

Concept of appropriate economic environmental modelling for sustainable development

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1 ABSTRACT

Sharp rise of public interest in environmental issues like sustainable development, climate change, Eco-cities and strong environmental movements cause into existence both in developed and developing countries in order to protect man's right to have better quality of life with clean air and water, and to defend the right of future generation to natural resources. The debate on better environmental issues was also reflected in legislation and many government policies. Many countries had adopted new laws in order to regulate the use of natural resources. The strict environmental regulations cause unacceptable high socio-economic costs which results into retardation in economic growth in the recent years that has been experience by the world. This trend to world-wide depression will certainly have a consequences on socio-economic and environmental policy framed by the government agencies. Thus, it is important in the present context that the consequences of all policy options for all relevant policy goals be assessed. The assessment of these consequences within one integrated analysis is a very complex activity and is seriously influenced by the conflict of interests between government and private agencies.

The pressure groups like environmentalist, Town Planners, Urban managers, policy makers, people who govern the cities, community representative, consequently need to exert influence on policy makers to fulfill their demand. Hence emphasis must be given to the inter personal aspect of economic-environmental decision-making. Recognition must be made of the fact that it is not upto one person to decide on economic and environmental matters, but it is a process of public decision-making and community participation in which people with conflicting interests must come together.

Better quality of life or welfare of society is now a multi-dimensional phenomenon because socio-economic, environmental, cultural and other aspects of a national, regional or personal condition can hardly be represented by one single indicator. And if multidimensional phenomenon can be measured, it can be represent only by a series of indicators for various aspects. Better quality of life therefore will be the result of optimizing number of the indicators. Separate, partial optimization of every aspect of well-being is clearly impossible in a society. Policy measures, whether they are economic, legislative, environmental, or of another nature, will always have an impact on several, if not all, aspects of well being. This requires that choices be made between policy instruments and that priorities be assigned to the various aspects of well-being.

Hence, the present paper put forth the concept of appropriate economic- environmental sustainable development model which can be used in analysing urban development policies and subsequently assessing the multi-objective decision making for sustainable development.