

Ecological Considerations and Development must go together

Developmental processes of the world today are often blamed for the destruction of ecology, as it causes pollution through the smoke being belched out by chimneys in the various factories etc., and through effluents being constantly dumped into the rivers and underground. The result is, no doubt, disastrous. The big cities have become dens of pollution, despite all the facilities of modern civilized societies available there and the life is still almost impossible there. On the global level the development has damaged the biological and physical quality of the globe as a whole, as the pollutants have spread beyond the limits of safer limits of emission.

No doubt, industrial growth has long been considered desirable because of its contribution to health and happiness, for the creation of wealth or simply for its own sake. Until recent times, progress was indeed identified with such quantitative growth. In constant, modern societies have begun to question the desirability of certain innovations that are technologically feasible and economically profitable, but that have undesirable social aspects. The evaluation of potential, long-range dangers for human beings and for the environment is becoming one of the crucial factors in the formation of technological policies.

During all periods of history, there have been people who believed that their time was out of joint, that the coherence was gone. Contemporary pessimism, however, goes far beyond this traditional worry about the state of affairs, Its new aspect is the assumption that our descendants will be even worse off than we are, because the world will have become too complex for comprehension by the human brain, These developments, together with the recklessly wasteful use of world's limited resources by the advanced market economies, even at the cost of damaging the eco-system and denying the poor countries the succor they need desperately, and the disconcerting experience of half-baked modernization plans, which have distorted both priorities of development and living mores in large parts of the Third World, have many intellectuals lose heart.

Somehow poor countries can save their soul. A few have been provoked into looking far more critically at the whole course of development and feel that the Gandhian legacy offers the best hope. Mahatma Gandhi's saying that the future of India is not a mass production but in production by the masses may definitely have meaning for Western world as well. The human tragedies resulting from unemployment may lead industrial societies to reconsider that, except for the

dullest, most repetitive and painful tracks, human beings are better than machines- and certainly more creative.

Pure environment, no doubt, means long-time survival, but the fact is that the humanity has travelled a long way towards development. Our day to day life has become smoother, more comfortable and more efficient. The world has shrunk into a small entity owing to efficient communication system. The whole life is very specialized today. As such, there can be no reason that the development can be stopped for the reason of its accompanied threats to ecological considerations. Economic development goals and environment must consequently go hand in hand.

There is a sweeping statement that “All development is destructive”, It seeks to convey that ecology cannot be maintained unless the development is turned down. Biosphere is in chemical terms the cover of water and air that ensues our earth, besides the green cover and the wild life, which sustain life on this planet. Man cannot take for granted these bounties of nature as he has been taking so far. The present situation has reached because the human being was not generally aware about the implications of the developments that have been taking place briskly for the last couple of centuries.

The economists stress upon the fact that the process of modernization cannot be slowed down because of the increasing population and the consequent increasing employment. The scientific development and expansion of urban areas has become as must to cater to the increasing needs of increasing number of people capable to be benefitted by the modern standards of living. The atmosphere has to be affected more and more by the production of more and more consumer goods along with the capital goods. Mahatma Gandhi's saying that the future of India is not a mass production but in production by the masses may definitely have meaning for Western world as well. The human tragedies resulting from unemployment may lead industrial societies to reconsider that, except for the dullest, most repetitive and painful tracks, human beings are better than machines- and certainly more creative. If we are to cut ten trees to make a road, it should be imperative to raise twenty around to compensate the loss. Regarding the expansion of urban areas equally comprehensive planning needs to be adopted. Sufficient green areas should not only be left out of constructions but a sufficient number of trees and green belts should be developed to give enough good look and compensate for the damage in environment. There is also need for a uniform civil code to look after the violation or rules and regulations and any discrepancy is to be severely dealt with.

The main and essential step towards making the globe a safer place for our future generations also, is to make our people aware about the hazards of

neglecting the ecological considerations. The people cannot afford to be selfish in this regard, just to make way for their own lives and not to think about the aftereffects of the activities of the present generation. The electronic and print media has to play an important role in making people aware about the impending dangers of neglecting this aspect of our life. The modern educational system should make our children aware about the safety norms towards a better and safer future.

The present Indian Society presents a very dismal picture in this regard.

Reckless urbanization is causing havoc in the areas around them. Industrialization, procurement of wood and other produce, harnessing of water resources are disturbing the ecological balance. The ultimate beneficiaries of this activity are not the masses but the affluent few living in posh localities where the ecological consideration has been looked after properly. The suffers are the poor masses, the villagers, factory worker, farmers and the like, who have to bear the brunt of the poor environmental conditions, created by the industrialization and urbanization. The poor inhabitants of the areas living around there are left with no life-support systems which are being destroyed in the name of developmental process. The conditions and policies need to be improved very immediately otherwise we will have to pay a heavy piece as the day will not be far when the immediate drastic effects in the shape of change of atmospheric conditions increase in heat and scarcity of pure water and damage of crops will be seen and then more and more aftereffects are bound to follow the show sharper teeth of environment degradation.