

## ROLE OF NGO's AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL WORK WITH REGARDS TO THE PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT: A BRIEF OVERVIEW

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### INTRODUCTION

The term “environment” includes air, water and land and the interrelationships which exist among and between these basic elements and human beings and other living organisms. Environment is a polycentric and multifaceted problem affecting the human existence.<sup>1</sup>

According to Section 2(a) of the Environment Act, 1986 “Environment” includes water, air and land and the inter-relationship which exists among and between water, air and land, and human beings, other living creatures, plants, micro-organisms and property.

It is clearly evident from the Section that the definition is an inclusive one and not exhaustive. Besides the physical and biological aspects, the “environment” embraces the social, economic, political, cultural, and religious and several other aspects as well.

For the greatest environmentalists, humans are of lesser importance than the abundant and diverse flora and fauna of the planet. Humans are defined as a recent addition to the livestock and are considered to have been a wholly disruptive influence on a world which was a paradise before their arrival.<sup>2</sup>

### ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Pollution refers to unfavourable alteration of our surroundings, wholly or largely as a by-product of man's action through direct and indirect effects on changes in energy pattern, chemical and physical constitution and abundance of organisms.

According to Section 2(c) of The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, “Environmental Pollution” means the presence in the environment of any environmental pollutant. Whereas the term pollutant has been defines in Section 2(b) of The Environmental Pollution Act, 1986

“Environmental Pollutant” means any solid, liquid or gaseous substance present in such concentration as may be, or tend to be, injurious to environment.

*Indian Council for Enviro-Legal Action v. Union of India*<sup>3</sup>

Chemical industries in village Bicchieri district, Udaipur, Rajasthan were releasing toxic effluents damaging the earth and water. They were closed but no action was taken to undo the

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<sup>1</sup> T.N. Godavarman Rao v. UOI AIR 2003 SC 724

<sup>2</sup> Rosalind Malcolm, A Guidebook to Environmental Law

<sup>3</sup> AIR 1996 SC 1446

damage done by them. This case was filed for remedial action. The Supreme Court accepted the principle of polluter pays which means that the financial cost of preventing or remedying damage lies with the undertaking causing the pollution. It cannot be saddled with the government, as it would shift to the taxpayers.

Indian faiths also cause a lot of environmental pollution, as in Ganesh idols, Durga idols, worship ingredients in a poly bag are all dumped and immersed in water bodies, which in turn contaminate them. Even cracker burning on Diwali festival also increases the level of pollution in the air whose sale has also been banned recently in the Delhi NCR.

The Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping Mr. Nitin Gadkari in order to reduce pollution at sea, has asked the engine manufacturers like Wartsila and Cummins to use pollution-free methanol as fuel, like Sweden, which is switching itself from diesel. It is even cheap and is available at nearly ₹22 a litre.<sup>4</sup>

## CAUSES OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Pollution is caused mainly by two ways,

- ✚ Natural Causes which include factors like drought, flood, cyclone, earthquake; etc.
- ✚ Man-made causes includes factors like
  - *Population Growth*: The earth has finite resources that can be used by the individuals with every increase in an individual natural resources shrink. India alone has 16% of the total pollution of the world which indicates an ever increasing demand for fuel, food, water, pollution-free air, space to live in and healthy conditions for life. Increasing population is adversely affecting the quality of life as it has created the problem of land pollution, air pollution, water pollution, insanitary conditions, etc.
  - *Poverty*: It has been defined as the inability of an individual or household to attain the minimal standard of living.<sup>5</sup> The poor due to not much awareness and incompetency consume higher level of resources in the form of food, fodder and fuel. Such people usually live in unhygienic and insanitary conditions which have a direct impact on their health. *Olga Tellis v. Bombay Municipal Corporation*<sup>6</sup>, The Supreme Court observed that before pavement dwellers and slum dwellers are evicted they must be provided alternative sites with basic amenities like water, community latrines, paved streets and lighting as to guarantee wholesome environment under Right to Life.
  - *Urbanisation*: The migration of the poor from small towns and villages to urban

<sup>4</sup> Available at: <[www.moneycontrol.com/news/environment/inspired-from-sweden-india-must-go-for-pollution-free-methanol-as-fuel-nitin-gadkari-2412901.html](http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/environment/inspired-from-sweden-india-must-go-for-pollution-free-methanol-as-fuel-nitin-gadkari-2412901.html)>

<sup>5</sup> Our Planet, Our Health, Report of the World Commission on Health and Environment (1992) 38,

<sup>6</sup> AIR 1986 SC 180

cities for search of work has also to some extent has caused degradation in the environment. More than one-fifth of the population lives in urban cities nowadays. Slums prove to be one of the major issue creating centres in the urban cities as they contribute significantly in the environmental degradation.

- *Industrialisation*: One of the major sources for environmental degradation and pollution. Therefore, the concept of “SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT” has become the most essential requirement of present scenario. *Yamuna v. Central Pollution Control Board*<sup>7</sup>, the apex court has ordered the industrialists to shut down their industries or to shift them away from the State of Delhi as their untreated effluent and sludge was polluting the holy river Yamuna.

## PROBLEMS CAUSED BY ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

- *Impact on Human Health*: Toxic materials present in the air can cause respiratory and skin disorders and those present in water may affect the internal organs of the body and can cause severe diseases. Recently, there has been ban on the protests at Jantar Mantar because of the environmental conditions in relation to noise pollution, cleanliness, management of waste, and public health has been grossly deteriorated due to the dharnas, which impacts the life of the people living around the site. Some of the landmark protests that have taken place on the site were against journalist GauriLankesh, Anna Hazare’s movement against corruption, One Rank One Pension and many others.
- *Loss of Biodiversity*: It is important for maintaining balance in the ecosystem in the form of combating pollution, restoring nutrients, protecting water sources and stabilizing climate. Deforestation, global warming, overpopulation and pollution are few major causes for loss of biodiversity. In *T.N. GodavarmanThirumulpad v. Union of India*, The Supreme Court held that Forest Conservation Act, 1980 was enacted to check deforestation. It applies to all forests irrespective of nature of their ownership or classification. Deforestation causes ecological balance, therefore forests, trees and biodiversity needs to be protected.
- *Ozone layer Depletion*: The layer prevents earth from the harmful UV rays which causes skin disorders and affect health too if reach on the surface of the earth. The presence of chlorofluorocarbons, hydro chlorofluorocarbons in the atmosphere causes the layer to deplete. On September 16 is observed as World Ozone Day because it was on this day that the Montreal Protocol, an international treaty which is designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of numerous substances that are responsible for Ozone depletion. This day in the year 2017 was celebrated on a large scale in Manipur where according to Prof. N Rajmuhon Singh of Manipur University Chemistry Department the day is observed to awareness on the ozone layer, its depletion and ways to preserve it,

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<sup>7</sup> AIR 2000 SC 3510

he also suggested that the children should be made aware of the environmental issues by including the topics in their syllabus.<sup>8</sup>

- *Loss to Tourism Industry:* Loss to green cover, huge landfills, loss to biodiversity, increase air and water pollution can set back the tourists and prevent them from visiting such places which would indirectly affect many poor people who have their earnings from tourist only. Since, the TajMahal has continuously been ignored by the U.P Government the Supreme Court on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 thundered on the present Government, asking it whether it wishes to destroy the monument and if it intends to do so they must file an application or an affidavit. The matter was that the Government nodded its head to have cut down 400 trees near the vicinity of Taj so as to construct an additional railway line between Mathura and Delhi. This act would cause harm to the monument which affect the tourist scale of the Taj.
- *Economic Impact:* The country have to borne a huge cost due to environmental degradation in terms of restoration of green cover, cleaning up of landfills and taking initiatives for the protection of endangered species. With the rapid growth in urban population coupled with economic growth and rise in community living standards, the generation of municipal solid wastes in Imphal and its neighbouring towns has been increased manifold both in quantity and in quality. This, will lead on to expenditure of the Government as it has to manage such waste from open places to waste treatment plants, as leaving the dumped garbage in open would be unhygienic and create nuisance.

## REMEDIES TO CURE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

- The usage of water should be minimised for all domestic and industrial purpose and should be treated well before it being discharged into lakes, rivers, ponds etc. The innovative techniques of primary, secondary and tertiary treatment should be adopted so as to treat the polluted water. The initiatives are being taken by the Central Government to utilise the waste water nowadays and in this context The Union Water Resource ministry headed by Mr. Nitin Gadkari is planning to monetise sewage water, polluting Ganga river by selling the treated water to power plants, industries and railways by setting up treatment plants in Kanpur and Varanasi.
- The method of rainwater harvesting should be promoted as it reduces the ground water pollution and prevents from water scarcity. The rainwater harvesting technique has gained plenty of importance in the present era and now the National Green Tribunal and many other authorities keeps a check upon its usage and if any industry or site lacks the infrastructure it is even penalised. Recently, the National Green Tribunal has slapped fines on four real estate developers after

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<sup>8</sup> Available at: <[www.easternmirrornagaland.com/manipur-observes-world-ozone-day/](http://www.easternmirrornagaland.com/manipur-observes-world-ozone-day/)>

being found that the rainwater harvesting system installed in their premises was not functional and a compensation of ₹3 lakh each has been imposed.<sup>9</sup>

- Air pollution should be reduced by not burning the garbage in open rather disposing off the organic waste, proper fuel should be used so that minimum harm is caused to the environment, smoke evolving from the factories that is hazardous in nature should be well treated before it enters into the atmosphere with the use of electrostatic precipitators, fabric filters, scrubbers and inertial separators. There also have been constant complaints regarding air pollution caused by the factories in the Chadvli an area located in Mumbai. About 250 residents took out a protest rally and alleged that the factories operational in the area are illegal, besides this the residents also started a signature campaign to shut down the polluting industrial units and a Public Interest Litigation is proposed to be filed same in this regard.<sup>10</sup>
- Noise pollution should also be reduced by not honking the horns of the vehicles unnecessarily and making of such machines that causes negligible or low noise while functioning. Such devices should be placed that helps in absorbing high noises. In *Church of God (Full Gospel) in India v. K.K.R.M.C Welfare Association*,<sup>11</sup> Hon'ble Supreme Court declared that undisputedly no religion prescribes that prayers should be performed by disturbing the peace of others, nor does it preach that they should be through voice-amplifiers or beating of drums, in a civilised society like ours in the name of religion, activities which disturb old or infirm person, students, or children having their sleep in early hours or during daytime cannot be permitted.

## ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

### *Necessity of Protecting Environment*

The necessity of the protection of environment has grown all over the world since the sixties. Due to increasing pollution, loss of vegetal cover and biological diversity, excess of harmful chemical compositions in the atmosphere and in food chains, and threats to life and support systems. The power to protect and improve the quality of environment, a constitutional commitment, is stated to be one coupled with a corresponding duty.<sup>12</sup>

*Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra, Dehradun v. State of U.P.*<sup>13</sup> is a very significant case in the history of the environment protection movement in India firstly as it was the first case involving the environment and ecological imbalance issues and secondly it recognised

<sup>9</sup> Available at: <[www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/real-estate/ngt-slaps-fine-on-four-builders-over-rainwater-harvesting-2400429.html](http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/real-estate/ngt-slaps-fine-on-four-builders-over-rainwater-harvesting-2400429.html)>

<sup>10</sup> Available at: <[www.hindustantimes.com/Mumbai-news/polluted-air-from-factories-is-choking-us-say-mumbai-residents/story-dc3CI9h0h3S19CxiFYQ44.html](http://www.hindustantimes.com/Mumbai-news/polluted-air-from-factories-is-choking-us-say-mumbai-residents/story-dc3CI9h0h3S19CxiFYQ44.html)>

<sup>11</sup> (2007) 7 SCC 282

<sup>12</sup> Indian Law Institute, 'Environment Protection Act: An Agenda for Implementation', 1987, p 13

<sup>13</sup> AIR 1985 SC 652

the epistolary jurisdiction of the court involving issues of public importance and thirdly it required a balance to be maintained between development and conservation of natural resources.<sup>14</sup>

### STEPS THAT CAN BE TAKEN FOR PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT

- *Reduce*: Reduce means using fewer resources. Reducing the amount of waste that is being produced is the best way to help the environment. By reducing the usage of unwanted products and reusing the needed products ample time will save our natural resources, energy, save production cost and safeguard our environment from pollution.
- *Reuse*: Before any material could be thrown or recycled we should always take care whether the good has some life remaining in it, if so then one should use the good to its fullest. The Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai has recently awarded consultancy Black & Veatch a contract to prepare India's largest recycled water master plan. Anand Pattani, Managing Director, Black & Veatch India said, "Treating wastewater to a tertiary standard provides significant health and environmental benefits. Reusing that treated wastewater could relieve the pressure on the city's potable water supply."<sup>15</sup>
- *Recycle*: Recycling is the process of converting waste materials into reusable objects to prevent waste of potentially useful materials, it also reduce the consumption of fresh raw materials, energy usage, water pollution and air pollution. Recycling also reduces financial expenditure in the economy as fresh products costs much more than recycled products. The Government on October 14, 2017 announced a proposal to set-up scrap-based steel plants in the northern and western part of the country. The Government expects that in the coming years, 44% of the total scrap available in India would be generated in different locations which would be used to produce steel. Steel Minister Chaudhary Birendar Singh said that the initiative is to recycle waste products for productive purposes.<sup>16</sup>
- *Composting*: It is the method used for recycling of food wastes into fertilizers for plants. It is of great benefit as it reduces the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Hence, use of composting not only saves money that one would have brought chemical fertilizers from but also prevents pollution.
- *Conserving Energy*: Energy can never be destroyed, it can only be transformed from one form to another. But it is upon the humans to use the energy in an efficient manner. Though, the energy is being depleted by humans.

<sup>14</sup> S.C. Shastri, Environmental Law, 497

<sup>15</sup> Available at: <[www.waterworld.com/articles/wwi/2017/05/india-s-largest-water-reuse-plan-moves-ahead.html](http://www.waterworld.com/articles/wwi/2017/05/india-s-largest-water-reuse-plan-moves-ahead.html)>

<sup>16</sup> Available at: <<https://m.timesofindia.com/business/india-business/steel-ministry-proposes-scrap-based-steel-plants/articleshow/61082566.cms>>



- *Sustainability*: The concept was raised by UN World Commission on Development and Environment (1987), which means “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.<sup>17</sup> Development without destruction and sustainable development are the crying needs of the day. *Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India*<sup>18</sup>, this case was filed against the pollution caused by discharge of untreated effluents by the tanneries and other industries in Tamil Nadu. The court explained that sustainable development as a concept came to be known in the Stockholm Declaration of 1972. The salient features of sustainable development are; inter-generational equity, use and conservation of natural resources, environmental protection, precautionary principle, polluter pays principle, obligation to assist and cooperate, eradication of poverty, and financial assistance to the developing countries.

The court accepted the precautionary principle and elaborated it as follows:

- i. Environmental measures must anticipate, prevent and attack the cause of environmental degradation.
- ii. Where there are threats of serious and irreversible damage, lack of scientific, certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.
- iii. The onus of proof is on the actor or the developer/industrialist to show that his action is environmentally benign.

## NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The NGO's create a network by interacting with the Central and State Governments to frame such policies that are beneficial for the environment. NGO's play a significant role as they help to create awareness amongst the public on any current environmental issue and to cater towards its solution. They also facilitate the participation of number of stakeholders so as to discuss the environmental concerns and what steps could be initiated by them. NGO's also encourages people to use the resources in an equitable manner so that they become suffice for all. Seminars, newsletters, brochures, article, audio-visuals, lectures and group discussions all are organised so as for promotion of environmental awareness.

- *Bombay Natural History Society*: It is the largest NGO in the Indian sub-continent that is engaged in nature conservation research since 1883. It spreads awareness about the need to protect the environment and management plans to conserve wildlife and its habitat by organising lectures, field trips, literature and expeditions.

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<sup>17</sup> Our Common Future (1987) 27

<sup>18</sup> AIR 1996 SC 2715

- *Centre for Science and Environment*: It is an environmental NGO specialising in the field of pollution, forest, wildlife, land and water use. It is based in New Delhi, and believes in 'knowledge based activism' to cope with India's environmental threats like ecological poverty, land degradation, toxic degradation etc.
- *Greenpeace India*: It is an Indian wing of the international non-profit organization whose activities discourages genetic engineering, and promotes peace, saving of the environment from pollution, promoting sustainable agriculture, etc.
- *Kalpavriksh*: Non- profit organization working on environmental and social issues, it is a citizens action group engaged in environmental awareness, campaigns, advocacy, litigation, research, lobbying for wildlife conservation and wildlife conservation and animal rights etc... which lays its focus mainly on the youth of the nation. It imparts environmental education in schools and colleges by forming a network of nature club, conducting bird watching expeditions and nature trails.<sup>19</sup>
- *Conservation Action Trust*: Non- profit organization formed to protect the environment, particularly forests and wildlife, educates decision makers and the public about the importance of forests for water security, provides technical and legal aid, equipment, etc. It is based in Mumbai.

## WORLDWIDE

- *Sierra Club*: It is one of the oldest conservation organisations that are in existence till now. Its foundation was laid down in the year 1892. It is one of the most effective and powerful organisation in government and corporate America, it has almost 1.3 million members. It is a well-known and respected club which aims at protection of land and forest, clean air and water and certain other issues related to environment.
- *National Audobon Society*: The declared mission of this society is "to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habits for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity." The societies from its date of establishment in 1800's have been working really hard to fulfill its objectives.
- *World Wildlife Fund (WWF)*: The WWF works to preserve nature and its creatures. It has around 5 million members internationally. We are committed to reserving the degradation of our planet's natural environment and to building a future in which human needs are met in harmony with nature. We recognise the critical relevance of human members, poverty and consumption patterns to

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<sup>19</sup> Available at: <[www.legalservices.com](http://www.legalservices.com)>



meeting these goals.”

- *National Wildlife Federation*: The organization came to national prominence in the 1936 by a cartoonist named Jay Darling at the behest of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. It is dedicated to preserving animals in the United States and works with local agencies in the 48 contiguous states. It is one of the largest environmental organizations with over 4 million members having concerns regarding wildlife issues.
- *Greenpeace*: Its foundation was laid in 1971 when a group of activists put themselves directly in harm in order to protest nuclear testing off the coast of Alaska. The organization has helped in stopping whaling, nuclear testing as well as efforts to protect Antarctica from various harms. It has over 2.5 million members around the world.

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Before understanding as to what is community participation it is important to know what is community. Therefore community can be said to be a social entity that have characteristics like: living in the same geographical area, sharing common goals and problems, sharing similar development aspirations, having similar interests or social network or relationship at local level, having a common leadership and tradition, sharing of some resources, etc.<sup>20</sup>

Community participation can be defined as a process by which a community organizes its resources and encourages other members of the society to take responsibility for the development activities carried on by them. It also enables people to only choose such development programmes that are healthy for environment. For example, setting up of pollution control in industries, setting up of sewage management plants, concept of reuse and recycling, rain-water harvesting, etc.

Thus, so as to make the citizens aware of harmful effects of the degradation of environment and sometimes even for its protection, community participation becomes an essential tool. The participation involves awakening of the conscious of the present generation which aspires to shape the environment in such a manner that is both beneficial for them as well as the future generations. When any aim that needs to be fulfilled gains mass momentum, there arises no chance for the will of the people to fall down.

Sometimes, it is the community itself that exerts pressure on the government to formulate special policies for the protection of environment and sometimes it's the government which makes policies that bounds the community, and people abide by such policies so as to make the nearby areas a healthy place to dwell in.

## BENEFITS

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<sup>20</sup> Available at: <[www.slideshare.net](http://www.slideshare.net)>

The potential benefits of promoting community participation are:

- a) *Improves Quality Of Rules And Laws*: It enhances the quality of the rule or law that is formulated for the purpose of protection environment, because until and unless the rules are recognised by the society they would be of an ineffective nature. For example prohibition on the use of poly bags is a rule laid down by the government but until and unless this movement is not backed by community, it would prove to be a proper failure.
- b) *Helps Solve Complex Problems*: It helps to resolve environmental related problems by an easier mode as the government agencies appointed for this purpose and the community representatives have a fair debate and tends to resolve disputes that would make a healthy ambience. Suggestions, steps to improvise the conditions, arguments in favour or against of any policy that has been made or should be made can all be carried about by such debates.
- c) *Measure Progress More Effectively*:<sup>21</sup>Collaboration with NGO'S can improve monitoring and evaluation of community delivered programs. Active relationship of individuals also enables constructive feedback on the agency's performance which would yield to its recognition by the Government authorities.
- d) *Devolops Critical Awareness*: Most effective mechanism of creating awareness could be by the community members themselves. However effectively any government body tends to create awareness, it would not prove to be a success as compared to the members of the community promoting a cause. This is so because the impact of members on each other is more than that created by the authorities.
- e) *Pressure Yields Governance Amendments*: When the government faces pressure from community, it is probable that the government policies may be amended. Such pressure from the community necessarily need not be at the national level, sometimes regional mass momentum also gains a high level of effectiveness. The pressure apart from fundamental changes in policy due to the pressure can also make the government to complement the efforts of the society by budgetary resources that would provide for the revenue in order to carry out operations on a specific environment issue.

## INSTANCES

Few instances where the community has participated in protection of environment are:

- a) *Chipko Movement*: It was primarily a non-violent forest conservation movement which began in the year 1973 in the state of Uttar Pradesh. It was led by SunderlalBahuguna. The Gandhian perspective was followed in this movement whereby people tied themselves to the trees so as to prevent them from felling down.

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<sup>21</sup> Available at: <[www.communitymatters.govt.nz](http://www.communitymatters.govt.nz)>

The Government recognised this mass movement and heard there plea with respect to the felling of trees and hence, a policy was made giving due consideration to the suggestions of the people.

- b) *Narmada Bachao Andolan*: A social movement against the number of large dams being built across the river of Narmada by the local communities which resulted in a massive legal battle. The court had ruled for andolan and effected n immediate stoppage of all the constructions at dam and had directed the concerned states to rehabilitate and replace the processes.
- c) *Appiko Movement*: It was a revolutionary movement inspired by the Chipko Movement of Uttrakhand, carried out in the state of Karnatka, to save the forests from felling down. The people of Salkani hugged the trees in Kalase forest. The word Appiko is derived from the common language term used for huuging. The Appiko Movement has created awareness amongst villagers throughout the Western Ghats about the ecological destruction of forest wealth, thus people now closely monitor the exploitation of forests by the forest department.<sup>22</sup>
- d) *Jungle Bachao Andolan*: The Andolan began nearly in 1980's in Bihar and later spread to the States of Jharkhand and Orissa against the felling of trees for the purpose of coal mining and for construction of Sardar Sarovar dam, and was even against the replacement of natural sal forests with high priced teaks.
- e) *Serving the Western Ghats*: Home to sanctuaries like Bandipur and Nagarhole, Western Ghats, a biological treasure trove, was struck by an epidemic i.e deforestation in the 1980's. "The Union Government's Forest Department estimates that within the last three decades, 4.5 million hectares of forests or an area the size of Tamil Nadu has vanished," said India Today in March 1982. The Kailash Malhotra led Save the Western Ghats march, a 100 day padyatra across the hills, succeeded in imparting the message of environmental degradation and human rights.

## SUGGESTIONS

- Such products should be brought that comes in reusable packaging, for example such containers that can be reused and recycled.
- Non-usage of poly bags as they are of non-degradable in nature.
- Saving paper by not misusing them as they are made by the pulp of the trees and even sending the used paper for recycling.
- Consuming less automobile fuels like petroleum and diesel so that air pollution can be reduced.

<sup>22</sup> Available at: <[www.yourarticlelibrary.com/essay/appiko-movement-useful-notes](http://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/essay/appiko-movement-useful-notes)>

- Car-pooling should be encouraged in offices, colleges and even amongst neighbours.
- The trees and forests should not be felled for unreasonable reasons.
- More factories for recycled goods needs to be established and the use of recycled goods should be promoted.
- Such products should be taken into usages that are environmental friendly. “Ecolabelling” is a voluntary method of environmental performance certification and labelling of environment friendly products.<sup>23</sup>

## CONCLUSION

It is an accepted view that the NGO's and the participation of community members play an effective role in the protection of environment. The number of NGO's that are exclusively formed for the purpose of protection and maintenance of resources of the nature, since last five decades are doing great in the respective fields. The basic objective of all the NGO's is to act as a catalyst by bringing initiatives at local, national and international levels and to facilitate community participation so as to overall improvise the quality of life.

Thus, it can be concluded that all the legislations and the orders passed by the court should be strictly complied with as they are made for the benefit of entire nation, and is not only in the interest of any particular community or sect. The punishment and fines imposed howsoever grave are to be observed seriously. Mere feeling of sorry would not prevent the offender from the harm caused to the Mother Nature.

In this regard the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held in the case of *L.D. Jaikwal v. State of U.P.*<sup>24</sup> “We are sorry to say we cannot subscribe to the ‘slap-say sorry-and forget’ school of thought in administration of contempt of jurisprudence. Apology should not be paper apology and expression of sorrow should come from heart and not from the pen. For it is one thing to ‘say’ sorry - it is another to ‘feel’ sorry.”

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<sup>23</sup> S.C. Shastri, Environmental Law, 575

<sup>24</sup> (1984) 3 SCC 405