

A Paradigm Shift Towards Sustainability: An Environmental Irony

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Abstract

Since last few decades, the environmental challenges have been garnering severe attention from all the masses around the globe and have affected the political, social, legal as well as economical aspects at a considerably large scale. The environmental threats such as biomedical waste, textile waste, food waste, etc. have been hampering and posing threats to the living beings. An error in segregating and dumping the biomedical waste can taint the groundwater resources and may also pollute the air we breathe in. Several atmospheric discharges such as Nitrogen and Sulphur Oxide from the furnaces of the textile mills pose a threat to the workers and the environment. Only few of us contemplate the role played by the food waste in imposing grievous damage to the environment by the Methane gas which is released after it decomposes. Apart from the individuals, the corporate organizations have also played a major role in endangering the natural resources as well as the environment. This paper showcases the disproportionate penalties paid by the huge corporate organizations in lieu of the actual damage caused to the environment. The plight of the environment has been relieved through various national laws, international laws and policies. In some parts of the world, the mitigating policies have been implemented at a rapid pace while the other part still struggles for justice and environment friendly policies. This paper aims to highlight the role of the legislature and the judiciary in the evolution of the laws and policies pertaining to the environment.

Keywords: Environment, threats, biomedical waste, food waste, textile waste, laws, penalties.

1. Introduction

The idea of environmental protection has been acknowledged since the prehistoric civilization. It is nearly impossible for human beings to develop and flourish while letting our environment die. Currently, we are living in a modern age which consists of innovative technologies in every sphere of our respective lives. On the other side of this development, there exist several hazardous situations with no

environmental assurances, posing a severe threat to the entire world. It is crucial to impart basic knowledge and create public awareness about the consequences of environmental degradation and the ways in which it could be controlled. There are several other factors, such as biomedical waste, textile waste and food waste which are never acknowledged because of the threat they pose to the environment. And the decomposition process for all the waste is not the same. It varies from its material and thickness. Some waste materials can be decomposed in a week but there are also various substances which take over a year to decompose which leads to various environmental issues. When the waste is disposed of inadequately it not only looks nauseating but also influences the economy of the country because it leads to the government spending a huge amount on improving the mismanagement caused by the ineffective wastage disposal. Therefore, it is significant to manage the disposal after considering the product structure. To spread the awareness for sustainable development and environmental protection, it is important to sensitize the people about the precarious aftermaths which they would be liable to face if the mitigating factors are not practiced at the earliest. For the efficient and effective use of resources, it is vital to extend environmental education to everyone.

2. Textile Waste

“Globalization has made it possible to produce clothing at increasingly lower prices, prices so low that many consumers consider this clothing to be disposable.”¹ The growth in technology has caused a sudden rise in the production of the products which has led to resource depletion and mismanaged disposal of the waste. “With global textile consumption estimated to be more than 30 million tons a year, the issue of environmental consequences of textile production is important. The full environmental impact of any textile product may be broken down into those associated with its production, its maintenance, and its eventual disposal. In addition, it seems that the environmental impacts of usage and maintenance of the textile products are often neglected by both the textile industry and the consumers.”²

2.1. Types of textile waste

“Like all wastes, textile waste originates from a number of streams including the fiber, textile and clothing manufacturing industry, consumers, the commercial and service industries.”³

1. Pre-consumer textile waste: “Pre-consumer textile waste is the manufacturing waste that is generated by processing fibers, (natural or synthetic) and the production of finished yarns and textiles, technical textiles, nonwovens,

¹ Claudio L, Waste couture: environmental impact of the clothing industry. Environ Health Perspect 115: A448 - A454, (2007).

² Hsiou-Lien Chen and Leslie Davis Burns, Environmental Analysis of Textile Products, Volume 24, Clothing & Textile Research Journal, Page number 248-261, July 2006

³ Caulfield K, Sources of textile waste in Australia, Apical International, Australia, (2007).

garments and footwear, including off-cuts, selvages, shearings, rejected materials and/or B-grade garments, off-cuts of saleable size etc. Pre-consumer textile waste is usually “clean waste”. Firms either arrange their own waste disposal services or use council managed services or pay landfill fees according to how much is dumped.”⁴

2. Post-consumer textile waste: “Post-consumer textile waste consists of any type of garments or household textiles (such as sheets or towels) that the consumer no longer needs and decides to discard, either because they are worn out, damaged, outgrown, or have gone out of fashion. This category has typically been of reasonable to good quality garment that can be recovered and subsequently recycled by another user as second-hand clothing, much of which is sold to third-world nations.”⁵
3. Industrial textile waste: “Industrial textile waste is generated from commercial and industrial textile applications including commercial waste from properties such as carpets and curtains, hospital refuse in addition to industrial applications such as filtration, conveyor belting, etc. Industrial textile waste is usually “dirty waste”. Collection and chemical contamination issues render this category as the least likely to be recovered.”⁶

2.2. Extended Producer Responsibility

“In the field of waste management Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a strategy designed to promote the integration of environmental costs associated with goods throughout their life cycles into the market price of the products.”⁷ “The concept of ERP was first introduced in Sweden with the following definition. EPR is an environmental protection strategy to reach an environmental objective of a decreased total environmental impact of a product by making the manufacturer of the product responsible for the entire life cycle of the product and especially for the take-back, recycling and final disposal.”⁸

2.3. Take Back Program

Take back program is an opening move lead by various producers and retailers to get all the used products back and send them back to a new yet same manufacturing process to obtain another restructured product which was not worthy to use earlier but can be reused now smoothly. For example, Marks and Spencer and Oxfam have been reusing the old materials after receiving more than 2,400 tons of clothing till date. They have been active in this initiative since 2008 to exchange clothes.

Indian Constitution lays down the sphere to keep a check on the environment and safeguard it. When it comes to the environmental impact of the textile industry,

⁴ Chavan RB, Environmental Sustainability through Textile Recycling. J Textile Sci. Eng S2: 007 (2014).

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ OECD, Extended producer responsibility: A guidance manual for governments Paris, France (2001)

⁸ Thomas Lindhqvist, The concepts of extended producer responsibility and product, USA (1993)

there aren't any codified laws but certain guidelines which are laid down in accordance with the industries' standards. Before initiating the production process and instituting the unit, it is mandatory to follow these industry standards and work as per the conduct. The environmental legislation is quite strong but lacks the stern and the systematic implementation of the same. "The regulatory authorities are the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Central Pollution Control Board at the central level, and State Control Board at the State level."⁹

Air emission sources can be classified as under:

- Oil and acid mists
- Odor
- Solvent vapors
- Dust and lint

Water pollution sources can be classified as under:

- Chemicals
- Dyes and pigments
- Impurities
- Solids and grease content

"In India, the textile research associations such as ATIRA, BTRA, MANTRA, NITRA, SASMIRA, and SITRA have developed norms for manufacturing, which indicate the desirable usage of resources such as water, labor, electricity and common chemicals like caustic soda and hydrogen peroxide per kilogram of fabric weight processed. These norms are not imposed legally but member mills are encouraged to follow them as closely as possible and this has brought a more professional approach to the overall management of various operations."¹⁰

3. Biomedical Waste

"Efficient handling and management of medical waste is a major problem globally because of growing populations and increasing medical attention at various health facilities that are generating more and more waste in the environment. More than half of the nations of the world, at the least, are experiencing environmental challenges associated with waste disposal. Unlike hazardous industrial waste which is normally encountered outside urban settlements, biomedical waste is relatively closer to residential zones due to the location of clinics, pharmacies, and hospitals in the heart of many cities."¹¹

Biomedical waste is caused mainly by health care institutions like hospitals, veterinary hospitals, nursing homes, blood banks, research institutions, and clinics. These were the primary sources from which these biomedical wastes are generated. The secondary sources are the industries, households, education institutions and

⁹ RB Chavan, Indian Textile Industry – Environmental Issues, Indian Journal of Fibre & Textile Research, Vol. 26, Page No 11-21, 2001

¹⁰ *Ibid*

¹¹ Bamidele T. Odumosu, *Biomedical Waste: Its Effects and Safe Disposal*, Oct 2015.

many more.

“Plastic waste can choke animals, which scavenge on openly dumped waste. Injuries from sharps are common feature-affecting animals. Harmful chemicals such as dioxins and furans can cause serious health hazards to animals and birds. Certain heavy metals can affect the reproductive health of the animals”¹²

Needles, disposable glass pipettes, IV tubing with needle attached, glass slides, infusion sets, lancets, razor blades, and scalpels; glass Pasteur pipettes, broken glass, and splintered plastic, when contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious material; these are all the major things included under the term Sharp which pose great threat if not treated properly along with other sources of medical waste like infectious waste, cytotoxic, pathological wastes. These things can spread infections to humans and animals and can also reduce or kill the growth of some living cells.

“Dumping of wastes in an uncontrolled manner without adopting proper treatment technique can pollute the air, soil and water, and may also attract rodents and flies. Most medical waste is incinerated, a practice that is short-lived because of environmental considerations. Opencast burning or incineration of the wastes releases GHGs, Dioxins and other toxic emissions which can cause respiratory disorders, cancers and increases the global temperature. The air emissions affect the local environment and may also affect communities hundreds or thousands of miles away due to the drifting of pollutants through the wind. The toxic ash residues sent to landfills form incinerators for disposal have the potential to leach into groundwater. If the mercury polluted materials is incinerated airborne mercury which is a known neurotoxin, is produced which enters a global distribution cycle in the environment, contaminating the organisms. Improper management of wastewater and sewage sludge can result in contamination of water and soil with pathogens and toxic chemicals. Discharging the chemical and pharmaceutical wastes impairs the performance of the biological treatment which can end up in polluting the water source of the ecosystem.”¹³

4. Food Waste

One-third of approximately of all the food produced for consumption in the world is wasted. Due to such wastage of food, an opportunity for global food security to improve is missed and also to reduce the impacts on the environment. Although now there is wide recognition for implication on the environment by the production of food, there has been no nationalized study or report which has analyzed from an environmental perspective due to wastage of food.

“Food waste that ends up in landfills produces a large amount of methane- a more powerful greenhouse gas than even CO₂. For the uninitiated, excess amounts of

¹² B. Ramesh Babu , A.K. Parande, R. Rajalakshmi, P. Suriyakala, M. Volga, *Management of Biomedical Waste in India and Other Countries: A Review*, JIEAS, Vol. 4 (1): 65-78 (2009)

¹³ Madhukar M, Himabindu P. A, Udayashankara T.H, *A Critical Review on Biomedical Waste and Effect of Mismanagement*, IJERT, ISSN: 2278-0181 Vol. 4 Issue 03, March-2015

greenhouse gases such as Methane, CO₂ and Chlorofluorocarbons absorb infrared radiation and heat the earth's atmosphere, causing global warming and climate change. With agriculture accounting for 70 per cent of the water used throughout the world, food waste also represents a great waste of freshwater and groundwater resources. Fifty-four per cent of the world's food wastage occurs 'upstream' during production, post-harvest handling and storage, according to FAO's study. Forty-six per cent of it happens 'downstream,' at the processing, distribution and consumption stages."¹⁴

"The global volume of food wastage is estimated to be 1.6 Gtonnes of 'primary product equivalents', while the total wastage for the edible part of food is 1.3 Gtonnes. This amount can be weighed against total agricultural production (for food and non-food uses), which is about 6 Gtonnes. Without accounting for GHG emissions from land-use change, the carbon footprint of food produced and not eaten is estimated to 3.3 Gtonnes of CO₂ equivalent: as such, food wastage ranks as the third top emitter after USA and China. Globally, the blue water footprint (i.e. the consumption of surface and groundwater resources) of food wastage is about 250 km, which is equivalent to the annual discharge of the Volga River, or three times the volume of Lake Geneva. Finally, produced but uneaten food vainly occupies almost 1.4 billion hectares of land; this represents close to 30 per cent of the world's agricultural land area. While it is difficult to estimate impacts on biodiversity at a global level, food wastage unduly compounds the negative externalities that mono-cropping and agriculture expansion into wild areas creates on biodiversity loss, including mammals, birds, fish and amphibians."¹⁵

5. Corporate Penalties And Environmental Principles

Industrialization has created a lot of problems in terms of environmental concerns. While in the modern-day economy's dependence on these companies cannot be questioned but the reality is that such companies are also the reason for the degradation of the environment and natural resources. The legislature has consequently made many attempts to make sure that these companies or industries do not degrade the environment more than it is now.

5.1. Polluter Pays Principle

"The Polluter Pays Principle is important for determining punitive costs of damages from environmental violations caused by industries or individuals. The principle is applied to ensure that the costs of mitigating environmental damage are internalized by the industry or the individual found liable, and not externalized."¹⁶ The National Green Tribunal has used Polluter Pays Principle on many cases to determine the cost for action by industries which has affected the environment

¹⁴Dr. S Parameshwari, *Impact of food waste and its effect on environment*, IJFSN, Volume 2, Issue 4, Page No. 184-187, July 2017.

¹⁵ Food Wastage Footprint - Impact on natural resources, Summary Report, FAO.

¹⁶ Chandra Bhushan, Srestha Banerjee and IkshakuBezbaroa, *Green Tribunal, Green Approach: The Need for Better Implementation of the Polluter Pays Principle*, Centre for Science and Environment, 2018.

severely or violated any rules or law. Such cases involve a lot of issues like violating statutory clearances or permits, caused pollution due to industrial activities that had affected people and the environment.

“The Polluter Pays principle has been held to be a sound principle by the Hon’ble Supreme Court in Indian Council for *Enviro - Legal Action v. Union of India*. In this case, number of private companies operating as chemical companies were creating hazardous wastes in the soil, thus, polluting the village area situated nearby, and they were also running without licenses. The Court held that the polluting industries were ‘absolutely liable to compensate for the harm caused by them to villagers in the affected area, to the soil and the underground water and hence, they are bound to take all necessary measures to remove sludge and other pollutants lying in the affected areas’. The Polluter Pays principle as interpreted by the Court means that the absolute liability for harm to the environment extends not only to compensate the victims of pollution but also the cost of restoring the environmental degradation.”¹⁷

The same was reaffirmed along with the principle of Sustainable Development and Precautionary Principle in the case of *Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India*, the Hon’ble Supreme Court declared that since these three principles are ‘customary international law’ they should also be a part of Indian Laws.

The National Green Tribunal has fined many companies for violating statutory requirements needed for carrying out projects, which had affected the environment.

- In 2014, the Supreme Court in *Goa Foundation vs. Union of India and Or.* dealt with mining irregularities such as the impact on the environment, illegal mining, legal loopholes, and many such issues occurring in the state. The Court ordered the mine leaseholders to pay an amount of 10% of their sale proceeds to public funds taking into consideration the intergenerational equity and sustainable development.
- In *Naim Sharif Hasware vs. M/s Das Offshore Co.*, the Tribunal fined M/s Das Offshore Co., for Rs. 25 crores because they had intentionally flouted many steps of EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) process and committed fraud. Many mangroves and mudflat of the particular area were destroyed due to their project implementation. The bench held that the company is liable for legal consequences for degrading the environment and must pay a heavy penalty.

5.2. Penalties in accordance with a company’s turnover

“As seen in most cases the penalty amount is very small compared to the company’s overall turnover. Only a small percentage of project costs are applied. In the case of *Krishna Kant Singh vs. National Ganga River Basin Authority*, where the Principle bench of the Tribunal had directed Simbhaoli Sugar Mills—which had opened without the consent of the concerned Board for a long period and polluted the

¹⁷ Himanshu Choudhary, *Interpretation of Polluter Pays Principle (PPP) In India*, Legal Services India.

surface water and groundwater in the region—to pay a compensation of Rs 5 crore. This amounted to less than 5 per cent of the turnover of the company for its alcohol production, which is about Rs 81 crore, as from the company’s annual report of 2013–14, the total turnover was about Rs 864 crore with sugar and alcohol combined (with sugar about 90 per cent, worth about Rs 783 crore, and alcohol worth about Rs 81 crore). Therefore, the penalty amount (Rs 5 crore) if compared to the total turnover is less than 0.6 per cent”¹⁸

5.3. Precautionary Principle

Precautionary Principle is important to determine whether certain development processes are sustainable or not. This principle mainly says any activity must be stopped from proceeding if it would cause any kind of irreversible damage to the environment.

“In *Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India* (Tamil Nadu Tanneries Case), about 900 tanneries in five districts of the State of Tamil Nadu was discharging enormous amount of untreated effluent into agricultural fields, roadside, waterways and open land. One of the significant directions given by the Supreme Court in this litigation was contained in an order passed in 1995 whereby some of the industries were required to set up effluent treatment plants. In another order passed in 1996, the Supreme Court issued notices to some of the tanneries to show cause as to why they should not be asked to pay pollution fine. The Supreme Court also recognized the Precautionary Principle, which is one of the principles of sustainable development.”¹⁹

A few cases where the Courts have used the precautionary principle have been mentioned below:

- In the case of *S. Jagannath v. Union of India*, the Supreme Court held that the sea coasts and beaches are gifts from nature and any activity that would pollute these gifts could not be permitted. The increased shrimp farming industry in such coastal areas was degrading the mangroves and polluting the groundwater.
- In the case of *A.P Pollution Control Board vs. M.V. Nayadu (2001)*, the court was discussing whether hazardous industries should be allowed to set up within 10km of drinking water reservoirs. The court held that the risk involved in this case is very high; therefore the principle would come into motion.

6. Penalties

6.1. Water pollution

- The Air Act and Water Act provide that any person or company who fails to obey a closure order is liable to get imprisonment for a term of minimum one and a half years and maximum up to six years and a fine. If the breach

¹⁸ *Ibid* at 6.

¹⁹ Laksheyender Kumar, *Fundamental Principles of Environmental Protection*, Legal Services India.

continues, an additional fine up to Rs 5,000 for every day of non-compliance can be imposed.

- The penalty under the NGT Act is strict for companies. If a company fails to obey an order or award of the NGT, it is liable to a fine up to Rs250 million and an additional fine up to Rs 100,000 every day.

6.2. Air pollution

- The structure and penalties under the Air Act are similar to those under the Water Act.

6.3. Waste

- The Environmental Protection Act, 1986 and many rules adopted under it as the waste rules, provides only one type of punishment. Any breach of rules is punishable with imprisonment up to five years, or fine up to Rs 100,000, or both.
- The NGT can always impose much higher penalties on companies for non-compliance with their orders. If a company fails to obey any of their orders or award, the company is liable for fine up to Rs 25 million and an extra-fine up to Rs 100,000 every day.

7. Mitigating Steps Taken By India For The Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development

“Global warming and climate change are the most written-about topics in the journals, newspapers and magazines in the last few years. It paved the way to researches to mitigate the impact of global climate change worldwide.”²⁰

7.1. Green Supply Chain Management

“One of the most polluting industries, the Information Technology (IT) is generating alarming magnitude of e-waste which involves social and environmental hazards. Few Indian IT companies have taken steps with respect to green manufacturing, green procurement, green packaging, recycling and e-waste management, that have helped them to make their supply chains more cost efficient as well as environment-friendly.”²¹ This cutting edge mechanism makes these companies shine bright in comparison to their competitors which helps them enhance their reputation. Considering the amount of e-waste disposed by the corporate firms, it is significant to manage it efficiently and execute the green initiative responsibly. Companies like HCL Infosystems Limited, Tata Consultancy Services, and Dell Computer India Private Limited have played a crucial role in carrying out the green chain effectively. Also, its innovative procedure and green system such as green

²⁰ Desai A, Formulating an FM strategy for climate change mitigation and adaptation of commercial built assets, PhD thesis, University of Greenwich, UK, 2012.

²¹ Vishal Gupta, Naseem Abidi, Tarun Bansal, and Reshu Kumar Jain, Green Supply Chain Management Initiatives by IT Companies in India, Vol. XII, No. 2, The IUP Journal of Operations Management, 2013.

purchasing, green distribution, green internal IT, packaging innovations, reverse logistics, etc. have paved way for a clean and a healthy environment with the sole objective of sustainable development.

7.2. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

“EIA is a procedure that aims to ensure that the decision-making process concerning activities that may have a significant influence on the environment takes into account the environmental aspects related to the decision.”²² “It describes the policy, legal, and administrative frameworks, the proposed project, and the existing environmental conditions, identifies potential environmental impacts, proposes alternatives, and recommends an environmental management plan with mitigation, monitoring, institutional and capacity building schemes.”²³

7.3. Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)

India successfully received the approval of PAGE. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the harmonizing department of PAGE besides the crucial UN agencies, namely UNIDO, UNDP, UNITAR, UN Environment and the ILO. It is keen to enhance the resource efficiency sectors and the probable green economy initiatives in India. PAGE would help in contemplating and scheduling the sectors which require intervention with the help of interactional counseling. It aims at keeping a check on the sustainability with an agenda of curbing the exploitation of natural resources by focusing on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Inclusive Green Economy, etc.

7.4. Development of Environmental Law in India

“The real growth in the field of environmental law took place in the exercise of the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India under Article 32 of the Constitution by way of enforcement of the right to a clean environment as a facet of the right to life itself.”²⁴ “The National Green Tribunal is a federal judicial body whose specific mission is “the effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forest and other natural resources.”²⁵

There are several principles, concepts, and doctrines which have been evolved since the inception of the environmental judiciary such as Polluter Pays Principle, Precautionary Principle, User Pays Principle, Principle of Effectiveness and Efficiency, Principle of Responsibility, Principle of Participation, Principle of Proportionality, Public Trust Doctrine, Doctrine of Sustainable Development, Fundamental right of Water, Compensation to Victim of Environmental degradation, and many more.

“Environmental protection in India is closely linked to the survival of those who are causing the maximum damage. To halt this trend, further deterioration of the rights

²² Arnold Tukker, *Life Cycle Assessment as A Tool In Environmental Impact Assessment*, *Environmental Impact Assessment Review* 20 435–456, (2000).

²³ Earth Link And Advanced Resources Development, *Environmental Impact Assessment*, Catholic Near East Welfare Association, March 2004.

²⁴ Harish Salve, *Justice Between Generation: Environment and Social Justice*, in *SUPREME BUT NOT INFALLIBLE: ESSAYS IN HONOR OF THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA* 360, 366

²⁵ The National Green Tribunal Act, No. 19 of 2010, INDIA CODE (2010), vol. 19 (2010)

of humans must be reversed. Although the present environmental situation is alarming, there is little cause for pessimism. The environmental protection movement in India is strong and is steadily growing. The country has an age-old concern for environmental protection Government is putting considerable emphasis on environmental education. The national media particularly private news- papers are regularly featuring articles and programs on environmental protection for schools, farms, factories, and the general public.”²⁶

8. Suggestions To Curb The Environmental Issues

- It must be ensured that a sustainable food production system is being followed and resilient agricultural practices should be implemented which shall increase productivity, help ecosystems flourish, strengthen their capacity for adapting to the climate change and eventually improving the quality of the soil and the land.
- There must be a strict control of pollution; degraded or the affected areas must be regenerated at the earliest.
- Awareness programs about the seriousness of environmental issues must be organized; all the government centers and NGOs working for the same must be funded properly by the government.
- Detailed survey and the appropriate assessments must be conducted every 6 months to keep a check on the pollution level.

8.1. Textile Waste

- The government has established some Cleaner Production Centers (CPC) in India with an agenda to increase the productivity and output by decreasing the waste. CPCs have proved to be a great success in various countries. Despite the efforts, the implementation process and the smooth functioning is lagging in India with no or less activity in the centers. The objective of these centers is not fulfilled, thus delaying the working system. Awareness has to be created amongst the factory workers regarding these centers to execute it prosperously.

8.2. Biomedical Waste

- There is still research going on about new technologies for biomedical waste disposals like - Chemical process, Biological process, Thermal process, and the Irradiative processes.
- Biomedical waste Management must be compulsory on all hospitals and other institutions where there are more than 50 beds to follow appropriate disposal of these things. People must be made aware regarding it considering the gravity of the situation.

²⁶ Har Govind, Recent Developments in Environmental Protection in India: Pollution Control, Vol. 18, AMBIO, No. 8, pp. 429-433, 1989

8.3. Food Waste

- Priority must be given to keep a balance for production with demand.
- Efforts should be made more for developing better food storing, processing, harvesting and distribution processes.
- If oversupply is to happen, steps must be taken to redistribute the food or distribute the same to needy people.
- Supermarkets, restaurants, individual consumers and retail outlets could reduce their “food footprint” by recognizing where the waste occurs and taking effective steps to tackle the problem.

9. Conclusion

Since a long time ago, we have seen people arguing over choosing between conservation and development. While development is obligatory for the transition of our nation, conservation is also needed to safeguard the resources for future generations. Certainly, we are going to fail our future generations because we would never be able to establish an admirable benchmark for them. They would look back at the burning environment and vulnerable humans. Thus, there is a critical situation where all of us need to preserve the environment and fulfill our duty as an awakened citizen to prevent it from getting wrecked. Sustainable development is one of the bright ways to conserve the resources by striking equilibrium between development and environmental protection. Let the environment breathe. And, let us all together make a pact to conserve more and damage less.