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An interface between biodiversity and environmental laws in India

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Abstract

The scope of biodiversity and its related laws in India is extremely broad based. It encompasses an outsized number of areas and aspects. The prime concern of Environmental Laws is to propagate the concept of biodiversity conservation through sustainable development applied in Indian laws. Environmental Law and concept of biodiversity conservation is incredibly important since it deals with the foremost mundane problems addressing safe and clean water, hygienic living conditions, clean and fresh air, fertile land, healthy food and development. If we would like to measure in an exceedingly clean, healthy, aesthetically beautiful, safe and secure environment for an extended time and need at hand over a clean and safe earth to our kids, grandchildren and great grandchildren, it's most essential to know the fundamentals of environmental law and its related rights and duties. The current work is a trial to review about the concept of biodiversity conservation and related laws enacted in India. So, this study will enable the reader to induce knowledge about the assorted laws that were present before independence in addition as post British period. It's a critical research study of those laws and their working additionally because the steps taken by Indian Government during this regard. Right to live in an exceedingly healthy environment could be a basic right and a typical man must understand this right. Every citizen of this country owes a requirement to avoid wasting environment and to abide by this duty, one must have knowledge about its related laws and penalties. If we are enjoying rights, we must have the duty to let other enjoy their basic rights. So, a positive approach is more towards this idea within the present study.

Keywords: Biodiversity, environment, hygienic, conservation, awareness, sustainability, atmosphere

Introduction

In 1991, the Supreme Court of India held in the case of *M.C. Mehta v. Union of India* that only some have clear ideas about what must be done and still few have the particular experience or expertise in the field of Environmental Law. Unfortunately, environmental awareness campaigns have fairly often been exploited for political propaganda rather an integral part of our academic programme in theory and practice. Whether or not we start today, the restoration is predicted in next 40-50 years. The motivations for undertaking this work are several. One being the growing general public doubts about whether the legal approaches reflected in such a big amount of books, articles and studies on laws affecting the environment are sufficient. Perhaps they'll convey a false sense of security for this and future generations as far as their effective ability to support and restoration of environmental sustainability is anxious. Another fact is that several international treaties affecting the environment hold soft provisions. This method has implications not all of which are in favour of biodiversity conservation. One obvious instance is that individual states are absolve to interpret such provisions in ways in which serve their own private (usually economic) interests, which don't seem to be essentially compatible with promoting long-term environmental sustainability. Several such issues need fresh viewpoints and reevaluation of the legal systems' ability to adapt to the principles of environmental sustainability.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity comprises a fundamental component of environmental/ecological sustainability. Therefore deem it essential to produce a non-legal introduction to many fundamentals of biodiversity. Biodiversity is occurrence of various forms of organisms and also the range of sorts adapted to different climates, environments and areas being constituents of food chains and organic phenomenon of biotic interrelationship. The biodiversity may be a term which is employed to explain the range of life on Earth.

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It refers to the large choice of ecosystems and living organisms: animals, plants, their habitats and their genetic makeup. Biodiversity is foundation of life on Earth. It's crucial for the functioning of ecosystems which give us with products and services without which we couldn't live. Biodiversity gives us rather more than this. We rely thereon for our security and health; it strongly affects our social relations and provides us freedom and selection. Biodiversity could be a complex, dynamic and varies like no other feature of the world. Its innumerable plants, animals and microbes physically and chemically unite the atmosphere (the mixture of gases round the Earth), geosphere (the solid a part of the Earth) and hydrosphere (the Earth's water, ice and water vapour) into one environmental system which makes it possible for variant species, including humans, to exist. In whole, it's the variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems.

Threats to biodiversity and causes of its depletion

The loss of biodiversity is one amongst the foremost critical current environmental problems, threatening valuable ecosystem services and human well being. A growing body of evidence indicates that current species extinction rates are more than the pre-human background rate. As per a recent research paper, it's been estimated that "Species are disappearing / becoming extinct currently at a rate that's hundred times the conventional rate historically. That creates it the sixth mass extinction in the history of life on earth; the last was 65 million years ago that wiped off the dinosaurs". Recent international instruments recognize that biodiversity's future could also be facing serious threats, the origins of which are several and where both the causes and effects interact. These origins are sometimes mentioned as HIPPO. Today our precious biodiversity has been deteriorated by indiscriminate acts of people. Human being for their own selfish needs harmed the environment which has result in many threats to the biodiversity. Because of human activities many species became extinct or are on the verge of extinction. it's pertinent to debate the explanations which result in such extinctions.

1. **Habitat Loss and Degradation:** Human activity affects 86% of all the threatened birds, 86% of the threatened mammals assessed and 88% of threatened amphibians.⁴¹ The natural habitat is also destroyed by man for his settlements, grazing grounds, agriculture, mining, industries, dam buildings etc. As a consequence of this, the species must adapt to the changes, more elsewhere or may succumb to predation, starvation or disease, eventually dies.
2. **Introduced and Invasive Species:** When humans introduce species for food and other purposes willingly, are termed as introduced species. But, an introduced species may unintentionally injure a species that depends on the species it replaces.
3. **Over exploitation of natural resources:** As an example, resource extraction, hunting and fishing for food, pets and medicine. This can be one among the most causes of the loss of not only economic species but also biological curiosities just like the insectivorous, primitive species and other taxa needed for teaching of lab work. Commercial exploitation of untamed plants

has invariably meant their overuse and eventual destruction.

4. **Pollution:** Pollution especially injurious to the biotic components of estuary and coastal ecosystem. As an example, excessive fertilizer and pesticide use results in their excessive levels in soil, water, plants and animals. Pollution alters the natural habitat. Toxic wastes entering the water bodies disturb the organic phenomenon then to the aquatic ecosystems. Insecticides, pesticides dioxide, nitrogen oxides, acid rain, and ozone depletion affect adversely the plant and animal species. The impact of coastal pollution is additionally vital it's seem that coral reefs are being threatened by pollution from industrialization along the coast, oil transport and offshore mining.
5. **Deforestation:** one among the most causes for the loss of untamed life is population explosion and resultant deforestation. Deforestation mainly results from population settlement, shifting, cultivation, development projects, demand for fuel wood, demand of wood as a material for several industries like paper and pulp, match, veneer and plywood, furniture etc.
6. **Control of pest and predators:** Predators and pest control measures, generally kill predators that are a component of balanced ecosystem and should also indiscriminately poison non target species.
7. **Hunting:** Man has always hunted the animals for food and recreation, wild animals are searched for their products like hide and skin, tusk, for meat, pharmaceuticals, perfume, cosmetics, decoration purposes.
8. **Collection for zoos and research:** Animals and plants are collected throughout the globe for zoos and biological labs for study and research in science and medicines.

The environment laws

Environmental Law has national as well as international dimensions and exists in the type of hard similarly as soft law. The hard law is firm and binding rules of law like treaty provisions while soft law primarily consist recommendations or declarations made by international conferences or inter-governmental organizations. Multilateral co-operation is instrumental in meeting the key global challenges. Environmental law relies on the thinking that environment is precious for all people and it's a nature's gift for all people to cherish it and replenish it. it's not given for wastage but to use it and manage it. Under the Indian Law, special importance is given to laws regarding environment. The change in attitude of judiciary is often seen in recently given judgments, where equal importance has been given to both environment and development. The scope of Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Laws in India includes Fundamental Laws and aspects of environment and its relationships with man and society, Natural resources-their conservation and management with the assistance of environmental laws in India, Environmental pollution and control by National Green Tribunal enacted for environment preservations in step with procedural laws and Indian commitment to international community within the variety of conventions and treaties.

The legal foundations of biodiversity conservation

The development activities undertaken to boost the living conditions of individuals sometimes affect the natural environment adversely in many ways and cause severe threats to human health and biodiversity. Environmental regulations and demands of conservation law hard press scientists to deal with and answer questions they will consider unscientific. Similarly, law and policy require an integrated, interdisciplinary approach. Environmental problems on a world scale may require a greater level of coordination. After perusal of all the conventions and conferences, it's submitted that a lot of nations showed their concern about depleting environmental conditions but still much must be drained this direction. Moreover, many countries have enacted several legislations for shielding environment but they don't have proper machinery to execute these legislation. Temperature change could be a serious global environmental concern. The world increase in GHG emissions is due primarily to fuel use and land use change, population explosion and industrialization. Its effects particularly on developing countries are adverse as their capacity and resources to house the challenges is restricted. Its thought that rises in global temperature would end in droughts, floods, melting of glaciers and water level rise within the South Asian region including India. the government is implementing NAPCC to reinforce the ecological sustainability of India's development path and to deal with global climate change. Modern conservation law and policy must mature to the purpose that they will house the uncertainties of climate and ecosystem estimates, instead of simply reject or ignore these, and thereby better manage risks to threatened biodiversity. At the international level, the developed nations have more responsibility towards the protection of environment, biodiversity and sustainable development. More bold steps are needed within the area of environmental sustainability at the worldwide level.

Constitutional and legislative principles in biodiversity conservation in India

India doesn't have lack of environmental policy but proper implementation is required. In the present scenario it becomes essential that the authorities should strive to realize a society where ideals and reality, legislation and implementation correlate. In India, the challenges of environmental protection and conservation of biodiversity are intrinsically connected with the state of environmental resources like land, water air, flora and fauna and their judicious utilization. Many environment related factors are liable for various ailments like poverty, diseases in India. The approach towards environmental issues has to be more focused, integrated and inclusive. It must involve all stakeholders. The sustainable development and implementation of effective national policies and laws referring to environment and biodiversity protection will rely upon decision makers having access to relevant information from various stakeholders. The strategic approach should undertake and support timely participatory expertise, wisdom, data and indicators. There's an urgent have to prevent misappropriation of Indian mental object and conservation of bio-resources for the longer term generations. The Indian Constitution enables the Indian courts to play proactive role. India may be a signatory to several multilateral environmental agreements and is

committed to sustainable development, protection of environment and conservation of forests and also the natural resources including biodiversity.

Conclusion

The trends for environmental governance seem to be worrisome. Problems with transparency and accountability, and pervasive problems like graft and corruption, are a priority for conservation too. We'd like an efficient and clear system that objectively evaluates conservation impacts of development projects. It should uphold laws, hasten and strengthen review and permit legal recourse for grievances. We want an area for dialogue that features forests and wildlife as a legitimate concern in modern India, not unplanned development that compromises the nation's long-term ecological security. It'd not be knowing dilute existing laws and norms that were intended as constitutional safeguard against exploiting our natural heritage. Most international environmental declarations and conventions possess a requirement for reinforcing the environmental awareness of the population and taking measures per environmental education. This would result in promoting environmentally sound lifestyles on a long-term basis. Indian culture and religions have an inseparable mix with the environment, essentially because it all evolved amidst a world within which life entirely trusted the rivers and land and therefore the various life forms in them. To appeal to Indian society to awaken to the destruction all around us thus only needs an invocation of our well accepted ethos. The likes of Balbir Singh Seechewal in Punjab and Rajender Singh of Alwar in Rajasthan have done just that to credible effect, albeit in a very small way. The bar must be raised and therefore the top clergy of all faiths have to step in and make saving environment and biodiversity the primary priority. that may help quite any environmentalist's appeal.

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