



# BRIDGING THE DIVIDE: ADDRESSING INEQUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

**Mr. Jose Francis**

*Koshys Institute of Management Studies, Bangalore*

## INTRODUCTION

We are living in a society and it is duty of the authorities to make sure that they are implementing effective tools and methods for managing the societal issues or problems faced by the people. Due to the impact of globalization and other recent trends the people are facing different problems. A social problem is a societal issue that makes it difficult for people to reach their full potential. Countries such Australia and US spending more fund for managing the social problems faced by the citizens. In this research paper we are analysing the two significant societal problems; inequality and environmental issues in a detailed way. We are also analysing the methods or strategies for managing the issues related with environment and inequality.

## ISSUE 1 – ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

### Statement of Problem or Issue

There is a vital relationship between a society's well-being and the quality of the environment in which it lives. Many environmental challenges, such as waste overproduction, habitat loss, and contamination of our air, water, and other resources, can degrade the quality of life on Earth in today's global civilization. Environmental problems are the negative effects of human activity on the natural environment (Kaiser et al 2022). Environmental change is a social justice problem as well. The consequences are usually severe for some groups than for others. People with less social, economic, and political clout are more likely to suffer negative consequences from pollution, resource scarcity, extreme weather events, and other environmental issues.

### Interpretation and Critical Analysis

Conflicting interests in natural resources and environmental protection produce environmental challenges. Aside from these issues, social movements see environmental disputes as a crisis of democracy and participation, as well as a cultural and ethical crisis, due to the uneven power relations and contradictory systems of values and norms at play (Matten et al 2022). Environmental movements are calling into question traditional national politics and perhaps states themselves as new actors enter the political arena. Traditional political parties are losing members and votes, while green parties and more spontaneous political groupings are gaining clout.

Because of the growing need for food, shelter, and other natural resources, the increased human density throughout the cosmos is putting pressure on nature. This, in turn, has an impact on nature. Changes in land use patterns are a major cause of environmental deterioration. Cutting down trees and destroying forests and aquatic habitats are putting the world on the verge of a global warming disaster. The extension of agricultural fields by erasing forests, urbanization, industry, infrastructure building activities, cars, power plants, usage of pesticides, and chemical pollutants all contribute to an increase in pollution and environmental deterioration (Morrison et al 2022). Another hazard to environment is a decrease in the amount of ground water. Wetlands are rapidly disappearing. Government initiatives are frequently in conflict with nature. This must be closely watched. People are unconcerned about the environment. Biodiversity loss is a hot topic these days. Overexploitation, poaching, illicit trafficking, and habitat degradation are threatening world biodiversity. If left untreated, this will cause severe issues. Natural disasters degrade atmospheric conditions. This, in turn, accelerates global warming and climate change. The rising temperature will become unbearable over time. We have no idea what will happen in 20 years. Critical Comparison of Differing Perspectives of Each School of Thought

### Free Market Capitalism

There can be little doubt that overcrowding, as well as the vast industrial outputs of both wealthy and developing nations, have an irreversible negative influence on the environment (Chen et al 2022). However, environmental concerns inherent in the dynamics of capitalism as a worldwide economic system are frequently overlooked in



their diagnosis. Capitalism, defined as profit-making in a competitive market, is an economic system in which the private profit-maximization paradigm underpins both its virtues and flaws. Its strengths are shown in its high production and growth rates. Profit maximization logic drives producers to specialize in what they do best and invest in cutting-edge technology to boost production and efficiency. Over utilization of resources for meeting the needs of the people create different problems to the environment

### **Doughnut Economics**

The phrase "Doughnut Economics" was invented by British economist Kate Raworth in a study published in Oxfam in 2012, and she later expanded on it in her book "Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st Century Economist." In both, she suggests a new humanist economic model, a tool that many communities across the world are beginning to employ (Chen et al 2022). The Doughnut formula idea is a shift in economic paradigm in response to humanity's biggest challenge: alleviating worldwide poverty while remaining mindful of the planet's limited natural resources. It gets its name from the fact that it is visually represented by two doughnut-shaped discs: the one in the center is the social foundation, which includes basic fundamental rights, and the one on the outside is the ecological ceiling, which cannot be exceeded if we are to ensure humanity's prosperity. The doughnut in the center represents the space in which mankind may advance if the planet's limitations are respected. Both circumferences correspond to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

### **Recommendations**

Environmental contamination may be avoided, which can save lives. There is much scientific data demonstrating how environmental, chemical, and air pollution, as well as climate change, endanger and harm our health. Environmental management is a brand-new and ever-changing idea (He et al 2022). Environmental management is concerned with the environmental management of a firm. It denotes the organizational structure, responsibility sequences, methods, and prerequisites for implementing an environmental company policy. The environment encompasses all inanimate organisms and natural forces, including man.

The first technique to decrease pollution is to employ the 3Rs principle, which stands for reduce, reuse, and recycle. Citizens should minimize their use of air conditioners since they emit dangerous chemicals such as ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons, resulting in less air pollution. One may not make a difference, but when combined, huge improvements may be created. Moving on, reusing reusable products such as plastic bags, bottles, cartons, and other objects is another strategy to prevent pollution. For example, instead of discarding a worn-out tire, it may be utilized to create a plantation plot. Recycling recyclable things such as glass, cans, and newspapers is the next step in reducing pollution. Recycled newspapers may be made into toilet paper, reducing waste. Reducing the number of automobiles on the road would also assist to reduce global air pollution. The more the use of automobiles, the more dangerous chemicals such as hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and sulfur dioxides are emitted into the atmosphere, causing major air pollution. The use of automobiles, trucks, and motorcycles should be significantly limited since the gases emitted by these vehicles contribute to the greenhouse effect. However, these pollutions can be decreased if residents practice carpooling and use public transportation such as buses, trains, monorails, and others. Furthermore, instead of driving, individuals may walk or cycle to nearby places, resulting in reduced air pollution.

Another strategy to lessen pollution on Earth is to raise public awareness. Campaigns such as the "Go Green" campaign, which urges residents to plant more trees and utilize recyclable things in their daily lives, can raise awareness about the necessity of eliminating pollution on Earth. The "Earth Hour" is another worldwide event that urges everyone to turn off all lights for one hour in order to raise awareness about the necessity of decreasing pollution on the planet by minimizing the use of electronic devices.

### **Conclusions**

To summarize, there are several strategies to minimize pollution on Planet, including implementing the 3Rs idea, reducing vehicle usage on the road, raising awareness among individuals, and enforcing regulations that would produce a healthier environment for the benefit of both mankind and our mother earth. As a result, we must lace up our boots and prepare to eliminate pollution in everything we do and wherever we go in order to have a brighter future.

### **Reflection**

Through this activity I understand that the people and environment are facing different issues and government parties are involved in different activities for preventing the environmental issues. I also understand that every person has to take the initiative for reducing the environmental issues.



## ISSUE TWO – INEQUALITY

### Statement of Problem or Issue

Inequality is defined as the uneven and/or unfair allocation of resources and opportunities among individuals of a society. Inequality may mean different things to different individuals in different situations. Inequality also has separate but overlapping economic, social, and geographical aspects. Inequality debates are further exacerbated by a schism between the moral ethics of fairness and social justice on the one hand and the normative concept of "deservingness" on the other. Inequalities inside social groups, as well as those between social groupings, have received more attention in recent years (Jun et al 2022). Most civilizations are ruled economically by a tiny elite, and most ecological ecosystems are dominated by a small proportion of the species. We find a striking parallel between patterns of inequality in nature and in society, pointing to underlying unifying principles.

### Interpretation and Critical Analysis

Within countries, inequality is quite high, but it is not increasing everywhere. In most affluent nations, income disparity has risen since 1990. Inequality fell in most Latin American nations from 1990 to the early 2010s, but is again rising in several. Even at equivalent levels of development, the patterns in inequality differ (Lakner et al 2022). Inequality across nations has decreased in relative terms, although it remains larger than inequality inside most countries. Absolute economic disparities across countries are widening. The world is still a long way from achieving the aim of equal opportunity for all: variables beyond an individual's control, such as gender, race, ethnicity, migratory status, and, for children, their parents' financial level, continue to impact one's chances of success in life. Inequalities between groups are decreasing in some circumstances but increasing in others. Unless and until development is accelerated, leaving no one behind will remain a distant objective by 2030. High or rising inequality not only impacts the poor and other vulnerable populations. It has an impact on the general well-being of society.

High inequality cultures grow more slowly than low inequality civilizations and are less successful in eradicating poverty. Inequalities in outcomes produce or maintain uneven opportunities and prolong societal divides in the absence of proper policies and institutions (Demir et al 2022). Rising inequality has fueled anger, widened political gaps, and has the potential to spark violent conflict.

### Critical Comparison of Differing Perspectives of Each School of Thought

#### Economics perspectives on inequality \_ Neoclassical perspective

Neoclassical perspective: view income inequality as an outcome of free market mechanism and inevitable. Adam Smith also argues that economic inequalities are necessary and useful because without rich people to admire and to emulate, there would be no economic growth. Or, as Smith puts it, 'a people who are all on an equality will necessarily be very poor'. From neoclassical perspective, income inequality generates savings and thus, stimulates economic growth (King et al 2022). The explanation is that unequal distribution of income diverts income from consumption to savings, as marginal propensity to save increases with an increase in income while marginal propensity to consume decreases.

#### Economics perspectives on inequality- Post Keynesian perspective

From post-keynesian perspective, inequality is not inevitable but a choice. Stiglitz argues that inequality is self-perpetuating, that it is produced by the vast amount of political power the wealthy hold to control legislative and regulatory activity. Stiglitz blames rent-seeking for causing the inequality, with the wealthy using their power to create monopolies (patent), incur favourable treatment by the government, and pay low taxes (Bing et al 2022). Stiglitz will expose the neoliberal policies, such as deregulation and tax cuts for the rich, which he claimed are causing many people to fall further and further behind. Stiglitz suggests that reducing rent-seeking is critical to reining in inequality, especially when it comes to complex issues such as housing prices, patents, and the power that large corporations wield. Given that savings and investment are positively related, it is possible to conclude that a certain level of inequality can be good for growth

#### Economics perspectives on inequality \_ Heterodox Perspectives

Heterodox Perspectives: Neoclassical presuppositions that market should play a central role in rationing scarce resources is a subject of debate. When considering the relationship between income inequality and economic progress, it not only matters effect of savings on economic growth but also the effect of economic growth on wellbeing. From Heterodox perspective the international policy that focus on inequality alleviation coexists with



neoliberal policies, as result it widened inequality domestically and internationally. Pieterse (2002) indicates that the conventional assumption is that neoliberal globalisation policies of structural adjustment programs (SAPs) reduce inequality. However, his research shows that where these policies have been most consistently implemented, they led to the steepest increase in inequality because these policies contradicted conventional wisdom in developing countries (Wagner et al 2022)

### Recommendations

Access to great education, in particular, broadens possibilities and promotes a more equitable distribution of talents. However, rather than helping to level the playing field, the educational system has instead worked to maintain disparities. To assist people in reaching their full potential, full employment and decent job must be promoted. However, there is a sharp difference between imminent and transformational changes in the world of work and governments' and the international community's readiness to manage them. Governments may address these disparities by expanding investments in labour market institutions and legislation, as well as promoting new forms of collective representation, ensuring that individuals working under non-standard employment contracts or outside the formal sector have a voice.

Fiscal and monetary policies can be used to promote more fairness. They can mobilize resources for social programs, particularly social protection, in addition to having a direct influence on income distribution. The allocation of taxes and expenditures lies at the heart of the social contract. Unemployment and disability benefits, child benefits, old-age pensions, and access to health care are all examples of social protection programs that provide financial stability at all stages of life and reduce the danger of sliding into poverty (Wagner et al 2022). Despite the importance of social protection systems in creating a more egalitarian society, just 29% of the global population had complete coverage in 2017. If societies continue to discriminate on the basis of ethnicity, colour, gender, or other qualities that should have little consequence on accomplishment or well-being, social and economic measures will have little impact on inequality. Prejudice and bigotry must be eradicated over time. It necessitates institutional transformation as well as affecting societal norms and behaviors. Changes to the constitution, revisions to discriminatory laws and practices, and the enactment of new legislation to prohibit discrimination and promote the well-being of excluded groups can establish the framework for more justice. However, because all of these policies disrupt the current quo, they are likely to face opposition. In most circumstances, inactivity is not due to a lack of competent technical advice or competence. It is more harder to mobilize support for policy measures that change the balance of power. Understanding the political barriers to decreasing inequality and creating solutions to overcome them is critical to breaking the current impasse. In general, policy frameworks based on universalism have garnered more support than those centred only on alleviating the symptoms of poverty or disadvantage. While addressing disparities may necessitate actions aimed at individual groups to fulfill their unique needs, a universal policy framework is required to address the underlying causes of inequality and assure equity.

### Conclusions

Governments and other national stakeholders play critical roles in fostering more egalitarian societies. However, huge disparities in well-being and opportunity inside and across countries are a national as well as a global issue that necessitates coordinated, international solutions. Other nations bear the costs and advantages of one country's action on climate change or international migration. The disparity between the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases and those suffering the most from the effects of climate change is well-documented. Reducing inequities enhances not just the social fabric, but also the economic and environmental components of sustainable development. This knowledge, however, has not yet resulted in the essential normative reforms. Instead, rising inequities and an overreliance on markets to achieve social justice are threatening the social compact in many nations.

### Reflection

Through this activity I understand that the for managing the issues related with inequality we required the support of the government and support from the people also is required.

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