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An Analysis of interlinkages between economy, population, and environment

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Abstract

This article explores an understanding of dynamic and complex interlinkages between the economy, population, and environment. The rising population and economic growth levels have led to enormous levels of waste generation, pollution, and environmental degradation. There is a growing realization today that the consequences of an unabated population increase may likely upset the balance between people and resources, their hopes, aspirations, opportunities, and health. The overall quality of life has been found to be suffering even in some of the world's richest countries. In the wake of increasing signs of deterioration in the natural environment, the quality of life in poor countries remains subjected to degradation by a failure to meet people's minimum basic needs. Population growth and environmental challenges are linked, making remedies for each unlikely to work. Sustainable growth and environmental protection require a holistic approach. This method addresses population growth, environmental issues, and sustainable development's economic, social, and ecological aspects. The issue is more complex than the mere size of the human population, despite the prevalent idea that human population growth could cause an environmental disaster on the planet. The new path needs to focus on values, ethics, morality, and clarity of goals of human life. The good life can be built not only by the accumulation of wealth but by ensuring the well-being of all. The livelihood of the poor depends directly on clean air, rich topsoil, and pure water. These basic natural resources need to be conserved to ensure social equity and the welfare of all. Economic growth today could be termed as a march from "self-reliance" to "reliance" as large numbers of people are deprived of basic necessities of life while a small proportion of the wealthy are leading a life of opulence and over-consumption. The entire development process, growth, and governance structures need *"demystification, democratization, and decentralization."* Using economic instruments, adopting green technologies, clean products, and restoring natural resources could improve environmental quality. In the context of the above, the research paper to be presented would highlight the issues relating to environmental degradation and emphasize the concept of the green economy in detail.

Keywords: *Basic needs, economic growth, globalization, industrialization, ecological, demystification, democratization, decentralization, green economy, and self-reliance*.

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Introduction

The fast-growing population, directly and indirectly, affects the environment and human health. Environmental and human health impacts may lead to population movements, creating a potentially hazardous cycle that could permanently damage fragile ecosystems. The majority of the eco-zones of the world today have experienced a tremendous decline from the expansion of development projects, growth of urban areas, and changes in land use and land cover. The world population, which was about 2.5 billion in 1950, has increased to 8 billion today and is likely to touch the 9.7 billion mark by 2050. While the developed world's population is expected to remain almost stable, unprecedented growth in population size is expected in less developed countries. This has obvious implications for fulfilling increased demand for food, water, energy, and land resources and also increased waste generation, pollution, and health hazards.

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Tremendous pressure on our environmental resources is now clearly visible in terms of fulfilling the multiplicity of demands of the growing population. The level of waste generation in the event of rising levels of economic growth is enormous. The economic development process generates waste not only at the place of production but also at the point of consumption. Such mindless exploitation of nature in the name of economic development is unfolding disasters in terms of air/water pollution, deforestation, desertification, land degradation, soil erosion, salinization, siltation, and climate change. The health impacts of environmental degradation can be observed first in terms of a lack of access to essential environmental resources such as clean air, water, food, fuel, and shelter. Human exposure to environmental hazards, including noxious chemicals, pesticides, industrial solvents, and nuclear waste, contributes to a huge global burden of health problems and deadly diseases.

Population growth and environmental issues are intertwined in a manner that makes solutions more likely to fail than succeed. A comprehensive strategy is needed to promote sustainable development and protect the environment effectively. This approach considers the complicated interaction between population increase and environmental concerns and the economic, social, and ecological components of sustainable development. The issue at hand is significantly more complex than simple headcount, despite the widespread belief that human population growth could trigger a global ecological catastrophe. While population size is a consideration, the underlying problem is more complex. Population density, migration trends, and urbanization are all important, but so, too, are demographics like age, sex, income, and consumption patterns. This paper is accordingly categorized into four sections and presented subsequently in the paper. The major sub-themes are (1) Conceptual Aspects; (2) Population Issues; (3) Environmental Concerns; (4) Health Dimensions.

Conceptual Issues

Health and environment suggest humanity get out of the present day's trap of unethical and resource-destructive growth processes and the dominant development paradigm. Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, he clearly points out to be the 'Modern Western Industrialism,' which may be traced as the 'satanic civilization' and held responsible for poisoning a major threat to our survival today. The major question in all this is the role of values, ethics, morality, and the goal of human life. Unfortunately, neo-classical and neo-liberals conveniently ignored the role of all these vital issues in order to protect the omnipotence of the doctrine of 'the invisible hand.'

Factor endowment, both in terms of natural and human resources, is really mighty. Instead of harnessing these resources, we are embracing the resource-squandering model in the name of growth and globalization, which can never solve the basic problems that besiege us and do any good to the bottom of the population. Today, our recent growth journey could be paraphrased as the march from self-reliance to 'reliance.' Many people are deprived of basic necessities of life like food, fuel, fodder, water. The genesis of ill health today can be directly traced to the lack of pure water, clean air, and nutritious food. The cumulative consequence of all this on the population, health, and environment is very pathetic. To tackle these problems, we will have to address the basic socio-ecological, cultural, and political economy issues and find our permanent panacea for ill health, poverty, and all related problems.

The Malthusians, neo-liberals, and elites in and out of context point fingers at the 'overpopulation' but have no regret in perpetrating their own atrocious 'over-consumption.' Such a commodity approach to nature as a storehouse of raw materials is totally misguided and based on the myopia of scientific and technological supremacy. The 'need versus greed' criteria can aptly guide the world to get beyond the forces of growth and globalization. Only when there is a paradigm shift in models of growth and governance will the bottom half of the populace secure the basic wherewithal of life. As such, the major challenge before us today is: the 'Demystification, Democratization and Decentralization' of growth and governance structures and the entire development process. So long as we do not bid goodbye to the resource-destructive politics and economics of gigantism, we will never have people-centered development. Finally, we must reflect on the major problems of today and dedicate ourselves to creating Gandhi's dream that alone can ensure a life of dignity and security for the billion-plus population and improve their health status and environment.

Unless some measures are initiated immediately, tomorrow's cities will be an unpalatable mixed picture of stinking heaps of garbage coexisting with modern malls, shopping centers, and residential areas. The process of the rapid rise in urban growth is an inevitable consequence of the world's trust in economic development. In developing countries, this process is moving towards a trade-off between the

environment's quality and the urban population's size. In many rapidly growing cities in the world, supplies of clean water, electricity, housing, roads, and sewage treatment facilities have not been able to keep pace with population growth. The steep growth in a number of people living in urban areas in the country is partly due to the skewed development that has led to the proliferation of commercial activities and attractive job opportunities in cities and towns. The natural increase in the population is the fundamental reason for the rapid expansion of the million-plus cities, with migration being another important cause responsible for it.

The rising magnitude of waste can be linked to increased consumption levels as a consequence of the rise in per capita income level. With industrial progress, growing urban areas and the resultant growth in urban solid wastes is a relatively new phenomenon in the modern era. The problem of solid and other numerous types of waste are real problems and should be treated properly if the urban area is to remain a livable place. The existing agencies are not appropriately equipped to meet these hazardous threats. Similarly, deteriorating air quality in urban areas, particularly in large cities, is assuming dangerous proportions. Respirable suspended particulate matter present in the environment is causing a number of deaths in big cities. With the rise in the number of motor vehicles, air pollution is bound to accelerate further. The best way to reduce and manage a tolerable level of air pollution is to promote natural gas-based efficient public transport system. Further, improved technology could be prompted through the effective implementation of the existing laws and regulations.

The depletion of the ozone layer and the hazardous effects of ultraviolet radiations from the sun. The carbon dioxide and many trace gases released as by-products of human activities are currently accumulating in the atmosphere. The temperature of the lower atmosphere is likely to increase by 1.5 to 4.5 degrees by the year 2030. This would result in the melting of polar ice caps and a rise in sea level from 20 cm to 165 cm due to the thermal expansion of ocean water as well as the melting of glaciers. The green-houseGreenhouse effect will induce sweeping changes in the atmosphere. It has been discovered that the protective ozone layer is getting progressively eroded due to the impact of human activities. A major cause of the depletion of the ozone layer is the worldwide emission of man-made compounds called chloroform carbons (CFCs). Ozone is important for the biosphere as it absorbs much of the ultraviolet (UV) radiation which is harmful to animals and plants. The human population may be directly affected by an increase in skin cancer, eyes disorder, and suppression of the immune system with an increase in UV radiation.

Broader issues such as global warming, biodiversity, and ozone layer depletion have dominated global protocols. There is a need to examine how developed and developing economies perceive environmental pollution. Existing policies dealing with the environment are inadequate, and they are inherently incapable of tackling the escalating degradation of the human environment. Sustainability criteria should become a touchstone for evaluating developmental projects along with techno-economic feasibility. Apart from the use of economic instruments in the short run, policies should be aimed at promoting research and development. Education about new technologies, clean products, and ecosystem restoration will go a long way to promote sustainable development and improvement in environmental quality.

Population Issues

Population growth and environmental degradation work hand in hand. Understanding these connections can help policymakers choose the appropriate policies to protect the planet's finite natural resources and ensure future prosperity. Potential future directions are discussed when environmental dispute historical foundations are uncovered. This century has seen a rise in the world's population like never before. Since the middle of the twentieth century, the globe's population has increased three times. It is expected to reach about 8 billion people in 2022 (United Nations, 2019). It is indisputable that this estimation has been accurate, given that the current world population stands at 7.9 billion, which is the closest it has ever been to 8 billion. Asia will be home to 88 percent of the world's next billion people to join the ranks of the middle class, making it the region with the largest proportional share (Kharas, 2017).

Population and environmental challenges are complex and multifaceted. Deforestation, habitat loss, pollution, and global warming are just some of the environmental problems exacerbated by a growing human population. More people living on Earth means a larger resource use, more garbage, and more greenhouse gas emissions. These emissions can harm the planet. Furthermore, environmental difficulties can also affect population expansion and development.

Food and water shortages, for instance, can be caused by environmental degradation. This, in turn, can increase starvation and disease and reduce economic prospects. Natural catastrophes made more frequent and severe by climate change, can force people out of their homes and destabilize entire communities.

Population expansion and environmental problems are inextricably linked, and solving either without considering the other is unlikely to work in the long run. A comprehensive strategy is required to promote sustainable development and safeguard the environment. This strategy takes into account not only the economic, social, and ecological dimensions of sustainable development but also the complex relationship between population growth and environmental challenges. Although the increasing human population is often seen as a potential catalyst for a worldwide ecological catastrophe, the matter at hand is far more complex than simply counting heads. While the sheer number of people is certainly a factor, the issue at hand is far more intricate than that. Distribution of population (density, migration patterns, and urbanization), composition (age, sex, and income levels), and, most crucially, consumption habits of those populations are just as essential.

The term "*population distribution*" describes the pattern in which a region's inhabitants are dispersed. Rapid urbanization is occurring all across the world right now, especially in developing nations. There is a definite connection between population distribution and environmental difficulties, as urbanization tends to exacerbate environmental challenges. Densely populated urban areas may have elevated levels of air pollution due to increased traffic and industrial activities. Cities are warmer than their rural environs because buildings and pavement absorb more heat. This can have serious consequences for the health of city residents, especially the elderly and people with respiratory illnesses. Demand for food, housing, and other resources rises when people move to metropolitan areas, driving the need to clear more land for farming or building. Deforestation is a major environmental concern because it contributes to global warming, biodiversity loss, and soil erosion (Wassie, 2021). In addition, the distribution of people can have an impact on the accessibility and administration of resources like water and power. Major environmental concerns include water scarcity and energy demand in densely populated places. In order to achieve sustainable development, tackling these issues will require meticulous planning and resource management (Choudhary et al., 2021).

This has aroused worldwide interest in the study of population dynamics and its impacts on the social, cultural, and economic development of humanity. An intense debate has been initiated on environmental concerns from the 1960s onwards. The issues debated tried to establish interlinkages between accelerating industrialization, rapid population growth, growing urbanization, technology, over-consumption, depletion of natural resources, pollution, and environmental deterioration. A framework for sustainable development has also been proposed to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own needs.

Consumption patterns

While poverty and environmental degradation are linked, unsustainable consumption and production habits, especially in the developed world, pose the greatest threat. Most industrialized nations do not think about how much stuff they use. Many individuals, especially in developed countries, view advertising and government policies that encourage consumer spending as an integral part of their culture and daily lives. A study conducted by the International Energy Agency (IEA) indicated that the United States and Europe consume the most energy in the world. There was a significant increase in energy consumption in the transportation sector throughout both regions (2020). People in affluent countries leave a much larger ecological footprint than those in developing countries. The ecological footprint of an individual or a community is the amount of arable land and freshwater needed to produce the resources used. It is also the amount of water needed to dispose of those wastes. Compared to other countries, Australia's consumption has one of the highest environmental impacts worldwide. In 2014, Australia had a bigger ecological footprint than the global average of 2.7 global hectares per person (excess carbon emissions are responsible for this large number). If everyone on Earth had an Australian standard of living, we would require 3.6 planets to meet everyone's needs (Australian Academy of Science, n.d.)

As the wealthy in the West consume vast quantities of natural resources to satisfy their extravagant wants, the poor in emerging countries use these same resources in more harmful ways to meet their basic needs. Many people in developing nations depend on subsistence agriculture for their survival, making food insecurity a major issue. The result can be deforestation and soil deterioration due to unsustainable farming methods like slash-and-burn agriculture (Food and Agricultural

Organization, 2018). Indoor air pollution is a serious problem in many underdeveloped nations due to the widespread use of traditional cooking methods that rely on solid fuels like wood or charcoal (World Health Organization, 2018). In addition, households' primary access to fossil fuels characterizes a significant portion of the world's least developed nations. The burning of fossil fuels is a major contributor to both the production of greenhouse gases and the pollution of the air. The World Bank reports that emerging countries were responsible for 67 percent of the world's CO2 emissions in 2016, with China and India being the two countries that produced the most carbon dioxide (World Bank, 2019).

Population Composition

Describes the characteristics of a group of people, such as their ages, genders, races, and ethnicities. The term "environmental difficulties" is used to describe a wide variety of problems that threaten the planet's natural systems, such as global warming, pollution, deforestation, and the loss of natural habitats. The connection between population structure and ecological problems is intricate and multifaceted. Some demographics may significantly impact the environment more than others, and not everyone will be equally affected by the same environmental threats. The World Health Organization (WHO) projects that the population of people aged 60 and older across the globe will reach 2 billion by the year 2050, an increase from the 900 million population in 2015. This equates to a rise from 12% of the overall population to 22% of the total population. The increased number of elderly people also increases the need for conservation efforts because of the strain they place on limited resources. People's healthcare needs, trash output, and energy usage all rise with age. As a result, there will be more interest in environmentally friendly methods of providing healthcare, managing trash, and producing energy.

Inequalities between men and women can further amplify the negative effects of climate change. For instance, women may have restricted access to education, land, and other resources, which might make it more difficult for them to adjust to shifting patterns of climate and agricultural practices. In addition, women are frequently excluded from the decision-making processes associated with climate change, which can lead to policies and programs that fail to consider women's requirements and viewpoints. Women, for instance, may have less access to resources and may be more susceptible to the effects of natural disasters like floods and droughts. According to the findings of a study conducted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), despite women being major stakeholders in climate change matters, they are frequently excluded from the decision-making processes (UNEP, 2018).

Problems with the population and the environment are interconnected and difficult to solve independently. The many causes and effects of these difficulties are at the heart of their complexity. The expansion, dispersion, and fluctuation of human populations pose a variety of problems. Factors including fertility rates, mortality rates, migration patterns, urbanization, and population aging all play a role in these difficulties. Yet, environmental problems like pollution, deforestation, climate change, and biodiversity loss all have their roots in human activity. Population growth and environmental problems have a multiplicative effect, making the situation more difficult. Population increase, for instance, places a strain on natural resources and can contribute to environmental deterioration, while environmental degradation can have an effect on resource availability and quality, hence influencing population growth and standard of living. Social, economic, political, and cultural aspects must all be taken into account if we're going to successfully overcome these obstacles. Sustainable, equitable, and inclusive approaches to resolving population and environmental issues will involve coordination and cooperation on the part of individuals, communities, governments, and institutions at the national, regional, and international levels.

The demographic and environmental difficulties are complex. Thus, we need multidisciplinary and holistic approaches to study and address them.

Environmental Concerns

Transport require in most of the cities have increased significantly due to an increase in population as a result of both natural increase and migration from rural areas and smaller towns. The availability of motorized transport, increase in household income, and increase in commercial and industrial activities have further added to the problem. The use of private motor vehicles has increased substantially over the years, crowding the city space and generating air pollution of serious dimensions. Improvement in urban air quality requires not only increasingly stringent emission standards, specifications for clean fuels, proper maintenance of in-use vehicles, and demand as well as supply-side management measures but also a complete overhaul of

the public transport system. There is a direct relationship between transport and air pollution in a city. Vehicular emissions depend on vehicle speed, vehicle – km, age of the vehicle, and emission rate.

All these problems can only be solved with a concise and cogent urban transport strategy. The policy should be designed in a way that reduces the need to travel by personalized modes and boosts the public transport system. In order to reduce air pollution and congestion, the government should use market-based instruments to promote cleaner technology fuel and encourage people to use non-motorized transport. The health impacts of air pollution need to be better understood and communicated to the people to influence public attitude.

Environmental degradation has three damaging effects. It harms human health, reduces economic productivity, and leads to the loss of amenities. Air pollution is man-made; it affects the respiratory health of mostly women and children. Historically, state-owned production was particularly polluting on account of obsolete technology, poor human resource development, weak management, and an absence of accountability.

Highly polluting industries, transport, river water tanneries, distilleries, and festivals, for example, are highlighted with reference to pollution, and it is suggested that subsidies should be withdrawn so that pollution may be reduced. Harmful organic pollutants are to be removed from usage. Eco-practices should be developed among industries. Strong laws, political will, mass participation, and awareness among ruralizes and urban can do adequate justice for restoring serene nature. Developing countries face an environmental challenge in their traditional area of comparative advantage, namely, labor-intensive industries. India's first-ever charter on Responsibility for Environmental Protection is a unique case of public-private partnership. The concerns about resource depletion and the environment are likely to keep growing as the world's population and its real per capita income continues to grow rapidly by historical standards, while supplies of most natural resources and environmental services are limited and markets for most of them are incomplete or absent. The WTO and the growing international demands for free trade are a direct threat to environmental quality, especially in less developed countries. All countries or community groups today need to work out mechanisms for sustainably managing their ecosystems without jeopardizing their livelihood and compromising environmental quality. Developing countries cannot afford to take too many risks with its economy without weighing the consequences for the basic needs of millions of poor people. With the continuous expansion of its agenda, WTO will make an impact on every segment of our society. Therefore, the country needs to build domestic clarity on the issues involved and a domestic consensus on our national interest and where we should position ourselves in the WTO negotiations. The industrial countries had lower environmental standards at earlier stages of their development. For the past 50 to 100 years, these nations have damaged the world environment very badly to bolster their production. About 20% of the world's wealthy located in the North consume 80% of the world's natural resources and spend 80% of its pollution. Since developing countries contribute a disproportionately small amount per capita to global environmental problems, they should be compensated for contributing to their solutions rather than threatened with trade sanctions if they fail to contribute. As a developing country, India should mobilize the Third World countries to restrict WTO not to incorporate labor and environmental issues in trade negotiations. The movements of the social groups are fundamentally rooted in the problems of poverty, underdevelopment, and competition for scarce resources. Both political and economic factors interplay is found to be equally important factor for forced displacement in the present context.

Among other factors, the state is the major player in this process. Displacement of the people as a result of development projects involves their resettlement and rehabilitation (R & R) cost to a new place. Such costs are often put at the market value of the property lost by the people. However, the actual cost to affected persons for R & R usually comprises a lot more.

The main concern in the case of forced migration is how to help people survive, the role of relief, and how rehabilitation should be promoted. What does migration do to the migrant, how do people cope with the loss of home or income with the trauma of violence, how do they rebuild their lives, and what factors influence that process? The complex issue of forced migration or displacement demands a more holistic and comprehensive approach. In-depth research studies taking into account the practical aspects of cost-benefit analysis, including the opportunity cost, environmental costs, externalities, and distribution of project benefits to the displaced, should be undertaken.

Health Dimensions

Lack of adequate services of livelihood, poor employment opportunities, and poverty continue to result in large-scale internal and cross-district/state movement of populations in the country. Migrants and mobile populations are found vulnerable to ill health and diseases because they stay away from usual support networks and alienation from socio-cultural contexts. In the case of HIV/AIDS and reproductive health morbidities, the vulnerability of mobile populations means a lack of social support structures an inadequate, unsystematic, and rigid public health system that is largely unresponsive to the needs of mobile groups. It also means the inability to exercise control over one's risk of acquiring sexual infections due to various reasons. In the era of globalization and economic liberalization, population mobility can be expected to increase several times, and the marginalization of mobile groups will continue to pose problems for the physical and mental health of migrants.

A mathematical index based on calorie intake per family is used to measure the extent of undernourishment. Undernourishment plays a very vital role in assessing the health status and also poverty level of a population, as undernourishment and poverty are directly related. The assessment of nutritional status can be worked out using direct parameters like dietary intake, and anthropometrical, biochemical, and biophysical parameters. Other indirect parameters like morbidity/mortality rates and ecological parameters like socio-economic status, housing, and environmental hygiene can also be used. As food is undoubtedly the most important requisite of all the essentials of life, dietary intake has been widely used as an indicator of nutritional status. Many researchers have taken the nutritional gap as an indicator to measure undernourishment. However, a single index has not been developed, which could give the overall view of the level of undernourishment prevalent in the families of a given population. Such an index is found helpful in comparing the extent of undernourishment in two or more populations, income groups, class, sex, etc. so that adequate policy measures can be taken to improve the situation.

Population growth and consequent growth in urbanization are causing environmental deterioration in the countries of the world. The deteriorating quality of the urban environment plays a crucial role in maintaining the health of urban are connected with environmental pollution. High levels of air pollution lead to premature deaths, respiratory problems, chronic bronchitis, bronchial asthma, emphysema, and lung cancer. It is often the poorest who suffer most from such pollution.

With the growing population, water bodies are being polluted very fast. The use of polluted water for drinking and bathing is yet another principal pathway for infection by diseases that kill millions and sickens more than a billion people each year. Various steps have been taken. However, more than all these steps is needed to meet the challenges of growing population and developing activities, which will be primarily concentrated in urban areas. Growing population and urbanization are promoting a seemingly insatiable appetite to consume and also providing a value system that places a premium on technological changes to further serve the desire for increased quantities of output and consumption. If urban expansion as a result of growing population is not regulated and well planned on scientific lines with the use of environmental impact assessment, environmental health hazards will continue to occur. A multi-pronged strategy would be required to solve these health problems.

The interventions included equal participation of men and women in reproductive health, training, the orientation of community-based health care providers, setting up community centers for women activities, interpersonal communication, and verbal autopsy of maternal death. Keeping in view the poor reproductive health (RH) which directly or indirectly causes the poor economic situation and well-being of the people, such a project has been started for the poor city dwellers.

The achievements of the intervention program were found to be encouraging. It is pointed out that the equal participation of both men and women in the reproductive health program is essential to improve its access and quality. This would result in better reproductive health of the community members, thereby improving their quality of life. A strong need for male involvement in any RH program. There is also a need to develop a model that would serve as a framework for program development and service delivery, incorporating a comprehensive approach for men's healthcare facilities.

Conclusion

In order to fulfill the multiplicity of demands of the growing population, tremendous pressure on environmental resources has now become visible. Rising levels of economic growth have led to enormous levels of waste generation, pollution, and environmental

degradation. Such mindless exploitation of nature in the name of economic development is unfolding numerous types of disasters. The lack of essential environmental resources and human exposure to environmental hazards are resulting in several types of health problems and deadly diseases. Growing concerns about poverty, population growth, environmental degradation, and health hazards call for a comprehensive policy of community-based resource management. The stability of the population is directly related to the quality of development and environmental resources. Humanity is required to escape the present day's trap of unethical and resource destructive growth processes and the dominant development paradigm. The new path needs to focus on the roles of values, ethics, morality, and the clarity of goals of human life. The deteriorating quality of life in urban areas due to the rapid growth of the urban population is assuming dangerous proportions. The majority of our people are deprived of the basic necessities of life. Consequently, the cumulative impact of all this on the population, health, and environment is very pathetic. In order to tackle these problems, basic socio-ecological, cultural, and political economy issues need to be addressed immediately, and a permanent solution for ill health, poverty, and related problems will have to be worked out. Using economic instruments to protect the environment, adopt green technologies, clean products, and ecosystem restoration would promote sustainable development and quality of life.

The world's population has witnessed unprecedented growth mainly over the past five decades. Consequently, this has aroused worldwide interest in studying population dynamics and its impact on humanity's social, cultural, and economic development. While the quality of life of the people in poor countries is deteriorating by a failure to meet their basic needs, people belonging to the world's richest are experiencing greater stress. These contradictory situations call for happiness and the people's good life to be built not by accumulation of wealth alone but by ensuring the well-being of all. Human development, which may be defined as a process of development of the people, for the people, and by the people, can only be considered as the best contraceptive for controlling population growth.

Apart from several other consequences, environmental degradation leads to increased health problems, reduced economic production, and loss of amenities. It is clearly noted that due to population increase, natural growth, and migration, the transport demand in these areas has increased substantially, crowding the city spaces and generating air pollution and health hazards of serious dimensions. In order to reduce air pollution and congestion in the cities, the government should use market-based instruments, promote cleaner technology fuel and encourage people to use public transport.

A direct threat to environmental quality in developing countries today is emerging from the WTO and growing international demands for free trade. To sustainably manage their ecosystems, all countries must work out mechanisms based on social and environmental realities. Similarly, the complex issue of development-induced forced migration or displacement demands a comprehensive approach based on cost-benefit analysis for the relief and rehabilitation of the affected people.

Due to the lack of adequate services of livelihood, poor employment opportunities, and poverty, large-scale internal movement of the population in the country continues. Migrants and mobile populations are found vulnerable to ill health and disease, particularly in cases of HIV/AIDs and reproductive health morbidities. A responsive public health system to the requirements of the mobile groups needs to be put in place. If the government fails to provide free health care services to all vulnerable sections, productivity will suffer, and the poor's condition will worsen, resulting in higher levels of poverty.

The health status and also poverty levels of the population, a mathematical index for measurement of nutritional status, plays a vital role in comparing the extent of under-nourishment so that adequate policy measures can be initiated to improve the situation in the country.

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