

IMPACTS OF URBANIZATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES ASPECTS OF THE PROCESS OF GLOBALIZATION

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Abstract: *The main purpose of this study is to evaluate the impacts of urbanization on environmental resources, and propose land use planning strategies to avoid or at least minimize the impacts from future land use planning and decision making process. Urbanization, one of the major drivers of land use change, has profound impacts on environmental resources. It has been found out that a couple of third of the Indian water sources have already been impaired or polluted, and many species have emerge as endangered or threatened with a few already gone extinct and greater on line. My analysis of the impact of urbanization on environmental resources in India has found that more than 10 percent of the existing urban developments are in environmentally critical areas.*

Keywords: - *Environment, pollutions, Urbanization, Global Impact, environmental performance index.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Humans have been the usage of land and its resources for hundreds of years in a pursuit in their higher lives. The manner people have used land and exploited its assets over the years is a critical problem [1], as it has altered land cowl and impacted the functioning of the atmosphere. With the arrival of agriculture, modern era, and the upward push of capitalist mode of economy, the exploitation of land and its assets has improved dramatically. In the last few decades, land use practices (agriculture, mining, logging, housing, pastime, etc) have become so in depth and essential that we will see their affects in sorts of uncontrolled development (urbanization and sprawl), deteriorating environmental satisfactory, lack of top agricultural lands, destruction of wetlands, and loss of fish and natural world habitats everywhere on earth.

Environment is a treasured gift of God to all creatures whether dwelling or non-dwelling. The natural sources of the earth together with air, water, land, vegetation and fauna and especially consultant samples of ecosystems need to be safeguarded for the benefit of the prevailing and destiny generations thru cautious making plans and control [3]. Man during path of his civilization has settled in places where plenty of water becomes available. But with the increase of populace and in exploitation of herbal assets for his very own gain, he has behaved in a wild way with the aid of creating troubles of pollution risky not only to aquatic life but additionally to his very own life. While western countries have end up quite

touchy to this trouble, India remains continuing, because of irresponsible behavior of its citizens, in rendering water extra polluted each day and the situation is deteriorating steadily [3].

In the last few decades, environmental problems have become a global problem of mankind in terms of their existence and influence, as well as social and economic forces that produce them. Definition of the term globalization is multifunctional and has different meanings, depending on the context in which it needs to be understood. Globalization is a complex process whose pace and direction are determined by a number of factors, while its economic, social, and environmental manifestations leave significant and lasting impact. One context (environmental definition) refers to the understanding of globalization as a process of manifestation of widespread environmental crises, caused by global environmental pollution. The environmental crisis that occurred during the last decades of the twentieth century imposed the need for rearrangement of human activities and a serious warning to the basic foundations of the survival of man on Earth.

More serious consequences of the environmental crisis resulted in the formal emergence of the concept of sustainable development, which rests on the harmonious relationship of natural resources, economic development, and the environment, in order to protect the health of present generations and preserve the economic wealth of the planet for future generations. The concept is actually formed by hybridization of social development and environmental problems. The idea of developing the concept of sustainability stems from the problematic relationship between society and its natural environment. The concept itself is based on unification of three key dimensions, environmental, economic, and social. Although there is no generally accepted definition of sustainable development, there is awareness and the need for denoting the concept of sustainability, as well as its origin. Simply put, it is a development that is sustainable, that does not lead to exhaustion or complete disappearance of natural resources, or to endangerment of universal human rights of any of us on the planet. Sustainable development is one of the most important ideas and goals of our time.

Globalizing mankind, in a sense, becomes “the global society”, faced with real global problems. Among these

issues, an important place belongs to the disruption of the environmental balance of the planet Earth, which threatens the survival of human life on it, to the extent that one can speak of a global environmental crisis. End of XX and the beginning of XXI century were marked by three interrelated processes: globalization, the development of science and technology, and the global environmental crisis. The consequence of rapid development of science and technology in thus-far unimaginable proportions is the emergence of the global environmental crisis. Expansive development has contributed to improving the living conditions of the human species, but, on the other hand, has had negative consequences for the environment and quality of life.

2. GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The global aspect of environmental way of thinking has become the focus of attention, because environmental problems usually occur on a global scale, caused by the progress of science and technology. The environmental troubles upward push in significance particularly due to expanded monetary integration. What is greater, globalization has introduced considerable conceptual exchange within the manner of considering the surroundings. Many of us now see environmental troubles as problems of international significance, not handiest as a national interest in phrases of protection of the oceans and the surroundings from warming. The environment is considered "common heritage of mankind", and environmental troubles are an increasing number of the concern of global efforts because of their move-border outcomes, in addition to the incapability of only one or some countries to resolve these issues by myself [4].

From an environmental perspective, the observed process of globalization causes severe consequences for the environment. In this regard, there are two prevailing standpoints. The first standpoint is that the process of globalization creates assumptions and possibilities for solving environmental problems present at the global level. In contrast to this view, there is the opinion that the process of globalization itself causes deep environmental crises, as it is characterized by the absolute dominance of the socio-political and economic model of the western highly developed countries, thus creating a global society with pronounced social inequality [5].

A very important and far-reaching negative effect of globalization is manifested in global warming and climate change. Global warming is brought by greenhouse effect, caused by growing industrialization of developing countries and heavy reliance on fossil fuels. The carbon released into the atmosphere in this way causes global warming, which results in ice and glacier melting and consequent sea level rise, which, in turn, has

a wide impact on biodiversity and weather system. Due to the above, according to the OECD, average global temperature has risen by 0.6 degrees Celsius since the late nineteenth century.

Global warming is particularly caused by increase in transport, i.e. harmful exhaust emissions from vehicles. According to the Office for National Statistics, the share of traffic-borne gas emissions in the greenhouse effect has increased by 47% since 1990 (Office for National Statistics). From an environmental point of view, the negative effects of globalization are higher, compared to the positive effects.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS AS THE GLOBAL CRISIS OF HUMANITY

The negative effects of globalization and contemporary implications of social development are certainly the main causes of environmental crises. The fact that the ecological crisis is global in character and that its consequences are catastrophic for the Earth is indisputable. Most simply put, the environmental crisis refers to the global "attack" on ecosystems, that is, the man's immoral behavior towards nature. The manifestation of the environmental crisis is complex, which means that it appears as a structural and civilization crisis of the modern era [6].

Assessing the social causes of the environmental crisis requires a lot of effort, but it is certain that they are crucial for the emergence and escalation of the crisis. Because of the consequences of globalization, nature socializes and society modernizes in the technical sense. Key to the enigma of the environmental crisis should be primarily searched in the sphere of the social system, because it is basically a social crisis. The reason for this fact lies in the fact that man is the only creature that can destroy their own survival through careless attitude towards nature. In line with this is Davies's opinion that economics describes the way in which humans interact with the environment in the production and reproduction of their lives. This relationship indicates that there is no environmental issue independent of economic relations (Davies, 2006). Maximum and inadequate exploitation of nature and the environment is especially typical of an industrial society. Future postindustrial society must raise awareness and turn more towards the preservation of nature and its revival, as well as diminish the gap that has been growing between the nature and society for ages [7].

The concept that is closely associated with the environmental crisis refers to environmental awareness, which needs to be developed to prevent the emergence of the environmental crisis. Environmental awareness is imminent in social consciousness, and has its social essence, so that it cannot be exhausted only in criticism, no matter how progressive, nor can it be merely reduced

to the awareness of the environment. It is actually a spiritual dimension of environmental culture, which includes knowledge and habits, adopted values, attitudes and beliefs, acceptance of norms about what is in the natural and social environment healthy and of high quality, how health is taken care of and what threatens it, in which way can the awareness and quality of life be improved in existing conditions [8].

4. THE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDEX

For the purposes of reviewing the situation of the environment around the world, the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) was developed in 2006, whose forerunner was the Environmental Sustainability Index (ESI), developed in 1999. The Environmental Performance Index assesses the environmental performance of the country, by observing indicators that reflect the state of the environment. The main objective of EPI methodology is to “draw attention to how far countries have gone in achieving the objectives of environmental policy” (Environmental Performance Index, 2010). EPI index assesses the social and economic driving forces, pressures on the environment, the state of the environment and impact on human health and ecosystems.

In general, the EPI index is a powerful tool for managing a particular country and the world as a whole, with reference to the concept of sustainable development. The Environmental Performance Index strives to meet the needs of the governments to monitor the achieved environmental performance, and offers a method for assessing the effectiveness of environmental policies. It is especially designed to help policy makers to: 1) notice the current problems and identify priorities in environmental protection; 2) control the pollution of natural resources; 3) discover the most successful areas of environmental policy and, where it is necessary, stop the ineffective efforts (Environmental Performance Index, 2008). The EPI methodology was developed through collaboration of the World Economic Forum with the Yale University and Columbia University. The data used for calculating the values of the EPI index has been obtained from the governments of countries, and it includes statements regarding environmental performance indicators.

The Environmental Performance Index reflects the environmental performance ranking of the countries around the world, based on 10 categories, i.e. areas of environmental policy, and 25 performance indicators, grouped into two key components. These are: environmental “health” (perceived influence of environmental conditions on the health of humans) and ecosystem vitality (the health of ecosystems and natural resource management). Each of the indicators included in the EPI index structure is directed towards long-term sustainability of public health or ecosystems. The last

report on the environmental performance shows a modified structure of the EPI index, which considers 9 environmental policy areas and 20 indicators. The number of areas is reduced by one, because two previously separate areas, the effect of air pollution on human health and the effect of air pollution on ecosystems, are observed together. Now this is one area, designated as air quality. The environmental component “health” includes health impact, air quality, and water and sanitation as the most important areas of environmental policy. Within the components of the ecosystem vitality, the following environmental policy areas are analyzed: climate and energy, biodiversity and habitat, fishing, forestry, agriculture, and water resources.

EPI methodology, which is used for ranking the countries with respect to the environmental performance, has been applied in the analysis of the position of Serbia in relation to neighboring countries. For research purposes, the data concerning the ranking of the country has been taken from the reports for 2010, 2012, and 2014. It is important to note that Serbia and Montenegro were observed together in the reports for 2010 and 2012. The report from 2010 covered 163 countries around the world, where Serbia and Montenegro occupied the 29th position. In that year, in respect of neighboring countries, only Albania was better than us, occupying the 23rd position. Hungary was in the 33rd position, Croatia in the 35th, Romania in the 45th, followed by Slovenia (55th) and Bulgaria (65th). The lowest positions in the group of surveyed countries were occupied by Macedonia (73rd) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (98th). In the report for 2012, it is characteristic that Serbia and Montenegro went backward in the rankings, occupying 103rd position out of 132 countries in the rankings. The same trend could be observed in the case of Romania (88th) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (124th). In contrast, all other countries in the region advanced in the rankings and occupied much better positions in relation to 2010.

According to the latest report from 2014, which shows the ranking of 178 countries, it can be seen that Serbia recorded progress (31st), returning to approximately the same position in which it was together with Montenegro in 2010. From this year, Serbia and Montenegro are observed separately, so that Montenegro was for the first time independently ranked, occupying the 62nd position. The highest ranked among the analyzed countries in this year was Slovenia (15th), followed by Hungary (28th). The rest of the countries progressed in the ranking. Only Croatia and Albania occupied the lower positions in relation to 2012 (See Table 1). By analyzing the movement of positions in the rankings, only Bulgaria and Slovenia had an upward trend during the years observed in the study. Oscillatory movement in the ranking was characteristic for all other countries in the group of selected countries in the covered time period.

5. CONCLUSION

Globalization is a global process, and its effects will broaden and deepen over time. In addition to a large number of implications that it leaves behind, it can be said that the most difficult are the ones that threaten the survival of society and the environment. Economic activities are precisely the ones that contribute the most to environmental degradation, and they are directly correlated. Given the high degree of correlation between them, the economic activities must be sustainable, in order for the man to survive while respecting strong moral reasons, environmental regulations, and economic arguments. The concept of sustainable development should be widely accepted as a condition of survival and overall future progress.

The link between environment and economic development is very complex, and there is no possibility of independence of economic from environmental issues. Environmental problems, based on their scope and significance, are the most complex negative consequence of globalization. The expansion of environmental problems and involvement of the growing part of environment creates an environmental crisis, which is greatly affected by technological development. Manifestation of environmental crisis through various degrees of pollution, vulnerability, and degradation of environment is essential and burning problem of civilization, whose solution determines the future. In addition to the environmental crisis, environmental problems lead to the emergence of social crisis. The environmental crisis as such jeopardizes the natural and the human community, so that the requirements for the preservation of healthy living and working environment appear as a high moral social norm.

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