Environmental Politics

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An Introspective of Development

- Principle of Social-Ecology
- Appropriation of Natural Resources and Institutions
- Social-Darwinism
- Structural Determinism , instead of Systems Approach
- Structural Violence as defined by Johan Galtung
- Unlike direct violence, structural violence is the institutionalized impairment of basic securities
- Historic Examples
- Current Examples

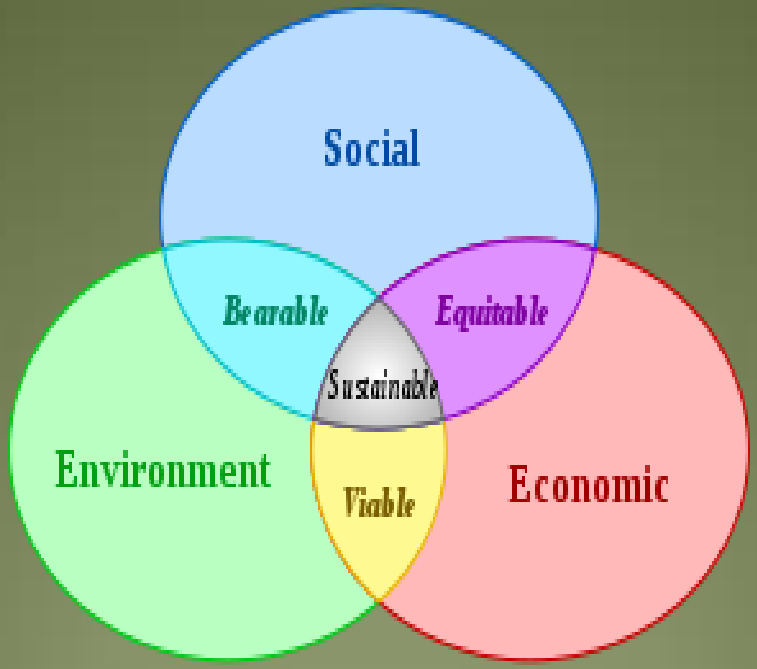
A Retrospective of the Development Trajectory

- **Industrial / Economic Growth as a Single-Point Agenda during the First Industrial Revolution**
- ***Substitution Theory* of Robert Solow**
- **a "*Silent Spring*" by Rachel Carson**
- **Double Bottom Line**
- **Garret Hardin: *Tragedy of Commons* & *Life Boat Ethic***
- **North-South Divide in the UN Stockholm Conference , 1972**

Introducing Equity into Development Paradigm

- Introduction of Social Dimension into Development Paradigm and Triple Bottom Line
- Remove Poverty, not the Poor
- Participatory Management of Natural Resources
- Poor and Vulnerable to have First Say on Natural Resources

Triple Bottom Line of Sust. Dev.



Sustainable Development: Putting it in Perspective

- **Backdrop**
- End of Cold-War and scope for the expansion of markets in the developing countries
- WBC & OECD Proposed World Council on Environment and Development: *Our Common Future*, 1987
- Social Engineering of Development in LPG
- Corporate Economy, Technology and Governance,
- PPP: The new mantra of Development

Milestone Events for Sustainable Development

- UN Stockholm Conference , 1972
- Our Common Future, 1987
- Establishment of IPCC - 1988
- UNCED – the Earth Summit 1992 and Agenda 21
- UNFCCC – 1994, and Kyoto Protocol 1997
- Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- First Phase of Kyoto Protocol 2008-2012
- WSSD - Johannesburg, 2002 and Rio +20
- UNFCCC – Roller Coaster from Bali Road-Map – 2007 to COP 19 in Warsaw, 2013

Evolution of Environmental Policy in India

- National Council for Environmental Policy and Planning – set up in 1972
- Later Evolved into Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) in 1985
- Environmental Action Program (EAP) – formulated in 1993, with the objective of integrating Environment into Development Paradigm
- National Environmental Policy, 2006

National Policies Related to Environment & Climate Change

- ✓Environmental Protection Act 1986
- ✓Indian Energy Conservation Act 2001 and BEE
- ✓National Water Policy, 2002
- ✓Disaster Management Act, 2005
- ✓National Environmental Policy, 2006
- ✓National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy
- ✓National Bio-Fuels Policy, 2008.
- ✓Indian Forest Rights Act, 2008
- ✓Coastal Regulation Zone, 2011
- ✓National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), 2008

Green Criticism on India's Environmental Policy, 2006

- The Policy voices the predominant notion that Delays in Environmental Clearances are an IMPEDIMENT to the 'Development' Process.
- Ascendance of Economic Factors in Policy-Decisions, at the Cost of Social and Environmental Factors.
- "Rationalization" in Regulatory Reforms, Compromising EIAs and SIAs (Rationalization of Coastal Regulation Zones)

Environmental Policy Frameworks: a Common man critique

- Mostly ad-hoc and reactive – more as an afterthought rather than proactive and futuristic
- Marrying in haste and repenting in leisure
- Learning through doing – if not trial and error
- Tend to be incremental with piece-meal approach, averse to Paradigm-shifts, thereby trying to postpone the inevitable
- Inherently open-ended leaving scope for gaps (if not lapses) in execution

BPL versus LPG

- BPL and its anomalous yardsticks
- 42% of children in India are underweight and malnourished
- One-Third of children in Andhra Pradesh province in India are malnourished
- 53% of households in India practice open defecation
- Break in the Food Chain due to open defecation:

Climate Change &
Frog in Boiling Water Syndrome

AFOLU for Food Security and Adaptation to Climate Change

- It gives livelihoods to the rural and tribal populations and produces products that can be used directly or sold in the market.
- It provides Food-Security, as well as a number of vital ecosystem services including biodiversity, soil formation, water regulation, carbon sequestration etc.
- Economic valuation of Forests and value-addition to forest-based activities
- Stern review of Agriculture and Climate Change

According to WHO:

- Feasible improvements in environmental conditions could reduce the global disease burden by more than 25%
- Improving access to active public transport would greatly reduce CO_2 emissions, while also cutting
  - 800 000 annual global deaths from urban air pollution
  - 1.2 million annual deaths from traffic accidents, and
  - 1.9 million deaths from physical inactivity.
- Changing the poorest communities' domestic energy technologies could reduce the 1.5 million annual indoor air pollution deaths
- About 36% of in-patients in hospitals, when discharged, go BPL

Adaptation to Climate Change Involves

- Living with climate change by means of
  - Food Security
  - Water Security and Sanitation
  - Health Security
  - Livelihood Security
  - Energy Security and Empowerment
  - Equity
  - Inclusive Growth

Interdependence of Inclusive-Growth & Adaptation to Climate Change

- **Both involve peripheral and marginalized communities.**
- **Institutionalized Empowerment of stake-holders**
- **Bottom-up approach**
- **People Centric and pro-poor**
- **Both emphasize on decentralized development for less carbon-intensive economic growth**

Need for a New Development Manifesto

- Going Beyond Money-Metric Methods, in prioritizing the Development Indices
- Renewable Energies for a Conservation-based Development
- Benign Technology and Sustainable Economy
- Informed Consent and Involvement of Stake-Holders in Decision-Making
- Participatory Democracy for a Decentralized and Bottom-Up Development
- **Inclusive Growth**
- **Less Carbon Intensive** Growth

Thank you