

EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

Quest for excellence in human life is the cardinal and ultimate concern of social science political science as a branch of social science is also no exception to this goal. Perhaps due to this very concern political scientists in all the ages have deliberated over various dimensions of authority, polity, individual state relationship, community life etc with a view to ascertain good governance.

In the present era of globalization the most perturbing issue is environmental degradation due to which future of human rights of a healthy, secure and pollution free life is increasingly sliding into jeopardy that is why the most commonly discussed issue in contemporary society is weather planet earth is suitable for healthy living of mankind this million dollar question is a burning topic in carious discourses both within and beyond the United Nations. The moot point is how long globalization and environmental degradation will go side by side. If globalization is irreversible process and is inevitable mantra for development then its implications for environment also cannot be ignored after all industrialization, free trade and development all are meant for raising the standard of the life of the people so there is a dire need of serious pondering over the impact of new industrialization on over environment and human life.

It is undeniable a fact that entire world today witness a horrendous scenario of environmental degradation in the wake of globalization the rise of new industrialization after 1980s preceded by dismantling of socialist block and the retreat of the welfare state has begot a trained of aggressive assertion of free market philosophy. The so called triumph of liberalism has resulted in the hegemony of deregulated and competitive market in which prioritization of growth have trampled social objectives of development as the new industrialization let by the multi nationals have a scent regard for environment it is evident from their consistent violation of environmental laws. The growing tentacles of multinational companies (M.N.Cs) and their expanding production empire largely contributes of critical ecological scenario because they little compunction for environmental responsibility, their scramble for raw materials such as iron ores manganese, zinc, bauxite, oil and gas etc has resulted in uncontrollable environmental degradation in the form of deforestation, soil erosion, land degradation and depletion of fresh water. U.N statistic depict that developed countries which account for 20% of the world population consume 85% of the worlds timber 75% of processed metal and 70% energy. The rapid of natural resources has left an indelible imprint of destruction in the form of tracts of land and erosion of vast area of earth's surface, this erosion is higher than the natural erosion caused by river.

There is no end of damage to environment it is not confined to incessant exploitation of natural resources rather trade and transportation are also very significant factor for causing environmental hazards. Owing to expanding trade activities the quantum of transportation has also increased many folds resulting in unprecedented rise in consumption of fossil fuels, its combustibility releases large volumes to gas and causing severe air pollution. In addition to it the growing number of vehicles further raises the demand for more and more consumptions of fuels and account for traffic jam and vitiating the atmosphere.

Consumerism is another major gift of globalization which has raised the demand for more and more consumer items. The profit motive of multinationals and in satiated desire of the people for more and more consumer goods inspire large scale production of goods it finally leads to expansion of chain of industries who tend to usurp maximum natural recourses for producing finished goods. The net outcome of such acts are seen in feeling of trees for manufacturing of paper, furniture, paints cloth etc similarly coal and oil are mind for producing excessive electricity the primary commodities are being recycled into consumer items this trend has let to about 18 times increase in global consumption materials. The third world countries are exposed to the worst kind of exploitation at the hands of the M.N.Cs who not only find it convenient to operate in third world countries because of lenient environmental laws and availability of cheap labor.

Growing production of pesticides, medicines, mineral processing and nuclear energy etc have also done harm to human ecology by generating more toxic gases and effluents of course treatment plants for biodegradable effluents (chemical and nuclear) pose a critical challenge to environment by polluting air water and land in the neighboring areas of the industries.

Heavy industrialization liberalization trade and urbanization have in many ways disturbed the ecological balance. It is due to heavy industrialization and growing consumerism exploitation of water resources has grown many folds. Besides irrigation in agriculture, industrial and private use growing demand for food and infrastructure building activities are also accountable for rising water consumption. Expansion of organization has led to over dependence on ground water. Earlier agriculture was food oriented and it was more for subsistence but in modern times it is being used for cash crops, available statistics pertaining to changing cropping pattern shows diminishing production of traditional crops and hike in production of cash crops so this pattern of agriculture requires more water than earlier secondly due to enlargement of urbanization agrarian land is transferred for building construction the real estate venture is also responsible for spoiling agrarian land and depletion of ground water. The fast urban sprawl is consuming even wet land and small ponds disturbing hydrological regime, the conversion of water locked wet land to dry land results in everlasting danger to both surface and ground water effecting the drainage system flood control replenishment of ground water and furthering salt water and furthering salt water intrusion thus in the name of development a great damage has been done to flora and fauna as well as bio diversity. Construction of big dams, deforestation, illegal mining, over fishing, disturbing the natural spots in the name of amusement parks are consequences for irregular rain, climate change, flood and all kinds of natural disaster etc.

In a nut shell globalization has unleashed the forces of destruction in the name of development and seems to take away the basic human right of safe drinking water and healthy living from the mankind the seriousness of the environmental problem captured the attention of the world in the late 20th century. Consequently U.N conference on Human Environment 1972, Kyoto Summit, Earth Summit, Johannesburg Summit 2002 were held to deliberate over the global problem of environment and explore the remedial measures but for want of unanimity and wasted interests of the industrialized nations sustainable development remains a far cry.

Truly speaking, issues pertaining to environment are so wide and varied that each dimension requires an in-depth and multi disciplinary research. There is wide scope for the political scientist also to investigate the phenomena of environmental degradation and its linkages with human rights, development and sustainability. Serious scholarly endeavors can definitely find ways and means to protect the environment and preserve this common heritage of mankind for a brighter, prosperous and peaceful future.

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