

Impact of Environmental Degradation on Social and Economic Development in India

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Abstract: Degrading the environment is a big problem that slows down India's economic and social growth. This study looks at what other people have said about how damage to the environment hurts health, jobs, the economy, and social order, among other things. The research shows that cutting down trees, polluting the air, changing the temperature, and losing species all make poverty, moving, and slow economic growth worse. To lessen these bad effects, this study shows how important it is to have laws for fair environmental management and long-term growth.

Keywords: Environmental degradation, social and economic development Degradation of the environment and growth in society and the economy are the major ideas.

Environmental ruin includes things like pollution, cutting down trees, climate change, and running out of resources. This is very bad for India's social and economic growth. India is a country that is growing quickly and needs to protect the environment while also building its economy. This piece talks about how India's economy and society are affected by environmental damage. It focuses on how people's health and well-being depend on the health of the environment. The heavy use of farming, more industrialization, and more people going to cities are all putting a lot of stress on India's natural resources. It costs India about 5.7% of its GDP every year, according to the World Bank, for the environment to get worse. The government is working to find a balance between economic growth and protecting the environment, but there are still issues like poor policy implementation, low public awareness, and using too many resources. This report goes into great depth about how India's economic and social progress is slowed down by damage to the environment.

1. Damage to the environment and economic growth

Three main factors that have helped India's economy grow: urbanization, industrialization, and more farming. These actions, on the other hand, have hurt the environment badly and make it hard for the economy to stay stable over time.

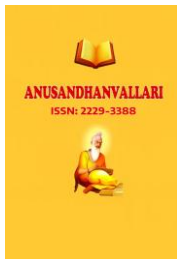
What it means for farming

Indian agriculture is a big business, and a lot of people work in it. Soil erosion, cutting down trees, and climate change are some of the environmental problems that make farming less effective (Singh, 2019). Rising temperatures and unpredictable monsoons hurt crop yields, leaving more people without food and making the economy less stable (Kumar & Sharma, 2021).

States like Maharashtra, Bihar, and Odisha have been hit hard by climate change's droughts and storms, which make it hard for people to get food. Too much use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers has also hurt the land, which will make farming less useful in the long run (Sharma, 2019). If we want to have a stable economy and enough food, we need to solve these issues by growing in a more sustainable way and managing water better.

II Building up of infrastructure and industry

Industries are very important to the growth of the economy, but they pollute the environment and use up resources. Water that has been polluted by industrial waste is harder to find for drinking and farming. Polluted air makes people less effective and costs more to treat (Gupta, 2020). Mishra and Patel (2022) say that mining and building without rules hurt the land and cause people to move.



A lot of trees have been cut down to make room for cities that have grown very quickly. A lot of people moving into big cities like New Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru has taken away green space, made heat islands bigger, and made it harder to pick up trash (Raj et al., 2021). The economy will not be as strong in the long run because hurting the environment makes life worse and makes people less productive.

III. How much it costs to hurt the environment

A 2013 report from the World Bank says that environmental damage costs India's economy about 5.7% of its GDP every year. In this group are the costs to health caused by pollution, the loss of crops, and the loss of wildlife. These costs can be cut down by putting money into eco-friendly practices that will also help the economy stay healthy in the long run (Chopra et al., 2020).

Damage to the environment has direct economic effects on things like extreme weather, higher health care costs, and less work output. Loss of biodiversity, running out of freshwater sources, and declining environmental benefits are all very important indirect costs for long-term growth.

Damage to the environment and social progress

The degradation of India's environment has many social impacts, such as on health, work, and the fairness of society.

Fears for the public's health

In India, air pollution is one of the main reasons why people get lung diseases. For instance, the air pollution in Delhi is very bad (Verma & Gupta, 2018). Diseases that spread through water are caused by trash from farms and workplaces (Sharma, 2019). These diseases hurt poor people more than others. There are more unusual weather events because of climate change, which makes health risks worse (Raj et al., 2021).

A 2019 report called the Global Burden of Disease says that more than 1.67 million people die every year in India because of dirty air. More people are getting long-term diseases like asthma, lung cancer, and heart disease because they are exposed to pollution like PM2.5 and nitrogen oxides. People and India's public health system are both being affected by the rising cost of health care.

II Moving and Moving Around

People have to move because of environmental damage because they lose their homes and work because of cutting down trees, soil erosion, and rising sea levels (Jha & Bhatt, 2020). Moving from the country to the city puts a lot of pressure on city facilities, which can lead to too many people, bad housing, and more people needing social services (Das, 2021).

A lot of people have had to move in Assam, Uttarakhand, and Andhra Pradesh because of storms and droughts. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (2021) says that more than 3.9 million people had to leave their homes because of the weather in India in just one year. This makes the country one of the biggest in the world. More people now live in slums in big towns because of this. This makes problems like crime, unemployment, and bad housing even worse.

III. Being Either Left Out Or Inequal

Environmental degradation has bad effects that are felt more strongly by people with low incomes and those who are already on the outside. Social and economic differences get worse when people can't get clean water, safe homes, or medical care (Sen, 2017). Desai and Menon (2018) say that women and children are more likely to have health problems and money problems because of damage to the environment.

Policies that prioritize corporate growth over local conservation often hurt people who are already on the outside, like indigenous communities. People are angry and there have been court cases because of land grabs for mines

and infrastructure projects. This means that taking care of the earth needs to be more open and fair, with justice and fairness coming first.

Plans and policies made by the government

Environment harm is being fixed in a number of ways by the Indian government. Some of these are the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the Green India Mission, and the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 2020). It's possible for these efforts to work, but they aren't very good because of issues with implementation, corruption, and a lack of public knowledge (Mukherjee, 2021).

More needs to be done to make sure these programs work, such as following the rules, getting people interested in their communities, and creating new technologies. Environmental damage can be stopped even more by working together with other countries, as promised in the Paris Agreement.

Summing Up

India's social and economic progress is being slowed down by damage to the environment. How important it is to have policies for sustainable growth is shown by the bad effects on farming, business, health, and social stability. We need to improve policies that protect the environment, invest in green technologies, and encourage more people to take part in activities that protect the environment. In the future, researchers should try to find long-term answers that protect the environment while also growing the economy.

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