

Social Forestry-Explained

Report By-Manfateh Singh



Introduction

When talking about Social forestry the first thing comes to your mind is protecting forests. Social forestry is the management and prevention of the barren or deforested forest. It was intended as a domestic approach to **forest conservation**. The term social forestry was first used in 1976 by The National Commission on Agriculture, when the government of India aimed to reduce pressure on forests by planting trees on all unused and fallow lands.

Social Forestry And India



The Indian Government attempted to expand the forest region which were close to human settlements and which had degraded due to human activities. Trees were planted on the railways, road side paths, canal banks, in village common land and agricultural fields. Goals were to increase the availability of fuel in rural areas and to prevent soil erosion. But this was a **failure** in India.

Reason of failure

Lack of appropriate policies regarding access of land to the poor for afforestation purposes,



defunct Acts and laws, which hinder rather than motivate people, resulted in vested interests controlling the **Social Forestry** programme. Instead of fuelwood and fodder, **Social Forestry** has largely failed. One more reason for failure was the corruption done by some people. People misused the funds that were raised for this act. That is why Social Forestry was failed in India

Objectives Of Social Forestry

The basic objective of social forestry is to raise plantations by the common man so as to meet the growing demand for timber, fuel wood, fodder, etc, thereby reducing the pressure on the traditional forest area. This concept of village forests to meet the needs of the rural people is not new.



It has existed through the centuries all over the country but it was now given a new nomenclature. The Basic Objective of Social Forestry is to raise plantations or to raise the number of trees in the world. It is also used to Increase the supply of fuel wood for domestic use. Small timber for rural housing. Nature's beauty would be more. It also provides jobs to unskilled workers and it can also be used to reclaim Wastelands.

Types Of Social Forestry

Farm Forestry



In this Forestry trees are grown in the farmlands for **commercial and non-commercial purposes**. Farmers are told to grow trees in their farmland to fulfill their domestic needs. A tradition of growing trees on farmland already existed in many areas, and was the main thrust of most of India's social forestry projects.

Community Forestry



Community Forestry means when the government provides seedlings and fertilizers to the community. Which is then responsible for protecting the plants on any community land. Some communities manage these plantations sensibly and in a sustainable manner, while others sell the mature timbers for a one time **capital divestment**.

Extension Forestry



It is the practice of **forestry** in areas devoid of tree growth and other vegetation situated in places away from the conventional **forest** areas with the object of increasing the area under tree growth. In this type of Social Forestry we plant the trees on the sides of roads, railways, on the sides of canals, and where there is **no man's land**

Argo Forestry

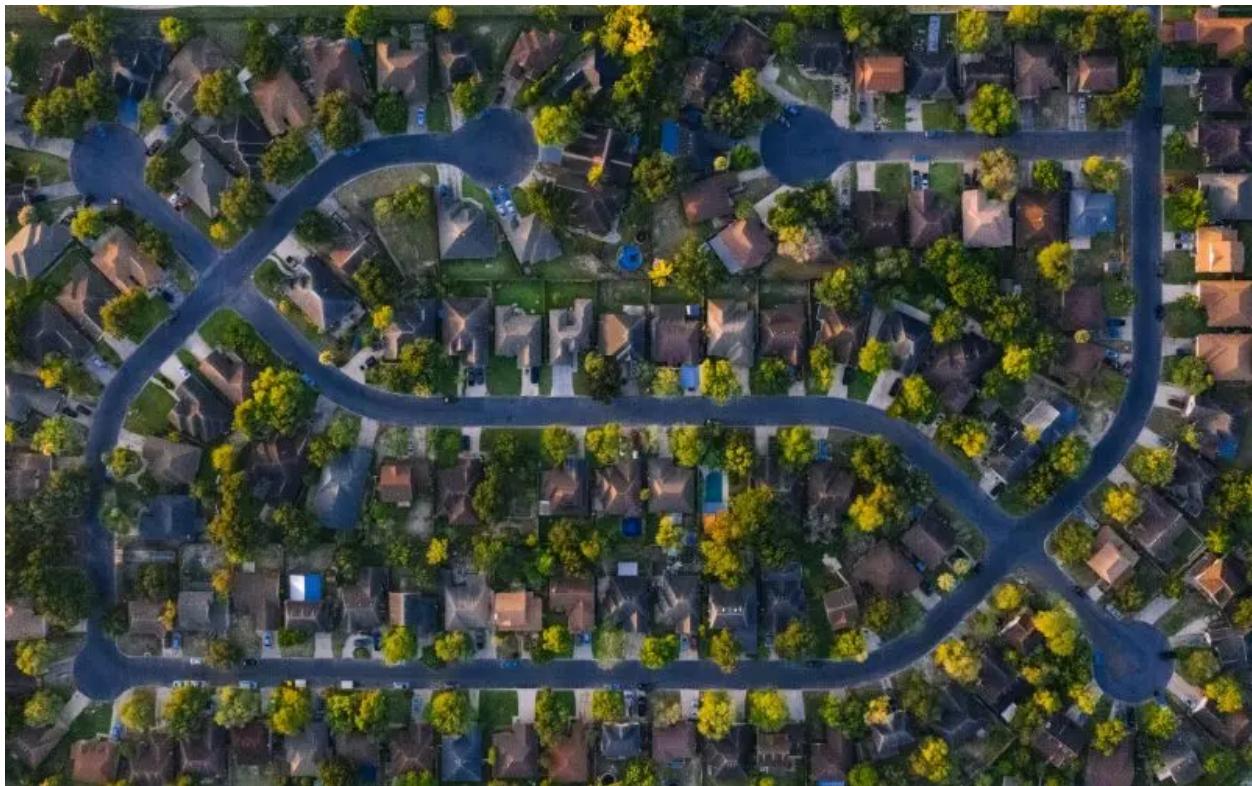
Agroforestry is the interaction of agriculture and trees, including the agricultural use of trees. This comprises trees on farms and in agricultural landscapes, farming in forests and along forest margins and tree-crop production, including cocoa, coffee, rubber and oil palm. Interactions between trees and other components of agriculture may be important at a range of scales: in fields (where trees and crops are grown together), on farms (where trees may provide fodder for livestock, fuel, food, shelter or income from products including timber) and landscapes (where agricultural and forest land uses combine in determining the provision of ecosystem services).

Social Benefits

Trees have many social benefits which makes the neighborhood more valuable and attractive. Social forestry also helps with creating more inviting and cooler areas for relaxation such as playgrounds and parks. They even add up to color and beauty.

The green color of the trees creates an effect that is calming and helps the eye to be relieved of strains. Trees also provide a shaded place where people can meet under the scorching sun.

Conclusion



Social forestry is an integral part of the Gandhian philosophy of economic growth and community development. The social benefits thus generated and the additional resources so created may serve as stepping stones toward self-sufficiency.