

ENVIRONMENT RIGHTS: A CASE STUDY OF AIR POLLUTION IN DELHI

The most crucial problem facing the mankind today is the preservation of the environment, which has received the attention of world populace. The environmental problems are recognized as a worldwide disaster more formidable than any social, economic and political problems. The increasing human activities in the modern society have accelerated the pace of environmental pollution. The urbanisation, modernization, agricultural practices and substantial increase in population have upset the equilibrium between the human activity and natural environment.

The dramatic rise in air pollution in most Indian metropolises over the last one decade is a direct result of an inefficient state, both in terms of balancing the responsibilities and precautionary action. Delhi is one of the worst polluted cities in the world. During the last three decades the air pollution by sectors showed the highest increase in pollution in Delhi due to the emission of vehicles, 23 per cent contribution in 1970-71 to 72 per cent in 2000-01. In 1970-71 the highest contribution of air pollution in Delhi was due to the emission of industries at 56 per cent and it declined to 20 per cent in 2000-01.

Environmental rights especially due to the air pollution in Delhi is an important aspect towards understanding human right issues of urban areas of India. The present thesis highlights about vehicular pollution aspects and its violation of protection of human rights on environmental conditions of Delhi.

The first chapter narrates the importance of environmental rights as equivalent to the human rights- various reasons for increasing the level of pollution, some remedial measures taken by the international agencies/ institutions and Indian Government for reduction of level of pollution through legislation and its limitations, protection of environment. Moreover it gives an idea about the

importance of the study, aims and objectives and methodology used and structure of the thesis. The second Chapter deals with the various policies adopted by the Government to protect the environmental balance as well as the development plans which are not hindering the existing balance in the ecosystems. In addition this chapter analyzes various priorities for making environmental policies in a more effective manner. The third chapter tries to analyze the role of Non Governmental Organisations and various voluntary associations for the protection of environment as well as creating an awareness among the people that the role environment is very important for the mankind. The fourth chapter shows the effects of pollution on human health as well as other living organisms. It narrates the impacts of pollution to the human health and other related issues. The role of government as well as collective effort from all sections of life is very important to curb the existing level of pollution. The fifth chapter gives clear idea of the impact of high rise in the number of vehicles in Delhi is clearly analyzed through the sample respondents selected. The sample selected from the highly polluting areas by vehicles in Delhi as mentioned by the Central Pollution Control Board. An analysis has been made for abatement of vehicular pollution through plants. Suggestions from the sample regarding the controlling vehicular pollution are also analyzed. The last chapter tries to add all observations found and suggested remedial measures to enhance environmental protection measures as it is very essential for all sections of the society.

The study of the environmental rights especially for the abatement of pollution through air in Delhi is a needful and very important to correct the protection of our ecological balance and protection of human rights. In addition to various suggestions, it also points out some plant species their suitability for abatement of air pollution levels in Delhi.