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BATCH - 211

ENVIRONMENTAL
SCIENCE

Q: What is the importance
of report "Our Common
Future" in the history of
Environmental Movement?

What Common threats were
identified and what
measures were suggested?

Introduction:

In 1983, UN
established an independent organization
formally known as World's Commission
on Environment and Development,
also known as Brundtland commission

because it was headed by Prime Minister of Norway, Gro Harlem Brundtland. It was created to focus on environmental and developmental problems and their solutions. It holds an importance in the history of environmental movement due to introduction of concept of sustainable development, re-rise of multilateralism and invention of corporate social responsibility. However, several socio-economic and environmental threats were identified in the report. Moreover, the Commission also suggested solution in the form of sustainable development.

Importance Of "Our Common Future" report

Brundtland Commission report also known as "Our Common Future" holds an importance in the history of Environmental movement, because this ~~com~~ initiative raised environmental awareness and provided a strong platform. Moreover, it also marked a turning point by introducing sustainable development, multilateralism and corporate social responsibility.

1. Sustainable
Development

2.

Multi-lateralism

3. Corporate
Social
Responsibility

1) Introduced Sustainable development

This report introduced the concept of sustainable development for the first time. It raised awareness about the idea that humans must have to think about the future generations and the world they live in. While presenting the report, Gro Harlem stated: that

"The environment does not exist as a sphere separate from human activities. It is where we all live and development is what we all do in attempting to improve our lot."

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The report stated that there is a strong link between poverty, inequality and environmental degradation. It was warned in the report that developing countries could not grow without environmental degradation if nothing was done. Therefore, the new era must be socially and environmentally sustainable.

2) Re-rise of Multilateralism

It laid the foundations of international cooperation in the area of sustainable development. Since the threats are common, there is need for collective political action and responsibility. It resulted into return of multilateralism and set-up of international conference to assess the progress made. Moreover, it also lead to the Rio-Summit 1992 and Kyoto protocol 1997 for stabilization of environment.

3) Invention Of Corporate Social responsibility

This commission not only call the governments for action but also identified new actors for environmental protection.

and economic development. It also called for every individual including scientific community, organizations and educational institutions. It also focused corporate companies to acknowledge their responsibilities.

Common Identified Threats

• Socio-economic threats

Several common socio-economic threats were identified in Brundtland commission or Our Common Future report such as poverty, unemployment, growing population trends, food insecurity and illiteracy. Moreover, it also included increasing crimes, health sector deficiencies and gender disparity. Furthermore, short term economic policies, economic inequality and governance problems or corruption were also identified as common threats.

• Environmental Threats

Some environmental threats such as environmental pollution, ozone depletion, global warming and climate change were also identified. Moreover, biodiversity loss, eutrophication

desertification and deforestation were also included in common environmental threats of "Our Common Future" report.

Suggested measures for Common threats

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development was introduced as a way-out to the environmental problems. It focuses on development which meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generation. It focuses on all the three dimensions of sustainable development; at local, regional and global level.

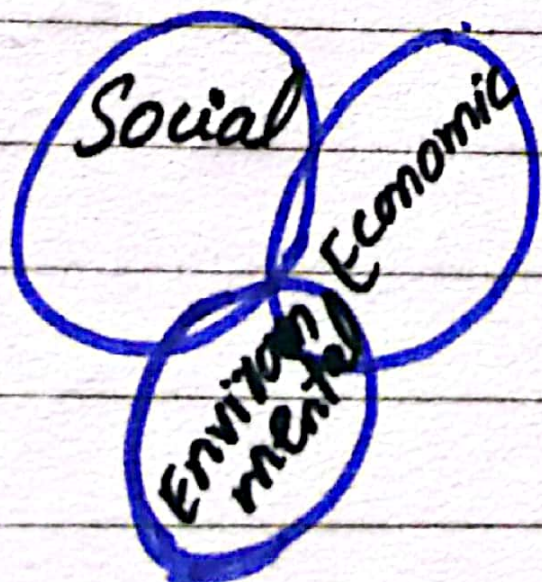


Fig: Dimensions of Sustainable Development

Conclusion:

Brundtland Commission also known as Our Common Future was established to address environmental problems. It marked an importance in Environmental Movement. This commission identified common socio-economic and environmental threats and suggested solution in the form of sustainable development.

ANSWERS IS FINE AND RELEVANT
OVER ALL CONTENT IS OK
MAKE SMALL HEADINGS DONT
WASTE SPACE

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