


Chapter 4

A Global Policy Design for Sustainable Human Development Vis-à-vis Environmental Security

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ABSTRACT

Development and environmental security are mostly considered contradictory principles. The post-Second World War period profoundly needed development but as its by-product the environmental stability was lost. Environmentalists and Ecological movements called for environmental justice. They emphasized the need for a quality environment not only for the present but also for the coming generations. Sustainable development thus evolved as a suitable developmental model. Towards the end of the 20th century there originated the human security paradigm, which advanced the idea of sustainable human development. This neologism proposed a people-centered developmental model without disregarding ecological concerns. Since the globe is in industry 4.0 and almost started to actively engage in industry 5.0, the sustainable human development model can function as a perfect mechanism to link both development and environmental security. In this perspective, this chapter focuses on a global policy design that promotes sustainable human development without endangering the environment.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Development and environmental security are complementary demanding the attention of global conscience (WCED, 1987). The globe overcame the tragedies and complexities of the Second World War through an unparalleled economic growth, energized by scientific and technological advancements. The post-1950 industrial and economic developments of the United States of America (USA/US) and the United Kingdom (UK) forced other countries of Global North to focus on developmental paradigm without being significantly concerned about its environmental impacts. While witnessing the economic advancements of industrialized countries, the developing countries shifted from agricultural to industrial economy to address poverty and other human insecurities (Roy, 1996). But this paradigm shift resulted in severe environmental issues that the globe never witnessed. Unsystematic and profit-oriented developmental activities are the main causes for various environmental problems like deforestation, soil erosion, non-biodegradable waste, contamination of water and air, climate change, and global warming.

Environmental insecurities became worse with the shift from Keynesian philosophy to neo-liberal worldview. The Keynesians argued for the State's key role in economy, whereas the neo-liberals called for its minimal role and propagated larger freedom to market forces (Roy, 1996). When the market powers like multinational and transnational companies (MNCs & TNCs) substituted the State's role, it also shifted the focus from people's welfare to the industrialists' economic benefits. Such profit-oriented activities further deteriorated the so-far existing environmental issues and put the whole globe in danger. As a response, the international community shifted its approach from development to sustainable development and then to sustainable human development (SHD) intending to ensure environmental security without compromising the developmental needs of people. Sustainable human development (SHD) appeared in global thinking with the initiative of the United Nations Developmental Program (UNDP). Its 1994 Human Development Report (HDR) introduced the human security paradigm that stands for universality of life claims and SHD. This neologism affirmed environmental security as a vital component of human security framework.

In this perspective, this chapter revolves around the correlation between security (UN Charter, Art. 1), development (added to national and international discussions in the 1950s), and environment (post-1970s concern of the global community). The chapter tries to explore and critically analyze the need for development in ensuring human security, the impact of unsystematic development on environmental security, the emergence of both sustainable development and SHD for securing both human lives and ecosystem, and the interaction between human security and environmental

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