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HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
TOPIC : 9

DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT CONFLICT

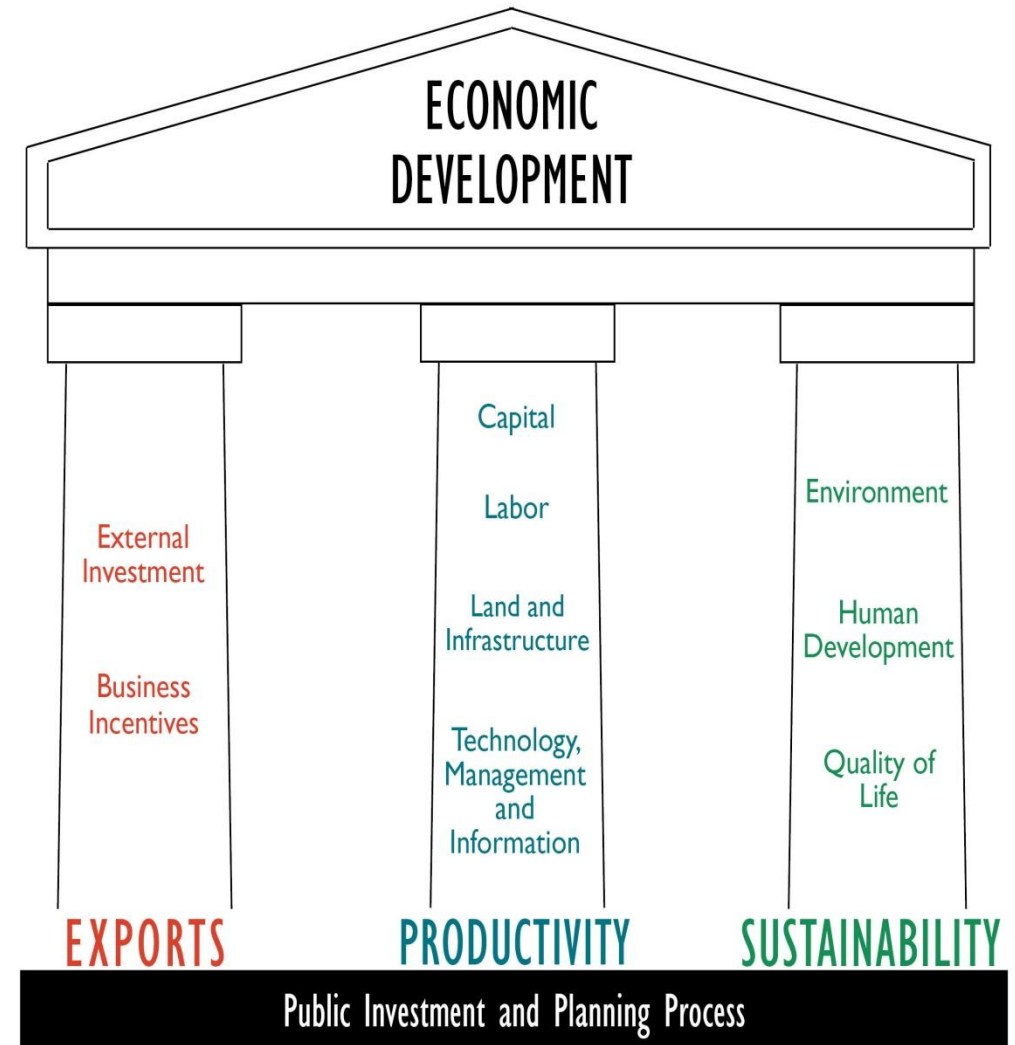
NAME OF TEACHER:

MOUMITA MONDAL
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
RAMMOHAN COLLEGE

Development ?

Development is defined as the process of growth and change in human social, political, and economic system, utilising resources from the environment.

Points <small>geteconhelp.com</small>	Economic Growth	Economic Development
Meaning	Economic growth refers to the raise in the value everything produced within the economy.	Economic development is process of rise in real national income due to structural changes for a long period.
Scope	The scope of economic growth is narrow compared to scope of economic development.	The scope economic development is broader compare to concept of economic growth.
Indicators	The economic growth is indicated by increase in GDP or GNP. Growth relates to a gradual increase in one of the components of Gross Domestic Product: consumption, government spending, investment and net exports.	The economic development is indicated by improvement in life expectancy, human development etc. Development relates to growth of human capital indexes, a decrease in inequality of income and wealth and structural changes that improve the quality of life of people.
Measurement	In order to measure economic growth, one can consider change in real GDP and GNP.	In order to measure economic development, PQLI, HDI and HPI are used.
Nature	Economic growth is the resultant effect or an occurrence.	Economic development is a process.
Country	The concept of economic growth is generally used by developing country like India.	The concept of economic development is generally used by developed country like UK and USA.
Reflect	Economic growth is quantitative change which reflects rise in national income.	Economic development is qualitative change which not only emphasis on rise in national and per capita income but also on distribution of income.
Process	Economic growth is rapid process.	Economic development is slow process.
Possible	Economic growth is possible without economic development.	Economic development is not possible without economic growth.



- **Economic development is a priority –**

1. Though environment is important, it is only the economic development that can truly reduce poverty, hunger, etc.

2. If there are no people, for whom will we save the environment?

3. Using resources for progress is an age old practice of mankind. It is practiced even by the animals and plants. With our increasing population we are using more resources. As long as we control our population, developmental activity will not harm the environment.

- **what good is the development if the entire environment which helps us live is destroyed and polluted to level of no return?**

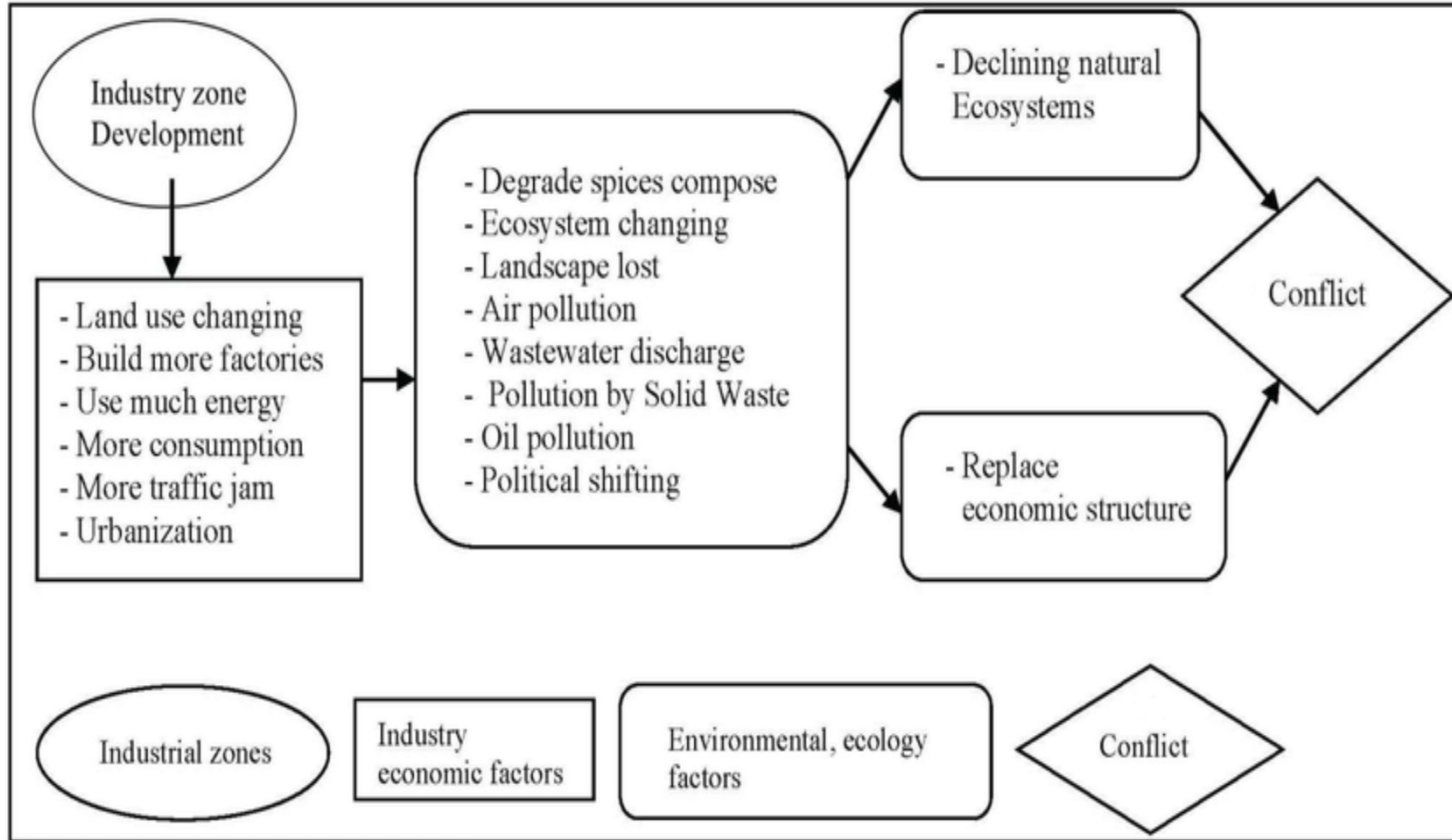
ENVIRONMENT?

The circumstances, objects, or conditions by which one is surrounded.

- **Environment is much more important –**
 1. Even minor developmental activities are harming the environment.
 2. These minor activities when clubbed together become a major source of environmental degradation. For e.g. waste generated in one household is very less. But when we combine garbage of millions of households, the quantity is huge.
 3. We must preserve the quality of environment as no amount of development can bring back the environment.
 4. No development is useful if the environment is gone. It is the environment that helps us to survive.



Conflict



[Environment-development conflict leads to *environmental degradation* which has multilevel impacts on the earth]

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

- Environmental degradation covers a variety of issues *including pollution, biodiversity loss & animal extinction, deforestation & desertification, global warming, and a lot more.*
- *The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction defines **environmental degradation** as "The reduction of the capacity of the environment to meet social and ecological objectives, and needs".*

CAUSES OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

- Urbanization
- **Population growth**
- Economic growth
- Intensification of agriculture
- Increase in energy use
- Increase in transportation

- ***Environmental security*** is a concept stemming from the idea that environmental degradation or lack of natural resources of raw materials and energy can be a cause as well as a result of political strains or military conflict and hence can ***endanger human security***. Even that it is a relatively new concept from the scientific point of view, historically it is nothing new. **Fighting for land, pasture, sources of water, energy and raw materials is old as humanity itself. What is new is the global reach of human agency caused by increased number of Earth's inhabitants and by technologies making greater and faster destruction of environment possible.**

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT, SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENT

- On one hand, poverty are often identified as one of the main causes of living environment devastation. On the other hand, the bad quality of environment can be a cause of poverty as well.
- **security** means a subjective philosophic and psychological state of mind.
- According to the **United Nations** there are a few types of threats to the human kind: ***poverty; contagious diseases; environmental degradation; interstate and internal conflicts; mass destruction weapons; and supranational organized crime.***
- Environmental problems do not endanger solely the global ecosystems vital to the people's survival. **Environmental stress and its socioeconomic and political effects** touch all world's regions and states. They influence local, regional and international security in a still more decisive manner.

- The definitions of international and internal (national) security have gone through marked changes since the end of Cold War in 1989 – 1991. It is not only about reaching a military balance anymore but also about **recognizing the social, economic, political and environmental factors related to the issue**. In connection with this shift the links between environment, global problems, migration and security gain more and more interest. Two sets of issues, the new dichotomy between the societies of **the rich global North and the poor South** and at the same time **the threats of global ecological (environmental) problems**, are more frequently discussed. In the beginning of the 1990's, the terms such as 'global village' and 'global society' were used, expressing the idea that **problems in one of its parts (the South) can lead to problems in another of its parts (the North) and other way round**. Hotly discussed topics among others are the environmental threats and their impacts on society and regions. Thus, we talk about so-called environmental security.

The main subject fields in the domain of environmental security are:

- the relationships between *lack of natural resources and violent conflicts*;
- various forms of *human vulnerability with regard to environment*;
- *environmental migration and displacement*
- *environmental stress and the capacity of social adaptation.*

The relationships between *lack of natural resources and violent conflicts*

- The main cause of the increasing potential for possible (or already occurring) conflicts for natural resources is the reaching of ultimate limit of accessibility of the sources of water, grazing land etc. for a given state (society, tribe etc.).
- ***for example***, Conflicts for pasture and water resources repeat periodically in Africa. In the 1970's, Somalia and Ethiopia fought for the Ogaden pastures. In the 1990's, few-year-long drought in Northern Kenya led to tribal-level disputes for water resources and pastures between Turkana and Sambura. Kenya is endangered by a similar crisis in the beginning of 2006. Disputes for natural resources in this region will probably be *for water from the Nile between Egypt standing on one side and Sudan and Ethiopia on the other*. ***The demand for water and water resources will rise in the following years in each of these three countries due to the population growth and environmental degradation. Egypt is likely to have the greatest requirements, but it is located on the lower reach of the Nile.***

Human vulnerability with regard to environment

- When natural resources of raw materials and energy become scarcer and therefore the competition for localities where they can be found is intensified, ***the potential of conflict for them increases as well.*** The *environmental scarcity* is caused by environmental changes or population number and growth, or eventually by uneven distribution of (or access to) these resources. Among the best known examples of environmental changes with ***negative impact on quantity or quality of natural resources rank:***
- depletion and contamination of the drinking water resources;
- reduction in fish stocks in oceans;
- reduction and loss of biodiversity;
- degradation of soil and pastures;
- loss of stratospheric ozone;
- air pollution (specially in cities) ;
- global warming and climate changes (oscillations);
- lack of other natural resources of raw materials and energy.

Environmental migration and displacement

- They may be forced to leave their homes and communities due to sudden-onset events (such as tsunamis, landslides, and flood events), or slow-onset processes (such as desertification and sea level rise).
- **Environmental migration** can occur in response to floods, desertification, and other environmental events, or it may occur in anticipation of those events. Because there are usually many reasons for migration, it can be challenging to unpack the precise role that the environment has in driving migration directly or indirectly.
- The Office of the **UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** estimates that *over 145 million people, roughly two percent of the world's population, have been displaced over the past six years. Projections by the UNHCR suggest that environmentally induced displacement could take unprecedented dimensions, with an additional 250 million persons displaced due to environmental factors over the next 35 years.*

- **Environmental degradation** or environmental change may cause resources to deplete (safe water, cultivated soil, etc.) following population movement away from the affected areas. People are forced to leave their habitats, lands and look for new livelihood elsewhere. The resulting mass resettlement can disrupt environmental, economic and social balance in target areas and elicit the conflict with host populations. The people who are forced to flee before environmental degradation are called **environmental refugees**.
- *Environmental refugees are people who have been forced to leave their traditional habitat, temporarily or permanently, because of some lack of natural resources and/or environmental disruption that jeopardized their existence and seriously affected the quality of life. Their region is not able to ensure them safe livelihood.*
- 'Environmental disruption' is meant by any physical, chemical and/or biological changes in ecosystem (or the resources base) that render it temporarily or permanently unsuitable to support human life and can be caused by natural and/or human activity. This often relates to population pressures and poverty in the area (compare with Myers, 1994, 2001; Wijnberg, 2002; Leiderman, 2002: 5). In the majority of cases it is quite difficult to distinguish environmental refugees from people forced to leave their habitats due to economic or another causes. But it is undisputed that environmental change influences social and economic conditions. The worsening of these conditions can cause movement from disturbed areas.
- **Regions where the environmental migration can be found:** Sahel; Central Africa countries; South Asia (particularly Bangladesh); Central and North China; sundarban; Central America (particularly Mexico); Haiti and Pacific Islands gradually are among the most threatened areas of contemporary environmental migration

Environmental stress and the capacity of social adaptation.

The World Summits aimed at environmental problems

- **The Conference on the Human Development** (*Stockholm. 1972*)
- **The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development “The Earth Summit”** (*Rio de Janeiro, 1992*): *The following document have been admitted:*
 - the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change
 - Convention on Biological Diversity
 - Agenda 21 represents a plan how to implement concrete steps towards regulating human influence on environment in cooperation with United Nations institutions, governments, nongovernmental organisations, local communities etc.
- **The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development** (*Johannesburg, 2002*): five key fields - globalisation, balancing development and environment, poverty and Millennium Development Goals, models of production and consumption, protection of biodiversity and natural resources,
- **Paris climate conference 2015:**

ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

- The links between poverty and environment were paid a lot of attention during the last two decades. **Poverty is regarded not only as a cause but also as a result of environmental degradation** **The subsequent degradation of these resources then further deepens their poverty.** The poor are affected by the environmental degradation much more than the rich. They face basic problems related to low quality of living environment, such as polluted air or water and an incidence of toxic chemical substances. **The problems such as soil degradation, desertification, deforestation or excessive fishing endanger the subsistence of hundred million people. Environmental degradation deepens the most burning issues in the domain of health.** The World Health Organization estimates that almost a quarter of diseases on a global scale are linked to low quality of environment. As long as we talk about poverty reduction, it is obvious *that we cannot focus solely on economic and social factors but we also need to pay attention to the third pillar of sustainable development – the environmental aspect.* Thus, the protection of environment represents an important category of development aid.

- ***VALUING THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT***

Valuing the state of the environment can be carried out by means of following methods (EADE & WILLIAMS, 2000):

Environmental profiles,

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA),

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)

- **ENVIRONMENTAL PROFILES**

- *Environmental profiles of countries and regions, also known as country environmental studies, are generally used by policy makers in government ministries or agencies such as the World Bank; they may also be useful to many nongovernmental organisations. The studies usually involve some form of environmental survey, and use existing data, such as socio-economic and other data from special research. (EADE & WILLIAMS, 2000: 97).*
- Objectives of environmental profiles can be (EADE & WILLIAMS, 2000: 97-98):
 - to identify the current environmental management processes and management knowledge,
 - to identify changes in resource use and resource management,
 - to assist local planning to reverse environmental degradation and to work towards sustainable development,
 - to develop and strengthen institutional procedures for monitoring and evaluating environmental impacts,
 - to inform debates on the relationship between poverty and environment

- **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA):**

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a general means of evaluating and assessing the potential impact of large scale development projects on environment. Projects generally requiring an EIA are (OECD, 1992: 8): those which cause a substantial change in renewable resource use; those which substantially change farming and fishing practices; the exploitation of hydrological resources; the building of infrastructure; industrial activities; extractive industries; waste management and disposal etc.

- **PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL (PRA)**

- **Participatory rural appraisal method is a useful tool for environmental assessment**, and has evolved from analysis of the state of agriculture and natural resources exploitation. It has now been applied more widely. Much PRA work is based on semi-structured interviews with individuals or with groups with a limited number of predetermined questions. New questions arose during open interviews. *PRA method uses following appraisal tools for environmental assessment (EADE & WILLIAMS, 2000: 100-101):*
 - mapping and modelling of present environmental situation,
 - analysis of historical connections and influences to present situation, based on asking
 - local people to draw historical changes (getting primary data),
 - identification of technologies and strategies used in households and farms by local people in past,
 - analysis and classification of causes of environmental problems
 - by means of creating seasonal diagrams of environmental state of given area and its
 - influence on social and economic situation of local community,

CONCLUSION:

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- **IMAGE COURTSEY: google.co.in**