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ABSTRACT

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

Sustainable development and protection of environment needs expertise both in law and science because it involves insight not only into legal doctrines but also the on-going natural, biological and other related processes in and around the planet earth. Environment protection is a part of the modern civilization and the movement is growing stronger with time and the sustainable development has become a key to decision making on economic development. The historic Stockholm Conference, 1972, Rio Conference, 1992 & the Johannesburg Conference, 2002 are the milestones in generating awareness around the world about environmental protection. Large scale industrialization, deforestation and pollution all together are the perpetual sources of environment degradation globally. Therefore it is imperative to take remedial steps to protect the planet earth from all these onslaughts. This is emphasized by the fact that right to pollution free air and water is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. But while protecting the environmental interest, we cannot ignore the legitimate developmental interest of the population as right to development is a cherished human right. In order to improve the living standards; infrastructural facilities like electricity projects, dams, transports and communication facilities ought to be provided. Its represents conflicting environmental and developmental interests. On one hand we need a clean and unpolluted environment and on the other hand we need development in various sectors like housing, industries, transport and communication, etc. these conflicting interests need to be harmonized in a manner beneficial to

the mankind. But to achieve such a harmony is a delicate task. In order to resolve these conflicting interests, the concept of Sustainable Development was mooted for the first time in the Maltese proposal of 1967 presented in the United Nations General Assembly. The concept of Sustainable development was prominently incorporated in Stockholm declaration, with provided that the natural resources of the earth including air, water, land, flora and fauna and especially representative samples of nature ecosystem must be safeguarded for the benefit of present and future generations through careful planning management as appropriate.

Enhancing environmental awareness is essential to harmonize patterns of individual behavior with the requirements of environmental conservation. This would minimize the demands placed on the monitoring and enforcement regimes; in fact, large-scale non-compliance would simply overwhelm any feasible regulatory machinery. Awareness relates to the general public, as well as specific sections, e.g. the youth, adolescent, urban dwellers, industrial and construction workers, municipal and other public employees, etc. Awareness involves not only internalization of environmentally responsible action, including to public health, living conditions, sanitation and livelihood prospects. Environmental education is the principal means of enhancing such awareness, both among the public at large, and among focused groups. Such education may be formal, or informal, or a combination of both. It may rely on educational institutions at different levels; the print, electronic, or live media; and various other formal and informal settings. The directives of the Supreme Court went to the extent of spreading environmental awareness and literacy as well as imparting of environmental education not only at school level, but at all levels, including higher education in the formal system.

The author in this paper want analyze about environmental protection, sustainable development and awareness about the environment.