

Human Security: Environmental Perspectives, Societal Concerns and Women's Participation

Executive Summary:

An Overview: Adverse effects of human development in the past hundred years are discussed. Since the environment determines the life pattern of the individual and society at large, the way in which environmental degradation puts human security at risk is discussed, and indication given of ways in which women, half the world's population, are the worst sufferers.

In its consideration of the societal issues of quality of human life and the sustainability of the environment and natural resources, the paper has specific reference to the developing world and is based on experiences and observations.

An action plan is proposed for ensuring human security, sustainable resource development and women's participation in action and planning.

Recommendations:

The Action Plan should make provision for:

- Conservation of natural resources
- Preservation of the environment from pollution
- Optimum utilization of the resource base without wastage
- Adoption of appropriate technologies that are cheap, easy to use and indigenous
- Upgrading of existing resources by proper planning
- Education in environmental awareness
- Inculcation of cultural respect for the environment and human rights, leading to equitable quality of life
- Appropriate KAP (knowledge, attitude and practice) for women, so that they can be effective participants in the action plan. Organizations of educated women should take up the challenge to provide this.

Dr Anuradha Gadkari, Scientist and Senior Assistant Director (Retd), National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur, India.