

GREEN ECONOMY: “THE NEED OF THE HOUR”

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Abstract: We are living in times where global crises- social, ecological, economical problems are increasing rapidly, hence require novel answers. In this context, the concept of Green economy is being discussed for achieving sustainability as our environment is suffering from various hazards. Therefore, in 2012 the United Nation General assembly decided to hold a summit in Rio de Janeiro, where government agreed to frame the green economy as an important tool for sustainable development which helps in maintaining the functioning of ecosystems with proper economic growth, poverty eradication and employment generation. The green economy aims to improve the consumption practices and production processes in order to reduce resource consumption, waste generation and carbon emission. Green economy can restore prosperity & nature by adopting various principles by offering opportunities for green and decent livelihood, enterprise & jobs and also prioritizes the access & investment to the sustainable natural systems, infrastructure, education & knowledge needed to prosper for all people. The paper stated the sustainable measures in the context of Indian economy & it is going to have ripple effects on employment, domestic industries, trade and agriculture which require fiscal reforms, trade patterns, skill development and indigenous research & development for resource efficiency etc. This paper is based on descriptive analysis and finds the importance of development of strategies to adopt the principles of green economy in the context of Indian economy. The paper also finds the possible solutions to the problem faced by India while adopting the principles of Green economy. It is expected that the findings of the paper will help the policy makers for better implications of the policy and also contribute to achieve sustainable achievement in context with Indian economy.

Keywords: Green Economy, Sustainable Environment, Economic Development, Skill Development, Economic Growth.

INTRODUCTION

Indian economy is one of the fastest growing economy in the world, hence in the global landscape, from Indian economy is seen as a bright spot. Along with this, population of India is the second largest population in the world after China; hence Indian economy holds responsibility to meet its billion plus people's needs without exceeding its environmental boundaries. However, there is inequitable distribution of wealth in India, which over 95% of adult population having wealth less than USD 10,000 and on the other hand over USD 1,00,000 of wealth holds by 0.3 % adults.

The economic survey 2013 has revealed that India ranks 131 out of 187 countries on Human Development Index with the score of 0.634. There has been 27% downfall of score mainly caused due to disparity of health, education and living standards within the country.

Further, there is a huge consumption demand in the country due to increasing population and urbanization which can cause serious threat to the sustainability of environment and economic growth. According to the report of Living Planet, if India continues to consume its natural resources with current rate, then it just 14 years, its consumption level would rise to the combined consumption of all the 34 OECD countries. Hence, there is an urgent need of economic reforms in India in the direction of fair, green and inclusive economies. There has been long deliberation both at global and national level about the transition to green and inclusive economics. India recently has made 2 global commitments: the ratification of the Paris Agreement aims for holistic well-being of today and in the future without surpassing natural environmental boundaries and 2030 Global Development Agenda which is popularly known as Sustainable Development Goals.

India has also made some remarkable changes to its approach which includes fiscal federalism, shifting from 5 year development plan to a 15 year planning model at National level. It has also steps towards other landmark change by introducing a new tax regime by putting goods and services tax which gives a way to a common national market as GST combines various Central and State tax into a single tax region.

It has been identified in global agenda as well as in natural development debates that exploring economic choice will lead us to the path of sustainable development. In this context, the concept of green economy is an important approach as it holds many promises for India by linking the economic growth with human development and environmental sustainability.

GREEN ECONOMY AND IT'S APPROACH

Even after the outbreak of liberalisation and globalisation, we have seen that the global economy has been paralyzed and because of various ecological causes we have been forced to look at green economic models.

In accordance with following the Earth Summit, 1992 from the last 20 years the corporate-carbon-consumer axis has been the design of the global economy. Carbon has been used as a resource by various corporate houses. Various most powerful developing economies of the world including India has been committed to cutting down to carbon emissions for achieving the sustainable goal. Despite the Global agenda for sustainable development we have witnessed a series of natural disasters from past over 20 years. Therefore, it becomes essential for large corporations to shift the focus towards green economies and to generate jobs by Low-carbon emissions and to transfer and use green renewable technology- they have to design better public-private partnerships.

With various emerging environmental regulatory frameworks like Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), the Nagoya Protocol of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) are innovative financial systems which are designed to sustainable use and incentivise conservation of natural resources. The to approach of the core of green economy paradigm are-

- The conservation of local community of the ecosystem and of common chain resources granting rights to indigenous people as well as to ensure that they are incentivized.
- Ensuring monetary and non-monetary benefits from the research and commercial use of the resources in the form of genes or carbon stocks for the community.

The green economy is defined by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in its extended version as one in which "*growth in income and employment should be driven by public and private investments that reduce carbon emissions and pollution, enhance energy and resource efficiency and prevents the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services*"

However, the failure and success of a green economy will largely depend on green governance as well as communities who are effectively engaged in the sustainable use and the conservation of biodiversity needs to be incentivizing for a green economy to work properly.

At present stage, it becomes very important to transition into a green economy by adopting the principles of green governance. While ensuring robust green governance, it becomes a matter of concern to figure out how the private and the public sector can invest in green economy as green economy is considered as the economy of future.

In a multilateral agreement, the Nagoya Protocol comes forward and take the first step to secure green governance by recognising four key rights of the communities. They are:

- Genetic resources
- Traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources
- Self-governance through customary laws and community protocols
- Benefits from the utilisation of their traditional knowledge and genetic resources by third parties

Our nature is considered as natural capital by the green economy and hence uses it as the monetary value of biodiversity. Green economy puts an economic value on biodiversity.

Due to massive destruction of biodiversity and ecosystem, the poorest countries are mostly negatively affected. For the sake of personal gain, for short term economic gain, the adverse use of land heavily affects the natural capital flow of the ecosystem. It is estimated that if all the forests in India are destroyed there has been negative impact on India's GDP by 16% approximately.

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 whose theme was "The Future we Want" focuses on adopting a model of green economy. It also considers that poverty reduction is one of the most significant instruments used for sustainable development in context with green economy. While maintaining the healthy functioning of our earth's ecosystem, the green economy should work to provide employment opportunities, improve human welfare, alleviate poverty and sustain economic growth. It should affirm that in the context

of poverty eradication and sustainable development the policies for a green economy should be guided by Agenda 21, Rio principles and Johannesburg plan of Implementation.

It has been seen that India has a great potential to gear the green economy. This region is rich in distinct ethnic, tribal community as well as has abundant of natural capital flow, they can extract various ecological benefits for its distinct crafts, all they need is financial and Technical assistance to access markets & credits. There is a great scope to develop India into a sustainable Eco-tourism destination. In modern Global community, green economy is need of the hour cooperated with set of robust green governance principles to make a climate-resilient capital flow in order to marginalised ecological and economic benefits of developing countries like India.

In order to increase the resource efficiency to reduced GHG emissions, there is a need to transition to a low-carbon and resource-efficient economy which involves different methods of production among various sectors especially in the energy, agriculture and waste management sectors as these sectors accounts for high degree of share of GHG emissions, particularly in agriculture which employs large number of Indian population.

According to a report generated by International Labour Organisation (ILO), it is stated that if 40% electricity of India generates from renewable by 2030, then country would be able to generate about 3 million new jobs.

India's Spand reported on July 5, 2018 stated that renewable will have most new jobs, as due to the adoption of sustainable practices which includes growth in the use of electric vehicles, change in energy mix, increase in energy efficiency future buildings resulted in the net increase of 2.8 million jobs approximately. It is also seen that except mining industry all other sectors in the economy will see employment hike by 2030. The report further says that renewable will create 1.5 million jobs followed by 285,200 jobs in service sector and 466,200 jobs in the construction sector. In this way, it is clear that "green economy" is able to help millions of people to overcome from poverty and deliver improved the standard of living to the present and future generation.

TRANSITION TOWARD GREEN ECONMY IN INDIA

The green economy is playing vital role than just environmental in scope, even economic growth and development of the economy. From economy point of view there are many ways in which a green economy might benefit developed and developing nations.

In 2016, India positioned a low 68 out of 80 nations, regarding execution positioning, broke down in the Global Green Economy Index (GGEI), which is an information driven examination of national green economy execution.

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India positioned among the toward the last in the Environment dimension, volatile climate and dimension of efficiency sectors .It any way performed well in the markets and investment measurement, falling close to the top twenty. India achieved a moderately high recognition rank of 19,(citizens assessment of their nations execution)

- **GOVERNMENT:** 12th five year plan of the government of India made for environmental sustainability, a important pillar of India's development and economic growth strategy .Since 1951, India has abandoned five year plans and has rather developed a long term vision. In addition to that, 7 year National Development Agenda from 2017 to 2024 and 3 year action agenda is also proposed from 2017- 2020. The 15 year vision focuses on poverty alleviation and inclusive growth and is co-end with the period to accomplish Sustainable development growth.

Some political groups have taken up important issues around sustainability development and inclusivity during elections, however ecological suitability issues are as a rule given just elaborate significance at the national level and featured in the natural deposit dependent geographic areas. In the 2017 election in the Goa's state found significant issue in elections i.e. adverse balance between environment and development. Citizens shocked over the goa's state government decision to classify coconut palms as grass and permit their commercial cutting.

- **BUSINESS & COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES:** Concern to business sustainability because of environmental change, limitations of resources, along with mounting pressures from different partners are inducing organistaions to make proactive steps to ensure for sustainability of operations. However, the development is not very appealing in case of big industries. In 2016, Ten Indian Companies were ranked in the top 500 and two in the top 200 green companies in the world.

The government of India has taken MAKE IN INDIA initiative; it aims to change the employment landscape of the India through boosting manufacturing sector. The government of India has also created green energy corridor to bring in renewable energies and also make smart grids which will help the variable input of renewable energies.

India has committed above \$1 billion to this initiative and started ventures in various states such as Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Major Indian states have additionally taken to these steps to adapt to industry 4.0, related to manufacturing sector.

In 2016-17 the nation attracted most noteworthy ever FDI inflow of USD 60 billion. The government has also taken initiative Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). The objective of development programme is to provide training in market relevant skill and development skills. This programme is also bring conducted for the entire value chain of manufacturing, beginning from rural industries to state- of- the- art manufacturing sectors. The Indian government has set an objective of training 15 million youth by 2022. The pattern of business and commercial activities adopting sustainability practices is expanding through the impetus of initiatives by industry organization and government guidelines. This pattern is expected to quickly increase as business become more informed.

- **CIVIL SOCIETY:** India is a nation that has notable past, significant present and aspiring future. The vision of sustainable development and green economy is showing a historic past India's vibrant groups. Civil society groups have been very active for environment and social compromises in the current development pattern, for example in Delhi where the proposal to cut 16500 trees for development project was opposed, by civil citizen groups of Delhi and many people turned up demanding that the government should take alternative plan for this project.

Another case in Delhi, Bullet Train Project, a coalition of organization has highlighted the activity that around 80,000 trees would have to be cut down to make way for the high-speed corridor, which is very serious environment issue. Terming this a "Clear Climate Negative Action" on the part of the government, the civil society group opposed and has questioned its economic feasibility and sought the rollback of this project. These two incidents has showed that civil society groups have been engaging with the central and state governments to give information and insights on planning and sustainable development on themes related to green economy. Despite the fact that the space for green economy is considered to be shrinking and given the more tight financing norms.

To make a strategy and plan for resource efficiency in India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has set up an Indian Resource Panel with representations from Government, Business and Civil Society.

POSSIBILTIES OF GREEN ECONOMY IN INDIA

India, as a member of the G-20, its decision to promote green economy is elaborated in India's 11th five year plan (2007-12) which is linked to its overall aim for sustainability and foster prosperity. By implementing the concept of green economy, India would be able to achieve its sustainable development goal to large extent by 2022. Using historical economic data it is found out that green growth will be able to drastically change India's current economic paradigm and also leads to the sustainability and prosperity for all Indian.

A recent survey shows that among 178 countries, India ranked 155th and can be considered almost last in air pollution exposure. The survey also concluded that the environmental quality of India is far below comparing to all BRICS countries [Russia (73), China (118), Brazil (77) and South Africa (72)]. Also, according to a recent survey by WHO, 13 out of 20 most polluted cities across the G-20 economics are in India, despite it poverty also remain the main cause of degradation of country's resources.

KEY FINDINGS

- Green growth is considered as quite affordable in India by adopting various policy interventions such as environmental taxes could be used properly to yield positive health and environmental benefits with lower economic cost for India.
- In order to achieve sustainability, India needs to value its resources by implementing better policy decisions as India is rich in unique biodiversity and ecosystem.
- As an index of economic growth, it is imperative to calculate green Gross Domestic Product (green GDP) as conventional measures of growth does not calculate the environmental costs adequately.

CONCLUSION

The Accomplishment of green economy has certain requirements. The national economic policies will be planned and actualized in congruity. If there is unforeseen financial crisis or economic crisis the casualty is the green economy because the advantages are visible in the long run technology transfer. Developing nations have intellectual property rights because of the research

and development facilities unlike developing countries. In this way integration of global advancement and technologies in to green economic policies of global nations has main issue.

The technological and advancement disparities will persist with discrimination between developed and developing nation. Another major problem is availability of finance. The long term investments of green economy are limited to government funds and also the carbon capture innovation isn't accessible in developing countries like India. To advance green economy the developed countries are in beneficial position which permits exploitation. Never the less there is a point conflict on the subsidies practices as a tool of protection. Hence the long term investments, carbon capture technology and proper financial assistance are not available to developing nations to implement green economic policies. There is a significant demand from developing nations for adequate and new international financial resources towards sustainable development.

India is a country that has an abundant natural capital flow, rich biodiversity and abundantly rich, diverse, ethnic and tribal community. Each community contributes in diverse ecological benefits. The problem arises when they can't extract the potential profit because of lack of technical and financial assistance. It could be easily transformed and developed into a sustainable eco tourism destination, as green is need of the hour. The green economy and a set of robust green governance principles can establish a climate resilient natural capital flow, so that everyone even the under privileged can have the access to the potential economic and ecological benefits. The necessity of the green economy is to fill the void between development and inequitable resources benefit sharing. The marginalized section of the society would not be excluded anymore by the mainstream.

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