

## NEO-LIBERAL POLICIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL UPHEAVAL: AN ANALYSIS OF SUBSEQUENT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DETERIORATION

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### ABSTRACT

The most dangerous existential threat for life today is not the nuclear war but the global warming and subsequent climate change. There are numerous reasons for this calamity but the prime one (greater in intensity than the population explosion) is, nevertheless, neo-liberal economy and its lethal policies. This paper intends to establish the thesis that the neo-liberal economic policies are the chief cause of the major environmental disaster which has threatened every type of life on the earth. These policies are based on globalization, free-market economy, privatization and de-regularization. This environmental degradation, in turn, has far reaching adverse effects on social and economic life of people. This paper covers thoroughly the framework of neo-liberalism and its policies along with their deadly and hazardous effects on the environment which are hostile to the social, cultural and economic life of the large chunks of population. The methodology used is qualitative and analytic. The research theories employed are “Grounded Theory” and “Conflict Theory”. Every argument has been supported with the evidence and it is not based on any sort of personal dislike or bias since neo-liberal economy has its positive side too. However, its benefits draw heavy toll from the environment and life. In the end it has been concluded that neo-liberal economy has a direct link with climate disaster of the earth and degradation of environment. It has promoted the consumer culture and thus has caused serious social, cultural, economic and psychological damages to society.

### INTRODUCTION

Neo-liberalism may be declared the most prevalent out of the several economic models of the previous century (Harvey, 2007). It is based on deregularization, individualism, free-market and privatization with minimum intervention of the Government (Peck, 2003). This policy has been admired and appreciated highly for its potential for higher economic growth and competition in the market. However, over time its effects in the form of global poverty pushed large population groups below the poverty line. Besides, its negative role in social, cultural and environmental degradation cannot be ignored. This model emerged as a reaction

against the Keynesian Economic Model which dominated Europe after World War II. This theory prefers the role of market in controlling the economic factors than Governments and states. According to Neo-Liberalism, intervention of non-market forces in the economy is harmful for its growth and promotion. The pivotal point of the neo-liberal economy is free-market in which prices are determined by supply and demand chain instead of the state-regulations (Smith, 2010). According to Adam Smith, the regulations from the state have a detrimental effect on the business and flow of cash. To determine the prices is a free and personal affair

of the producer and the consumer. Quality will make its mark in the market and it will reach an equilibrium point of its own in the due course without any external regulations. This will support competition in the market and stability of the prices. Another corner stone of neo-liberalism is privatization and individual ownership of property and business. Its underlying logic is that personal control infuses new energy in the business person, producer or trader who freely produces, sells and determines prices. It leads towards better production and greater profit. Privatization simply means that supplies should be made to the market by the individuals instead of public/state agencies. Besides all this Individualism is one of the most important

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

When we study the effects of environmental degradation (Wallace-Wells, 2019) a horrible picture of earth appears before our eyes, which is, nevertheless, inhabitable for any sort of life. No doubt the earth has been brought to this verge of destruction by the neo-liberal economic policies. The age-old and historic tension between capitalism and environmental safety (Kiein, 2014) has highlighted that the neo-liberal economy is a major source of social and economic inequality especially in the background of global warming and environmental deterioration. Because persistent economic growth is incompatible with a healthy and sustainable environment (McKibben, 1989) since the limited resources of the earth may not bear the burden of incessant industrialization and urbanization. Moreover, neo-liberal economic model which boasts on the GDP growth ends on the severe loot and plunder of natural resources (Jackson, 2016); without opting for a holistic approach the life may not survive on the earth. Therefore, a paradigm shift for eco-socialism is essential (Williams, 2010). Social wellbeing and neo-liberalism are incompatible for each other; social equity is the only solution of this dilemma which can be achieved through peaceful co-existence between man and nature.

The cornerstones of neo-liberalism, privatization and de-regularization (Harvey, 2007) are biggest enemies both of human fraternity and environment. Both open the doors of unchecked growth and exploitation leading towards an impoverished humanity and environment. Intellectual foundations of neo-liberalism (Gray, 1984) are based on the concepts of

constituents of neo-liberalism. In its entire authority regarding economy lies with the individual instead of the state (Mandel, 1978). This theory appears very well-knit, logical and sensible at a cursory look. Its proponents still advocate it very enthusiastically; however, all is not well with it. The environmental degradation associated with it has dire effects on social and economic sides of life (United Nations Environment Programme, 2019). In the absence of the state regulation, the market tends to be highly exploitative (Stieglitz, 2019). Growth of economy also increases the need of social welfare (Piketty, 2013). The environmental degradation leads towards socio-economic deprivation of the people which will be at length discussed in the pages to come.

excessive individual liberty and free-market (Hyke, 1944). However, this unbridled freedom of both the individual and the market cause an irreversible injurious effect to society and the climate. If the balance is not created in every factor the results will be horrendous. Those who favour the globalization and free economy may not neglect its impact on environment (Bhagwati, 2004). Globalization and free-market do lead to more production, comfort in life, job opportunities but their price is paid by inflation, consumerism, broken homes, psychological disorders and environmental degradation. To make the environment friendly for life (McDonough and Braungart, 2002), it is imperative to change the design of the products and introduce new patterns of commodities and accessories of which the production and use do not cause environmental hazards. Proactive environmental policies (Kraft and Vig, 2015) are the need of the hour without which we may not remain either health or alive to enjoy our own productions. International collaborations and market incentives are essential for it.

Instead for partial, life-cycle approach (Fiskel, 2009) must be adopted to prefer long term achievements of environmental sustainability over short term profiteering. Eco-efficient economic policies and reduction in pollution are the only guarantees of the life.

“The Ecology of Commerce: A Declaration of Sustainability” is a wise advice (Paul, 1993) which suggests that economy should move environmental culprits to environmental stewards. He is of the view

that environmental sustainability ought to be the first priority of any business.

“An Introduction to Agroforestry” gives valuable suggestions about sustainable use of land especially in agro-sector (Nair, 1993). Agroforestry assimilates crops and trees thus achieving maximum environmental gains including carbon sequestration, better soil quality, and environment refurbishment.

We must be prepared for disaster management (Tobin and Montz, 1997) and risk drop. Whereas environment should be preserved; at the same time we must try our best to reduce the impact of natural calamities which are imminent due to increasing global warming. Policies must be revisited and new structures must be sought out.

Role of Psychology has gained much more importance in catastrophe-prone world (Clayton, 2019). Psychologists may not only counsel the people affected by the environmental hazards but may also guide us in opting for environment friendly and ethical behaviour.

This literature gives us with multi-pronged methods to have maintainable economic policies and better environmental protection. Their endorsements cover inclusive environmental strategies, eco-efficient methodologies, workable economic models, agroforestry, calamity control and Psychological approaches towards the problems posed by neo-liberal economy.

#### **RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:**

- 1- To show a direct relationship between Neo-liberal economic policies and environmental degradation;
- 2- To establish that environmental dilapidation has very adversely affected the social and economic life of the people;
- 3- To illustrate that Neo-liberal economic policies are responsible for the large scale human misery in the form of social deprivation and economic exploitation.

#### **METHODOLOGY:**

The research methodology is **qualitative, descriptive** and **analytic**. It is based on the studying, sifting and analyzing most relevant and contemporary pre-existing data and information. The major sources are prestigious books and authentic articles of noted authors and researchers. Following theories have been applied:

#### **a- - Grounded Theory**

This theory is based on inductive reasoning; in it data is analyzed and this analysis has strengthened the relationship of Neo-liberal economic policies with environmental degradation and its negative effects on the social and cultural conditions of population. Conclusion has empirically and scientifically emerged from the data and study. It is the best and the choicest theory in Philosophy, since it is a blend of empiricism and Sociological approaches. It is closely knit with the Symbolic Interactionist School of Sociology.

#### **b- - Conflict Theory**

The second most appropriate theory is Conflict Theory, which is related to Capitalism and its corollaries which include poverty, inequality, discrimination, unfair distribution of resources, exploitation, greed and subsequent conflicts, unrest, forced migrations, displacements, dispossessions, diseases, psychological disorders and crimes associated with it. Neo-liberal economy is primarily based on the conflict of interests in which free-market has exploited the environment and people equally for its profit making. This economy has produced all the effects mentioned in above lines and has brought the earth to the brink of destruction. This thesis has been firmly established in the paper.

#### **DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS:**

This paper intends to establish a link between neo-liberal economy and environmental crisis and its subsequent impact on socio-economic life of the people. Before leading this discussion further let us have a look what do we understand by the term “environmental crisis or degradation”. Human beings, animals and plants may survive at a particular temperature, barometric pressure and a specific height/depth (in case of aquatic life). The specific habitat in which a species may survive is called environment which comprises land, water, clean air and food besides above mentioned factors. This environment has been undergoing gradual degradation, which means the pollution or scarcity of the resources which sustain life, since the start of 20<sup>th</sup> century when human population increased unprecedentedly. The discovery of antibiotics, development of vaccinations and immense progress in the field of medicine and surgery not only reduced mortality rate dramatically but also increased the life span. However, the earth and its environment

sustained the needs of man but not the greed of man. The neo-liberal economy which is exclusively based on relentless competition, profit-earning-motives and resultant consumer culture abused these resources so brutally that the environmental balance went out of control briskly by the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Over-industrialization and urbanization led towards excessive use of fossil fuel and produced so much carbon that the temperature of the earth increased alarmingly. Green-house gases damaged the ozone layer and now we are living in the most dangerous phase of the history of the planet, when it has been moving at a horrific speed towards total collapse in environmental terms.

This degradation of environment has not made our life very difficult in every aspect and its effects may be witnesses in every sphere; the phenomenon of smog in Pakistan is the most accurate example which appeared for the first time in 2019 and now has become a regular feature of winter. The socio-economic features of this degradation are more terrifying ; now it is the high time to move towards this aspect of the problem that how neo-liberal economy after destroying the environment have devastated the mankind socially and economically.

### **2.1 - Neo-liberal Economic Policies and Social Impacts of Environmental Deprivation**

Environmental dilapidation due to neo-liberal economic policies has harmed social welfare and the economy drastically. Environmental destruction, e.g. contamination of water, pollution of air, sterility of soil, and exhaustion of natural resources distresses the health and means of earnings livelihoods of people hence adversely impacts their standard of life. Its worst effects are those who are already poor and disenfranchised (Bullard, 1994).

As environment deteriorates, communities' social and ecological exposure increases (Frumkin, 2016). It leads to health perils including respiratory illnesses, low birth weight, and anemia (Neira, and Prüss-Ustün, 2016). Effluence is also responsible for millions of deaths annually by cancer. Water contamination adds to contagious diseases like diarrhea, hepatitis A, cholera, and typhoid fever (WHO, 2019).

Relegated groups are the direct victims of the environmental deterioration. As the resources deplete and deteriorate poor communities become a

target of environmental racism. (Perkins and Zimmerman, 2016) In case of migration for better resources, they have to face racial discrimination and violence.

Degradation of land and soil has caused great disaster to farmers and rural populations who have been exposed to hunger and perpetual food shortage. Moreover, the environmental degradation is a primary source of disturbance of social systems (Smith and Jorgensen, 2017). Communities which undergo environmental degradation, destruction of livelihood and resource depletion may face social isolation and disintegration. This cycle may lead to further erosion on social level, therefore, intensified clashes, partitions and violence ensues (Adgar, 2000).

### **2.2 Neo-liberal Economic Policies and Economic Impacts of Environmental Deprivation**

Environmental degradation puts a heavy economic burden on individual, society and Governments (Heyes and List, 2015). Pollution does not seem to be such a serious issue in the first glance but a deep view reveals that that the greatest monster of our time which is a result of environmental deterioration, which in turn is an ugly child of neo-liberal economy. Ecosystem services are those which are provided by a stable and smoothly working ecosystem. The most important areas are as under:

- ❖ Nitrogen control;
- ❖ Carbon Fixation
- ❖ Pollination.

The above factors pay crucial role in forestry, gardening, agriculture, honey making and fisheries. Those dependent on these sectors for livelihood have faced heavy economic losses due to the destruction of ecosystem. Fishermen have come to a level of starvation due to income depletion; whereas costs of fish have increased in market and consumption has decreased causing more malnutrition. Following is the brief description of those sectors which have been badly affected economically due to neo-liberal economy.

#### **2.2.1 Food Industry**

Neo-liberal economic policies have unleashed a torrent of disadvantages on food industry. These negative effects have placed food industry in existential threat. To earn more profit simply neo-

liberal economy has promoted industrialized agriculture and produced unnecessary chemical fertilizers and pesticides and advertised them widely by spending large amounts. As a result, the quality of soil has increasingly degenerated, which has led to the low agricultural yield paradoxically (Brassett and Smith, 2019). This degradation has far reaching bad effects on overall food supply chain (Hussain, 2015). These deadly and poisonous nitrogen and phosphorus based urea fertilizers seep deep into the soil and mingle with the water table beneath the earth. These have made the water not fit for human consumption. One may notice that cancer has become a household disease in our age. Moreover, industrial waste is released into rivers and lakes without proper treatment which has contaminated the water beyond imagination. This water is equally dangerous for agriculture utilization (Gogoi et al, 2019). Occasionally the artificial shortage of these fertilizers is produced in the markets to earn more profit, thereby causing more harm to the crops and more food shortage.

Processed and packaged food and “mineral water in bottles” are the gifts of neo-liberal economy which are earning billions of dollars annually and make a sprawling business. However, their environmental hazards are immense; they have added tons of litter on earth. The planet had never witnesses so much plastic as waste which cannot be destroyed too. This plastic pollution is direct outcome of flourishing food chains and one-time-use plastic packing (Andersen and Corbin, 2021).

### **2.2.2 Pharmaceutical Industry**

Pharmaceutical industry is the worst affected one after the food by the neo-liberal economy. The de-regulated, profit-earning medicine industry has made the life of the people and patient more tragic and painful. Neo-liberal principles have played havoc with human health and wellbeing.

Neo-liberal economic policies have not spared even the patients. The Pharmaceutical industry could not save itself from the horrific effects of the same. The persistent and ruthless urge for monetary benefits with the active assistance de-regularizing of the prices of drugs has converted pharmaceutical to a purely profit-earning business playing with human life relentlessly (Beech, 2019).

Under neo-liberalism, the primary focus has been shifted from providing people with quality, cost-

effective and affordable medicines to high profit earning. These sky-rocketing drug prices took medicines out of the reach of public specially people of lower income groups. Health facilities were privatized and public sector was discouraged to provide health care to people. Physicians were bribed to promote the sale of costly and unnecessary medicines and multi-national pharmaceuticals practically diminished indigenous production of medicines and took hold of the entire business of medications (Kutzin, 2006).

Pharmaceutical companies with the cooperation of heavily bribed physicians and specialists have set lenient standards for normal glucose levels and high blood pressure to increase the number of patients at global level (Abraham, 2018). This unethical practice with standards and definitions has definitely added billions of dollars to the profit making industry at the cost of the already enfeebled pockets and budgets of the masses. All this led to enhanced test reports, prescription, consumption of needless drugs, higher side effects and more money to their lockers. Pharmaceuticals never pay attention to preventive medicines or unhealthy lifestyles. Food chains cause obesity and diseases in the public especially in the children and young and corrupt pharmaceuticals sell them costly medicines. Human life has been endangered by the greed and lust of neo-liberal economy.

### **2.2.3 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)**

The neo-liberal economic policies, primarily supporting the interests of large capital have devastated small and medium business the world-over. Its social and economic repercussions are very painful, tragic and inhumane. These policies work for huge corporate sector and multinational companies, hence are lethal and fatal for entrepreneurial growth since they deprive the small capital of the level playing ground (Guzman, 2016). The so-called market-based reforms have benefited large companies at the cost of SMEs (Bryson et al, 2020). These policies concentrate the capital in few hands who dominate the market; SMEs may not compete with such giants hence perish. It increases the already prevailing poverty and deprivation.

The penalties of this destruction of SMEs are more than just economic ones. These are social and cultural too, and have almost eradicated local

markets and cultural/traditional products. Moreover, lack of local employment opportunities have resulted in unbridled migrant workers, rapid urbanization, slums, sewerage and sanitation issues, sexual crimes and child abuse. Dissolution of communities and family-breakage are their social and psychological impacts. These factors further produce effects like drugs and substance abuse. Moreover, loss of SMEs restricts the purchasing power of lower-income groups besides shortage of services.

#### **2.2.4 EI Nino Impact and Economic Hazards**

The United Nations passed a warning regarding the El Nino weather effect in 2023, which will elevate temperature of the entire earth, some areas will receive unprecedented rains and some will face droughts (United Nations, 2023). The statement highlights that we must be very cautious to face the outcomes of the drastic climate change and its effects on health and economy. Droughts may cause serious threat of food shortage and famine. The poor communities may not afford food on high prices which may lead towards more hunger, disease and poverty. Heavy rains may have very serious effects on roads, railways, and infrastructure and supply system. Pakistan is a worst victim of El-Nino impact.

#### **2.2.5 Ecological Dislocation: A Mounting Emergency**

The ecological dislocation emergency is a problem of immediate world-attention of which the economic, environmental and economic corollaries are beyond imagination. The Ecological Threat Register's data portrays a dismal picture of 24 million human displacements annually. If these figures are not arrested, an overwhelming number of 1.2 billion people may get displaced by 2050.

#### **2.2.6 Underwater Exhaustion**

No nook or corner of the earth could escape the curse of neo-liberal economy even the tranquil, cool and turquoise depths of oceans. This system of economy has forgiven neither fish, nor tortoise, neither crabs nor crocodiles. The immense waters of seas are no longer clean and transparent rather contaminated with human, industrial and nuclear waste. The profit earning industry of lethal weapons and chemicals has put in danger delicate ecosystem of oceans and

caused severe damage to diversity of the aquatic life (Crutzen and Eggleston, 1996).

Since governments do not interfere with the free-market, regulations are next to nothing; therefore, unscrupulous, producers and industrialists throw poisonous waste freely into lakes, rivers, fresh water bodies and also in seas and oceans. These pollutants include industrial waste, heavy metals, human sewage and agricultural sprays. Their collective affect is serious threat not only for aquatic flora and fauna but also to their human consumers (Durate, 2002). Under the ineffective and insufficient handling of human waste and sewage under neo-liberal policies exacerbate contamination issues in water bodies ‘

Besides chemical contaminants, the undiscerning dumping of nuclear waste has almost destroyed the aquatic ecosystem. Atomic energy units and allied industries are responsible for throwing extremely dangerous radioactive material into seas. However, heavy profit earning weapon-making tycoons are too influential to be reprimanded by the governments which do not want to deprive themselves of large amounts of taxes.

These practices are not only a grave danger for marine life also for human life, economic stability and health. The huge decrease in the number and types of fishes in the rivers and seas, have very negative consequences for fishing people. Fish is the finest source of food and energy for humans, but now fish in the developed countries brings with it not health and nutrition but cancer.

#### **2.2.7 Unprecedented Migration**

The most tragic result of neo-liberal economy is lack of livelihood and resources at local level and rampant poverty due to which illegal migrants move towards Europe and US for better income. These policies, which insist on privatization, deregulation and market-oriented reforms snatch means of living from the people of the poor regions.

Globalization is the necessary and inevitable outcome of the neo-liberal economic policies under which sophisticated technologies have made across the borders transmission of cash and kind amazingly easy and swift (Jacobsson and Ljunggren, 2018). This ease has caused many problems for domestic workers who do not find small jobs at home and have to cross high seas in perilous and overcrowded boats illegally to find some livelihood. Every year

thousands of people from poor countries drown miserably in freezing waters of Mediterranean Sea, English Channel and near Canary Islands of Spain in order to reach Europe illegally. Those who are killed in cross-border firing are separate. Their helplessness is enough to tear apart any heart.

Those illegal refugees who reach somehow or the other to Europe, Gulf or US lead more oppressed lives; living in crowded and unhygienic rooms, afraid of being arrested, exploited, sexually abused, paid very low wages, lack any legal and health cover and with no social security their lives are worse than death. They face hatred and discrimination in the societies they live in and are physically assaulted too. However, all these inhuman conditions do not deter the potential migrants at home and hence an influx of illegal migrants swells day by day (Grossmann and Rossi, 2019). In order to check this trend, only border security forces are not enough, this humanitarian issue need a comprehensive solution based on economic justice, equality, fair distribution of resources and respect for human dignity. Most regretfully, all this is not possible in the presence of neo-liberal economic policies.

### **2.2.8 Coercing Fertile Land**

Perhaps the worst consequence of neo-liberal economic policies is the over-emphasis on construction and investments in the real estate, because it is the most profitable sector. The short-sighted governments, only to collect heavy taxes have given a free-hand to land-mafia to build housing schemes on agricultural land. This policy has converted lush green, clean and serene agricultural lands into huge, ugly and environment damaging human dwellings (Fernández, et al., 2021).

Neo-liberalism induced urbanization has encouraged the industrialization at the cost agricultural land (Romano and Vaillancourt, 2008).

The shift of agricultural land into real estate would adversely affect:

- a. Food security;
- b. Food supply chain and dependency on imported food;
- c. Prices of food;
- d. Ambient temperature because of large quantity of concrete and steel;
- e. Bio-diversity;

- f. Natural habitat of the animals, birds and plants;
- g. Pollution increase due to waste production ;
- h. Increased poverty and deprivation in the farming sector;
- i. Livestock, fisheries and poultry.

All these factors mentioned above would pave the way for more environmental deterioration, health hazards, economic instability, social unrest and dire shortage of the most essential food items.

### **2.2.9 Inflationary Effects**

De-regulation and market-based policies are never free of the menace of inflation. It is one of the major challenges every country has to face which opts for neo-liberal economy (Obsfield, 2017). Inflation is not an easy problem to solve since it is a prime hurdle in the way of financial stability and impacts severely both the individual and the society. The only method available to neo-liberal economy to stabilize the prices is to make central banks independent so that inflation may be kept in check (Arestis and Sawyer, 2016). However, this step proves more counterproductive since its immediate outcome is higher interest rate which makes borrowing and investment even more difficult. As a result economic growth slows time, job-opportunities decrease and poverty and inequality increase.

Neo-liberal economy despises subsidiaries and relies more on taxes, which are received from public pocket through higher utility costs, this purchasing power of people even more and adds to the pressure of inflation (Gallagher, 2013). Pakistan is the most pertinent case study in this response.

Decreases in state regulations and subsidies in the fundamental necessities, utilities and community – bases security social welfare may excessively overload the economically marginalized groups further since they will have to work more hard to make both ends meet. To earn more profits, investors and capitalists speculate which makes the market very vulnerable; it becomes unpredictable and fragile and may crash any time. It leads towards unstable and fluctuating prices and increases miseries of lower-income- groups manifold. Currency devalues and prices inflate further; assets lose their values. Such are the havocs of neo-liberal economy with

people and various sectors. After this discussion and analysis, it now high time to move towards the last part of the paper, that is conclusion.

**CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The above discussion and analysis have established our hypothesis beyond reasonable doubt that there is a theory which may be expressed logically in the following syllogism:

Neo-liberal economy has devastating effects on environment;

Degraded environment has devastated social and economic life of people

Ergo Neo-liberal has devastated social and economic life of people.

The findings of the research are quite evident; however no research should end itself with findings alone. Research is basically conducted for recommendations. Findings are diagnosis of a disease, recommendations are the remedy and treatment of the disease so that patients may not only be stabilized but also be taken to the previous healthy state.

Following are some brief recommendations to overcome the harm and damage caused by neo-liberal economy the world-over.

**5.1-** Free market economy may be reconsidered since it is totally incompatible with the goals of sustainable development. People at the helm-of the-affairs should give priority to environment over money, in case alone they would survive to enjoy their own wealth.

**5.2-** Transformation of public attitude towards environment is inevitable (Vlek Steg, 2007). People, themselves too will have to accept environmental responsibility and opt for environmental ethics. Governments alone may do nothing if the people don't have sense of responsibility. Smog in Pakistan has become a serious issue, until people will not use smoke-free vehicles and rickshaws, problem may not be resolved by any department alone.

**5.3-** Besides gradually replacing neo-liberal economic model with a humane or sympathetic one, masses should be educated how to protect the environment and cause it less damage. Population control is the most important factor which should be addressed not only by governments but by poor communities too. Necessary amendments should be made in the national curriculum to highlight the significance of environmental conservation.

**5.4-** Industrialists and business persons should be held accountable for environment damaging practices (Keptein, 2004). Until strict policies in this respect are not implemented and law is not set into action, degradation will not be arrested. Strong check is required for the corrupt departments who give free hand to the industrialists in return of bribes. Industrial areas must be marked and should be brought out of fast growing urban residencies.

**5.5-** civil society, activists and right group must play a pro-active role here without strong movements and advocacy; neo-liberal economic policies may not be changed because they enjoy a strong support from highly influential capitalist countries. These policies are deeply entrenched. Their activism may play a vital role to pressurize commercial organizations to opt for better environment-friendly policies and practices. The activists and rights groups should act as collective overseer and should highlight corporate social responsibility of the business tycoons who are mainly accountable for environmental deprivation and exploitation of people.

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