A Study on Scope of Plantation in Indian Cities

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Abstract
India has been ranked ninth in the tree planting roll of honour in a campaign to plant a billion trees, which was launched by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in November 2006. The country has registered 96 million trees. As it is very honourable achievement but it should be at more heights. So, in this paper, we have discussed about the scope of plantation in India.

Keywords
Plantation, Environmental Problems, UNEP, Indian Cities

I. Introduction
In last few hundred years the human development was rapid, new ways of living have been developed which makes our life style better. But when we were adopting and making changes in our life style we just ignored the price which we were paying. In this partial development we were unable to see that we were highly contributing towards destruction too, as we never thought of giving back responsibly what we have taken from our mother nature. This irresponsible attitude of just consuming the resources without ever trying to replenish them, contributed to destruction and this destruction has certainly surpassed all other benefits of our partial development. Number of calamities happens around the world because we are doing irresponsible acts by virtue of which destruction takes place. It’s high time for us to take step to turn ourselves from irresponsible individuals to responsible human beings [3, 7]. There are different names of trees which are mentioned below:

A. Beautiful Indian Flowering Trees
1. Bauhinia variegata (Kachnar)
2. Butea monosperma (Palas)
3. Cassia fistula (Amaltas)
4. Crataeva religiosa (Barna)
5. Erythrina indica (Indian coral tree)
6. Lagerstroemia flos-reginae (Jarul)
7. Plumeria alba (Champa)
8. Thespesia populnea (Bhendi)

B. Fast Growing Indian Trees
1. Anthocephalus cadamba (Kadamba)
2. Ficus religiosa (Peepal)
3. Ailanthus excelsa (Maharuk)
4. Aegle marmelos (Bel)
5. Albizia lebbeck (Sirsis)
6. Butea monosperma (Palas)
7. Cassia fistula (Amaltas)
8. Aeclla marmelos (Bel)
9. Azadirachta indica (Neem)
10. Bauhinia variegata (Kachnar)
11. Cassia fistula (Amaltas)
12. Cinnamomum camphora (Kapur)
13. Emblica officinalis (Amla)
14. Ficus glomerata (Gular)
15. Ficus glomerata (Gular)
16. Ficus glomerata (Gular)
17. Ficus glomerata (Gular)
18. Ficus glomerata (Gular)
19. Ficus glomerata (Gular)

C. Medicinal Trees
1. Aegle marmelos (Bel)
2. Aeclla marmelos (Bel)
3. Bauhinia variegata (Kachnar)
4. Butea monosperma (Palas)
5. Cassia fistula (Amaltas)
6. Cinnamomum camphora (Kapur)
7. Emblica officinalis (Amla)
8. Ficus glomerata (Gular)
9. Ficus

D. Trees with Fragrant Flowers
1. Albizzia lebbeck (Sirsis)
2. Pterospermum acerifolium (Kanak Champa)
3. Michelia champaca (Champak)
4. Champa varieties
5. Alstonia scholaris (Satni) [1]

II. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
India has been ranked ninth in the tree planting roll of honour in a campaign to plant a billion trees, which was launched by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in November 2006. The country has registered 96 million trees. Under this plan, civil society and governments are asked to register the number of trees that have been planted in their respective countries. So far, 167 countries have participated in this programme. The initial target set by the UNEP was to plant at least one billion trees worldwide each year. The billionth tree was an olive planted in Ethiopia in November 2007. After the campaign hit the two billion mark in May 2008, the UNEP decided to set a new goal of seven billion trees, which is one for every person on the planet. The four billion mark was reached in May 2009. India, however, could be much higher in the ranking, according to UNEP officials who say that the country does not formally register or report all its campaigns.

India could have planted a billion of trees already this year”, Satinder Bindra, director of communications at UNEP, told PTI. Tree planting has become a major component of the climate change dialogue since the sink of carbon sequestration in forests helps to offset carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. India has suggested that nations should commit to afforestation obligations in the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change, which is expected to yield a new climate treaty since the Kyoto Protocol expires in 2012.

In recent talks ahead of the Climate Change Summit at the UN, Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh has stressed the importance of reaching a consensus on afforestation. To make up for the loss of trees in the past decade, according to the UNEP, almost 130 million hectares of land has to be planted, an area as large as Peru. Covering the equivalent of 130 million hectares would entail planting approximately 14 billion trees every year for 10 consecutive years. This would require each person to plant and care for at least two seedlings a year. A new campaign called “Stop Talking Start Planting” under the UN banner will soon be underway.

III. Need of Plantation
The estimation of world’s population is very important in context of India, as our country shares about 16 percent of world’s population.
and 15 percent of its livestock but just 2.4 percent of its land area and only 1.7 percent of its forest cover.

According to facts, India’s annual population increase is equal to the total population of Australia. The pressure of the development and even more the pressure of rapidly growing population has become very high matter of concern for all of us as; now we have created immense pressure over all our natural resources which are rapidly decreasing with passing days and becoming scarce. Increasing pressure of population and development verses rapidly decreasing rate of natural resources has left us in big state of dilemma where sustainability of life on earth for all of us is agonizing issue.

Here consider few more facts form some reports which states that in the year 2050 there’s going to be at least 200 millions of climate refugees around the world. Taking this fact into considerations we can easily imagine about the situation of our country by 2050 which shares largest population in the world.

All the facts and figures ever given over environmental degradation just point outs towards one basic fact that there is something very wrong with our living habits. We are not at all in the harmony with the nature... well not any more now. We are actually not consuming the natural resources but in fact we are exploiting them to a large extent. This exploitation of natural resources has acted as a catalyst in the degradation of earth’s life. Clearly our rate of exploitation of natural resources is 1000 times more than earth’s ability to rejuvenate them.

So it’s all true that we have created imbalance and a great threat to sustainability of life on earth through our irresponsible habits and activities as a consumer. In the words of leading environmental activist and Former US vice president Al Gore, “Environment conservation is really not much of a political issue but it is actually a moral issue”. India as a country is blessed with a rich ecological resources and just before last century we were living almost an independent life where most of our requirement was fulfilled through indigenous means. But increasing rate of degradation of natural resources and rapid increase of population has harmed it severely. We just cannot follow the western model of development because our need and values are much more different in many terms.

In our country environmental imbalance started when we started exploiting ecology of our two major natural weather and water control towers, first one is the Himalaya and second is the Western Ghats of our country. Himalayan regions and Western Ghats plays key role in nurturing life in our country but with each passing day ecological health of these regions has degraded severely and that has created threat to our very own existence.

From past century the behaviour of monsoon in India has been very volatile and caused many major droughts and floods. Large part of Indian Territory comes under threat of major soil erosion, North India is highly sensitive towards landslides and Eastern India is also prone to major floods and also in south and west we are losing our coastal sides. Consequences of environmental degradation are taking place in the large section of India.

In making any efforts towards the development we first need to learn that environmental conservation is very important aspects of sustainable development. Sustainable development as defined, “The Development that meets the need of present without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their needs”. A development is a development in its true sense only when it’s sustainable one.

In Working towards the mutual goal of sustainability through environment conservation it’s essential that we all should make commitment to ourselves towards conservation of fragile and diverse ecologies like Himalaya ecology.

It’s is all true that we all are going through greatest conflict of our History but its better if we don’t make any mistake by taking nature against us in this conflict but instead nature is supporting us through making regular warnings. Truth is we are facing ourselves, we are standing against us.... and it’s only us who can save ourselves.

Humans have the strength that cannot be measured, whether its destruction or it’s towards the conservation. All we need to do is to grow our perspective and make certain shifts in it. It’s us who still can create the legacy of sustainable development once again, for ourselves and for our future generations.

But here we have to remember the ultimate truth...that time has its own limits and has its own measures... So we should not make any mistake about it and accept the fact that we are not left with much of time to start working towards environment conservation as if it’s now then it’s never.

IV. Benefits of Plantation

- Case of climatic disasters like floods, landslides and drought will go down through well planned plantation [6].
- Well planned Plantation will be beneficial to heal the Health of Glaciers in Himalayan Region
- Plantation will also improve life of the native residents of Himalayas
- Carbon Credit policy is going to help us in future to inspire rural people to hold plantation and get benefited through eco-economy [4-5].

Whole this can be achieved by following ways:

- Including local self-help Group and rural people
- Inspiring Individuals and providing them basic knowledge over environmental conservation
- Developing a Credible Platform to bring effectiveness and efficiency [3].

V. Challenges

A. Awareness

Lack of awareness and understanding of the grave dangers by global warming is major challenge. Very few people know or understand what impact climate change could have on our lives.

Much of the efforts are hence directed to explaining this issue among the people and also convincing them that they need to step forward to make a difference.

B. Consistency and Growth

If a plant doesn’t get water for a few weeks during summer it can die. So the watering efforts have to be continuous. We need to get a much larger population involved in this if we are to afforest the entire hill.

C. Vandalism

Thoughtless as well as purposeful vandalism is one major problem. Some plants have been uprooted, small grass fires started and some of of Sintex tanks stolen or broken [2].

VI. Conclusion

If we really want to save our mother nature from further destruction, we have to be very careful and aware, so that we can save our mother nature for our upcoming generation.
References


