive and environment friendly development plane for broad based development, which could help the state to achieve sustainable development. Hence, to strike a balanced regional development, an integrated approach for sustainability of livelihood of these disadvantaged people has become imperative. Keeping this in view, the present study aims to examine the level of livelihood status in Gujarat.

The level of livelihood status of all the regions as well as districts of Gujarat have been measured using Prem Narayan's methodology with the help of composite index based on the optimum combination of five different sub-indices of Agricultural Status, Infrastructure Status, Health and Sanitation Status, Economic Status and Food Availability Status in respective regions and districts. The study was based on secondary data for the year 2010 on total 69 variables of five different sectors. The findings revealed that there exists regional disparity in Gujarat. The region of Kutchh which has shown low value for most of the sub-indices including the integrated livelihood status index needs an urgent attention of policy makers as well as of the state government especially in the field of agricultural sector as balanced growth in agricultural sector is essential for overall stability of the economy. The district of Dang which was being concerned backward and categorized under tribal districts of Gujarat was found highly developed in their livelihood status this is because of higher resource availability with respect to the lower proportion of population. Seven districts namely Bhavnagar, Surendranagar, Panchmahal, Dahod, Surat, Banaskantha and Patan accounting for about 34 per cent of the total population of the state were found low developed in livelihood status. The correlation between livelihood status and the status of all other sectors were found positive among which the infrastructure and economic sectors were found highly associated with livelihood status. For bringing about uniform regional development, model districts have been identified for low developed districts. Measuring the livelihood status will help in identifying the priorities for development and it will facilitate the consensus among different partisan groups like economists, environmentalists and egalitarians by balancing their mutual concerns for sustainable development.

Keywords: Development indicators, Livelihood status, Model districts, Regional disparity, Sub-indices

Ref #: 269/IND/13

Information Technology vis-a-vis Environment: A Major Concern

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Abstract

Information has changed our society remarkably in the last few years. Although its effects on our everyday lives are obvious but the effects that this technology may have on the environment are much less clear and seldom talked about. Our planet is facing environmental crisis. The digital revolution affects the environment on several levels. Most directly, information technology has environmental impacts through the manufacturing, operation and disposal of devices and network equipment, but it also provides ways to mitigate energy use, for example through smart buildings and teleworking. At a broader system level, Information Technology influence economic growth and bring about technological and societal change. Managing the direct impacts of Information Technology is more complex than just producing efficient devices, owing to the energetically expensive manufacturing process, and the increasing proliferation of devices needs to be taken into account. Environment deterioration is a challenge the world is facing as a whole. This paper is an attempt to explore the impact of Information Technology on environment. The paper will be divided into four parts. The first part of the paper will focus on increasing dependency on information technology and how it has become important in our day to day life. The second part of the paper will be focus on how information technology is becoming a major reason for environmental degradation. The paper will further highlight both positive and negative impacts of technology. The third part of the paper will take into consideration that whether law can play a role in controlling the environmental degradation. And finally the fourth part of the paper will highlight some suggestion how technology and environment can go hand in hand.

Keywords: digital revolution, environmental degradation, information technology, technological and societal change

Ref #: 275/IND/13

Sustainable construction for survival and safety of flood affected stakeholders

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Abstract

Floods are responsible for loss of crops, valuable properties and untold misery in the world. India is one of the flood affected countries being ranked second after Bangladesh. Occurrence of flood is quite a common problem everywhere and its frequency is highly increased nowadays. Due to regular study over floods, it has been identified that Ballarpur town of Chandrapur District, Maharashtra State, India, is subjected to frequent floods as Wardha River is flowing in the region. Wardha River is a perennial river and is the tributary of Wainganga River which is the major river of India. Ballarpur town is situated on the left bank of the River and is repeatedly attacked by the flood. In early days, the area faced the flood after 8-10 years, but now they are facing the situation every year or alternate years. Every year lives of the area are saved due to evacuation however, clothes, furniture, food items, utensils, electronics goods etc. gets badly damaged. The inhabitants of the area are poor people and it is difficult for them to tolerate such losses. Also, the people cannot adopt any expensive alternative as their earning is less. So for such people, a sustainable construction should be developed that would be economical and under their reach. Construction of a major or minor hydraulic flood protecting structure is not feasible and also expensive. It depends on the soil characteristics and also requires huge funds. Remote sensing, Geographical Information System (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) are widely applied in different ways for flood hazard preparedness, planning and management. GIS mapping and zoning are carried out and the area with higher risks are identified and are given prime importance during flood. Thus to provide remedial measure for such flood prone area, a detailed investigation should be carried out. Responses through questionnaires during face to face interviews with stakeholders may reveal different engineered and non-engineered parameters like type of house, house details, floor level, top level, submergence of houses and property lost during flood, High Flood Level (HFL), photograph of the house etc. Level difference between HFL and floor level will reflect the submergence of the house. This database can be made available for any other kind of related decision making, for example for any specified HFL which houses would be affected, how many people would be affected etc.

So to save livelihood of such poor people, an elevated bamboo house could be one of the economical alternative. As the people are residing very near to the river banks, plantation of bamboos, its use as construction material and small scale revenue generation would be highly appreciated.

The paper is based on requirement of specific identified flood prone area of Maharashtra State, India. However, it can be applied for similar situation rationally. This methodology can be applied for any flood prone region and would help in planning and preparedness to respond whenever a flood occurs.

Keywords: Global Positioning System (GPS), Geographical Information System (GIS), Mapping and Zoning, Questionnaire, Submergence, Sustainable, Stakeholders

Ref #: 282/IND/13

Novelty IPR segregation as means of sustainable development

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Abstract

Since the creation of earth, the mankind has come a long way. Riding the wave of various inventions and innovations, we have crafted a world full of pleasure and luxuries. Something new is being invented in every nook and corner of the world every day.

In order to protect the interest of such inventors and interests of humanity at large, human race has formulated various laws and organizations for protection/enforcement of these laws. These laws protects the monetary interests of the creator and compensates the time and money cost incurred in the research and development. The world on the other hand, gets to use the latest technology but of course after paying patent royalty.

Intellectual property rights (IPR) laws have so far served as a fantastic tool to both creators and users. It has helped in generating breakthrough technology solutions available to world population. This provides solution to various problems that posed challenge to human race.

Although we are still uncertain if the Intellectual property rights(IPR) are the perfect solution to the bigger challenges that we are about to face. We are yet to evaluate whether IPRs are worth the amount of resources (time, labor & money) put in the creation process. There are also several loopholes faced at the time of expiry of IPR e.g. the creator can make minor modifications in the existing process and may file it as a new patent (*diabetes drug issue by international Drug Major Glaxo-smith-kline*) thus using laws for personal benefits by exploiting the current system.

Such instances not only defeat the core purpose of these laws and spirit of their constitution but also create threat to the vast natural resources at disposal. One wrong patent or usage of obsolete process could lead to huge wastage of resources.

Plastic/polythene patents for example have lead to one of the biggest mistake of mankind. Though it has provided many benefits but the hazard it has brought are not ignorable.

The time has come that the law makers become more responsible in their approach. Both pros and cons of a patent should be evaluated at the time of providing sanctions. The IPR should be evaluated not only on “short term solution centric” point of view but from “futuristic sustainable development” perspective as well.

This research paper discusses the feasibility of penalizing old/obsolete processes and using the same exchequer for subsidizing the new product/process inventions. Moreover, it also emphasizes on sustainable development over short term solutions and the role that IPR laws can play in bringing such a change.

Keywords: Feasibility, IPRs, obsolete, sustainable, solution.

Ref #: 284/IND/13

Advance Sustainable Development of Children Vis-À-Vis Pending Bills in India

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Abstract

Sustainable development is a mode to preserve our earth for our children who are the future of any nation. Our actions of today will determine the future of our children tomorrow. But various problems such as poverty, lack of education, natural resources, malnourishment etc hinder our way of progress and development. There is a need to overcome these challenges irrespective of one's caste, race, gender, language, religion, origin, financial status, place of birth etc for sustainable development as investment in children today will bear fruitful results tomorrow. The obligation is cast not only on the State but also the people not to encroach upon the rights of the others.

In India, a total of fourteen Bills relating to the rights of the children are pending before the Parliament. Convention on the Rights of the Child was accessed by India on 11 December 1992 and it inter alia undertook to take measures to progressively implement the provisions of article 32 of the Convention, particularly paragraph 2 (a), in accordance with its national legislation and relevant international instruments to which it is a State Party. Article 32 specifically protects children from economic exploitation and prohibits their employment as it interferes with the child's education, or it can be harmful to his health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. It specifically deals with providing for a minimum age for admission to employment; appropriate regulation of the hours and conditions of employment and to provide for appropriate penalties or other sanctions to ensure the effective enforcement of the present article.

In relation to Article 32 of the convention the three main proposed Bills namely; Abolition of Child Labour Bill, 2013, The Child Welfare Bill, 2013 and The Child Labour (Prohibition And Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2012 will be analysed in the paper along with their repercussions and suggestions.

The age factor of a child in India has been an ambiguous matter as there is disparity in the age of child under different enacted statutes and the pending bills. In certain legislations, a child is considered to be one who is below eighteen years whereas in others, it is below fifteen years, in some, below fourteen years. In the pending bills a further categorization has been made with respect to adolescents as well which further makes the proposed bills in contradiction with the already existing Indian enactments. The paper is an attempt to inter alia cover such anomalies of age and its consequences apart from lack of fund, scope of complete prohibition of employment for children and the extent of compliance with international standards.

The paper will also cover the comparative analysis of provisions of the Constitution of India and the other already existing relevant statutes relating to the rights of the children such as Indian Majority Act 1875, Indian Succession Act 1925, Mines Act 1952, Beedi and Cigar Workers Act 1966, Factories Act 1948, The Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1933, Merchant Shipping Act 1958, etc. The paper will also endeavour to cover the observations by the author in the form of repercussions and suggestions and the same will be supported by data gathered from the official websites and publications of the government of India, Journals of national and international repute, parliamentary debates, newspapers etc. The paper will also help the international fraternity in understanding the rights of children in India and their applicability through the prism of international standards set through various international conventions and documents.

Keywords: Age, Bills, Children, Sustainable and Parliament

Ref #: 287/IND/13

Honour Killings: Where's the Honour?

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Abstract

Humans sustain on food but they thrive on honour, dignity and respect. Every person wants to live the life with an honour. But, who can tell what this honour is? The question itself is confusing, where to get the answer of this. Killing for honour? Can it be justified on any possible ground? Possibly not. But somewhere killing one's own daughter, sister, niece is justified, as their honour was dismantled when she married a boy of a community rendered undesired by them. The people, particularly in north-west Indian states of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, have evolved this term in such a way, which have made it a preposterous one. The stringent rules of marriage owing to the deep-rooted caste system in the society and on the top of it, the religion issues in and within the communities have whelped an inside-the-family crime in these areas. In Hindu law, marriage is considered as a sacrament, it declares the wedding bond to be a pure one, lasting for births to come. But where this sacrament steps beyond the caste-religion-status boundary, the pious bond is thrashed away very soon by the family or the rural community. Khaap Panchayats have a very important role in this direction, and they play it otherwise. Being against such marriages, they also stand as a party in these murders. The problem is the deep-rooted one, and needs a serious attention to be paid towards it.

Development of society directly links to the living of its individuals, they are the one making it happen. Sustainable development of humans and society as a whole, in the community where shackles of old unwanted customs made by the influential powerful persons in the past still tie the lives of innocent married couples seems unthinkable. Off late, government with the help of media and certain organizations has made a helpful bit to these couples to ensure their safety. But still, greater part remains unachieved, i.e. change of outlook of the society towards thing crime. The article deals with the issues, causes and certain ways to erode away such happenings from the society, making it a free and good place to live in, heading towards sustainable development of society, lasting long.

Keywords: Caste System, Honour Killings, Khaap Panchayats, Sacrament, Sustainable Development

Ref #: 293/IND/13

A Scenario of Street Children in Ludhiana City

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Abstract

Children live and work on the street because their parents are poor, they are orphans, or they have run away from home, often to escape abuse. They are invariably malnourished, receive scant education and medical treatment, and are involved in child labour from an early age. The term street children refer to children for whom the street has become their real home. They are not necessarily being homeless or without families, but live in situations without protection, supervision, or direction from responsible adults. Street children face difficulties in providing themselves with good sources of food, clean drinking water, health care services, toilets and bath facilities, and adequate shelter. They also suffer from absence of parental protection and security; there is a lack of any kind of moral and emotional support. There are a number of factors that lead children to living on the street. One root cause that has been identified is poverty. Problems faced by street children are overwhelming. In addition to living and working in environments that are generally harmful to their well-being, street children face problems such as hunger, lack of adequate shelter, clothes, and other basic needs, as well as lack of (or limited) educational opportunities, health care, and other social services. Observing the present scenario of street children in Ludhiana city, the study aims to determine the working hours of street children spending in street activities. The study was based on 160 street children aged 9-12 years equally distributed over gender by administering a self-structured Interview Schedule. The study was conducted in different locations of Ludhiana city viz, railway station, bus stand, traffic lights, nearby markets etc. Home based street children was purposively selected by using snowball sampling technique. The result of the study highlighted that that boys usually work for longer duration as compared to girls. Major proportion (46.25%) of street children work for 1-6 hours a day in street whereas 28.75 per cent children work for 6-9 hours and 25.00 per cent spent 9-12 hours a day to earn their day to day living. Majority of the children (56.25) were hit by motorbike whereas 18.75 per cent of them were hit by car and 12.50 per cent of the respondent were hit by bicycle and fell down from bus respectively. Information regarding children attending school revealed that out of the 160 street children, 54 respondents were attending school. All of the 54 respondents were reported to be attending government school.

Keywords: Children at risk Child abuse, Homeless children, Street children, vulnerable group.

Ref #: 301/IND/13

Criminal Investigation in Criminal Justice System: A Comparative Study

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Abstract

Criminal justice system is a sine qua non for development of any society. Criminal investigation is an indispensable part of this system. The criminal investigation is directly linked with establishment of sound criminal justice system and maintaining peace in the society. This paper analyses the different components of criminal investigation. The scope of this paper is limited to the investigative aspects of conventional crimes like murder, rape, assault, bride burning, robbery and theft etc. It has been estimated that from one-third to one half of all the serious crimes are not reported due to a variety of reasons, including intimidation and harassment of victims. It is generally felt that the Criminal Justice System in our country is in a very sad state. Hardly six or seven percent cases go up for trial, result in conviction. It means either that too many innocent persons are prosecuted unnecessarily or that a high percentage of guilty persons are being acquitted due to some shortcomings in the system. Either way the position is unacceptable. The police forces of different states, formed under the respective police Acts of such states, are the main organs who are assigned with duty of investigating conventional crimes. The Supreme Court in *State of Bihar V. JAC Saldanha and others 1980 (1)SCC 554*, observed that there is a clear-cut and well demarcated sphere of activity in the field of crime detection and punishment. Investigation of an offence is the field exclusively reserved for the executive through the Police Department the superintendence over which vest in the State Government. The executive who is charged with a duty to keep vigilance over Law and Order situation is obliged to prevent crime and if the offence is alleged to have been committed, it is its bounded duty to investigate into the offence and bring the offender to book.

Under the legal system in the United States of America and England, there are definite series of steps that are taken in the handling of any person who is believed to have violated the Law. This procedure has been set-up by the courts and the legislatures. In this process, a number of rights and safeguards are guaranteed to every accused person. The process is started by the commission of the crime. It proceeds through the investigation by the appropriate police agency, to a decision to prosecute, to an arrest, to detention in jail or freedom to await trial while out on bail, to the criminal trial, to the sentencing, to the serving of the sentence or to release on probation, to a return to freedom on the street. The paper is divided into different parts. The first one is introductory in nature. The other parts deal with the powers of investigation, abuse of such powers and recommendations for improving the position. A comparative study has also been made with investigative organs of other countries. The last part is concluding in nature.

Keywords: Criminal justice system, Supreme court, State Government, Law, Police Department.

Ref #: 303/IND/13

Main Areas of Rural Development Policies

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Abstract

Rural areas, generally, include those parts of a country which are sparsely populated and are also isolated from the fast moving world which grows up rapidly. With low density of population, these people are self employed with small contribution to the National Income. Agriculture being the major source of income is in turn based on quality of land and the amount of rainfall that occurs during the season. This unstable source of income is the major reason for underdevelopment of these regions involving more than half of the population of the developing nations. Thus developing the quality of live and economic well being of the people living in rural areas form a major part of any development program of a country. Initially the development programs were centered at improving the land resources and increasing the agricultural outputs. However, changes in global production network and increased urbanization have changed the character of rural areas. Improved techniques of agricultural production, proper physical and social infrastructure, quality education and governance are, now, some of the basic requirement of a rural habitant. Thus there is need for the government to approach rural development with a wider perspective focusing on broader range of development goals.

This paper aims to identify the major areas of rural development and the major policies formed by the government to improve the conditions these areas. At present the basic requirement of the people in rural areas is much different than they used to be in 20th century. Now with agricultural development and poverty eradication, every development program also focuses at women empowerment, transportation and health facilities, drinking water and sanitation and waste land development. Policies with multidisciplinary approach are prominent. For example Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna aims at development of transportation facilities and also tries to provide maximum days of employment to rural people. The major flagship program of India MGNREGA promotes wage employment and thus helps in eradicating poverty. This paper has segmented the major areas of rural development and has tried to study the major policy formed for the development of the fields. It includes the effects of these programmes, an analysis that, how far these polices have helped in rural sustainable development.

The concern this paper has tried to raise is that how far the development of these major areas helped in developing the rural areas and whether these areas enough for rural development programmes or there are more where development is needed.

With praising some of the policies and criticizing others, the paper concludes that Indian rural areas have witnessed considerable growth due to development in these fields. But now since the time has changed and so does the requirements of the rural areas, government has to identify new fields of development. Not only India but also in foreign countries rural development forms a major part of their growth. Thus it is important to identify the major areas of rural development.

Keywords: employment; MGNREGA; poverty eradication; rural areas; rural development

Ref#: 308/IND/13

Sustainable Development and Human Rights: An Analysis

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Abstract

The concept of sustainable development has in the past most often been broken out into three constituent parts:- environmental sustainability, economic sustainability and socio-political sustainability, The term '**sustainable development**' was used by the **Brundtland Commission**, which **coined what has become the most often-quoted definition of sustainable development: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"**. Sustainable development is a noble and necessary aspiration. Sustainable development refers to a mode of human development in which resource use aims to meet human needs while ensuring the sustainability of natural systems and the environment so that these needs can be met not only in the present, but also for generation to come. Sustainable development ties together concern for the carrying capacity of natural systems with the social challenges facing humanity. U.N. Commission on Human Rights in its various resolutions & Rio Declaration on Environment and Development emphasize that Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development and the promotion of the environmentally healthy world contributes to the protection of the human right to life and health of everyone.

Late 20th century environmental problems were now becoming global awareness both for the environment and human life. This paper discusses national and international concern regarding the environmental issues with human rights perspectives & explores the relation between sustainable development and human rights which is essential for every human being as part of dignified life.

Keywords: Global awareness, UN commission, Rio declaration, environment

Collective Management of Copyrights: WIPO deliverable to LDC's for sustainable IP Development

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Abstract

Intellectual property (IP) has gained an unprecedented importance in a globalizing world where knowledge and innovation are key drivers of growth and prosperity. At the same time, the role of IP in relation to public policy objectives and development goals has come to the forefront of a vigorous policy debate. In the online world of the new millennium, the management of rights is taking on a new dimension. Protected works are now digitized, compressed, uploaded, downloaded, copied and distributed on the Internet to any place in the world. The expanding power of this network allows mass storage and online delivery of protected material. While this presents immeasurable opportunities, there are also many challenges for owners, users and collective management organizations.

In the era of the knowledge-based economy; efforts to build intellectual property systems, the LDCs faced certain severe constraints, such as a shortage of resources, a weak intellectual property infrastructure, a lack of skilled personnel and inadequate information on the various treaties and conventions in the field of intellectual property. The lack of sustainable institution-building in the field of IP in the LDCs is attributable among other things to their weak productive capacity and competitiveness. Introduction of special measures to encourage the modernization and development of national IP institutions, to opportunity to evolve a new strategy of cooperation for development; that new strategy should be driven by a desire to find innovative approaches to the design of programs that will enhance the productive capacity of the LDCs and their competitiveness in a rapidly evolving global context.

The Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) endeavored to deliberate on the forward-looking theme of "Innovation, Knowledge Society, Intellectual Property and the Least Developed Countries," with a view to articulating policy and technical issues thereby contributing to institution-building in the area of intellectual property in the LDCs. The transfer of knowledge to the LDCs as part of WIPO's contribution to the eradication of poverty in the LDCs; to participate actively on the wealth-creation effect of traditional knowledge, folklore and genetic resources; to encourage invention and innovative activities in the LDCs; to promote the establishment of collective management societies Intellectual property are conducive to development that improves the living conditions of the people in the LDCs.

Moving on with the above mentioned strategy; WIPO has adopted an progressive approach for the LDCs to: create a set of national collective management societies for copyright and related rights; link national societies of the LDCs via the Internet to a center so that the hardware, software, management and data resources required by each society may be shared, with support services common to all the societies being provided by the center. This arrangement avoids much of the duplication of resources. The current paper would contemplate WIPO's endeavors for LDC's empowering the LDC's with the technology, intellectual property thereby providing a viable platform for sustainable IP development.

Keywords: Intellectual property, knowledge-based economy, sustainable institution-building

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**Civil responsibility for environmental damage
A comparative approach: France, Canada and China**

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Abstract

This paper examines three different approaches for ascribing responsibility for environmental damage through the application of civil law, rather than criminal or administrative law. In Canada, it is the judge made common law that governs civil responsibility. The classic doctrines of nuisance, strict responsibility, trespass to land and riparian rights have been used by the judges to determine fault and to order that the tortfeasor pay damages. In France and China, that responsibility is found in their Civil Code. The concepts of fault, sans faute des choses, liability for defective products will play various roles, depending on which system. Different rules govern reparations. In all three systems, the rules for civil liability for environmental damage have been found to be unsatisfactory and supplemented with administrative and criminal mechanisms.

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Save for Tomorrow

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Abstract

Twezimbe is a village savings and loan association (VSLA) formed by COTFONE comprised of many HIV/AIDS infected women who have to take care of AIDS Orphans and other Vulnerable Children (OVC) as single mothers however, due to the impoverished conditions, low purchasing power and HIV/AIDS has led to vicious circle of household incomes in rural Uganda and Sub-Saharan country-side with such problems.

Through Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) which is the process of transforming knowledge, skills or ideas for the long term sustainability of programmes and affecting positive change in those rural Ugandans and sub-Saharan HIV/AIDS African women as of TWEZIMBE VSLA which is the case study, there has been active involvement of the beneficiaries in education, implementation, generation of ideas, sustainability and active involvement through hands on participation.

For more than five (5) years now, The Group TWEZIMBE (85% female membership) has Sustainable Social and Human Development more than any other group in the area through Village Savings and Loan Scheme where it begun to save 3 weeks after intensive 5 day training in community managed micro-finance and start-up kit through the purchase of shares and other contributions. These members majority women are now able to take out substantial loans for joint family businesses, school fees, buy property as well as medical for opportunistic infections among others to re-union peace, stability and development of their families and communities.

The study comprised of 26 members (85%) who are HIV/AIDS infected and affected women of TWEZIMBE VSLA (widows),and through economic strengthening initiative using Education for Sustainable Development, and each of the 26 members was trained, equipped with saving, borrowing and investment skills; the members are allowed to purchase shares between 1 and 5 every month each at Uganda shillings 5,000 (\$2); the raised share capital, social fund and a fine fund which is operated at each month's sitting and revolves according to the available resources; social fund contribution is compulsory to each member is raised by every member present at each month sitting at an agreed rate and this money in the fund is loanable out for a period of only one month to cater for member's social problems; the fine funds is funded by fins from late coming or unjustified late absence in monthly meetings and the funds therefore through meager are added to the share capital and loaned out to members; and the share capital and fine fund resources are loanable to members at 5% interest for a period of 3 months.

There was a steady rate of growth in mean monthly and annual gross rate of growth in share capital in Twezimbe VSLA and every member beefed up her monthly social fund subscription in five years of operation. There was steady growth as the loan basket/facility for the VSLA grew USD. 1832.50 (1st year) to USD. 5217.4 (5th year).Membership commitment and subscription to the social fund grew from 8 people fully subscribed members (May 2008) to 40 fully subscribed members (2013).

It was therefore, observed that Sustainable Social and Human Development through economic strengthening using VSLA model serves best in semi-illiterate and unskilled (primary school drop-outs) rural women/mothers as these tend to easily read, write and do simple calculations, as Twezimbe VSAL 9case study) 65.4 % members fall under this category. The secondary school drop-outs and unskilled rural mothers rank second in the membership registering 15.4% and highly learned and qualified women and mothers do not participate in VSLA membership; rural peasant (subsistence farmers) mothers/women in the age bracket of 32-39 years are most active and better performers in VSLA; Share capital increases over time in respect to personal impetus but the more VSLA members contribute, borrow and participate, the more they invest and thus an increase in share capital and VSLA profits from the interest from loans; the fine fund disciplines/encourages VSLA members with a commitment culture as they do not to be fined for simple reasons and the more they are fined ,the more the share capital as this fine fund is an additional to the loan/share capital; each VSLA financial cycle comprises of 12 months operational months, after which period members share the profits from the share capital, and the accumulated funds from the social fund and shares goes back to the respective shareholder or contributor at the close each annual business.

Keywords: Africa, COTFONE, Development, HIV/AIDS, Women



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