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Reverse Integration of Environmental Concerns into Sectoral Policies through

Simulation of Greener Development Plans: A Situational Analysis from India

Integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies is a well accepted strategy across regions, nations and societies. However, clashing and competing objectives often diffuse its desired directional impact. It is common to observe policies and regulation restricting the use of plastics and non-biodegradable materials mooted by the ministries like environment and urban affairs cohabiting with special task groups on *plasticulture* mooted by the ministry of Agriculture. Likewise initiatives of the ministries of health, environment and labor-welfare are easily frustrated by farm-subsidies on use of chemicals and pesticides. Liberalization supported by the ministries of finance, commerce and industries smoothen the way for dumping of inferior technologies with severe implication in terms of occupational health and safety or environmental impact in the name of foreign-investment, employment, regional-development and globalization.

Policy statements unless translated holistically into action projects, seldom make desired impact in real life and one often sees large scale disposal of treated sewage just upstream of the intake for a drinking scheme or for that matter, a road constructed to carry out forestry operation doing more damage to vegetation. A so called clean hydropower project could sometimes wield greater global warming potential than an equivalent thermal power generation plant in its neighborhood while an innovative short-cut tunnel in the hills cut down air-emissions from vehicular traffic to a half.

This paper seeks to analyze such situations to simulate *Zero Impact Development Initiative* for the mountain state of Himachal Pradesh in India clearly outlining clean development opportunities. Examples include re-engineering of an energy intensive lift-supply drinking water project into a net energy generating project to introduction of three dimensional forest-farming for simultaneous development of ecology and economy. A simulated re-cast of the *development plans as usual* will practically demonstrate the process of *reverse integration of environmental concerns* into sectoral plans and policies.