

EnviroConvergeBlog 05: Separation of the case for Eradication of Poverty from the Environmental debate.

Introduction

Both rich and poor nations share a common interest in global environmental protection. However, some rich nations may not hold a similar interest in the eradication of poverty in poor nations, and therefore decline to accept the IPCC document containing the combined agendas of environmental protection with eradication of poverty.

Citation references, Paragraph and Section references are those contained in the PhD Thesis “Values and science in contemporary education: The study and impact of student orientation.” The Thesis document is available in the University of Newcastle repository, here: <http://hdl.handle.net/1959.13/1501410> (and then by clicking on Attachment01).

3.2.1.4 Environmental Gap 4. Separation of the case for Eradication of Poverty from the Environmental debate.

Maslow’s needs – Esteem

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) – 1. No poverty.

Eradication of Poverty

Following is the title page of the IPCC document declaring the 1.5° C target:

GLOBAL WARMING OF 1.5°C

An IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty (IPCC, 2018, p. 1).

To some, the use of the phrase “efforts to eradicate poverty” in the last line of the title signals a secondary agenda of economic redistribution in the global warming declaration, which dilutes the environmental protection message. Both rich and poor nations share a common interest in global environmental protection. However, some rich nations may not hold a similar interest in the eradication of poverty in poor nations, and therefore decline to accept the IPCC document containing the combined agendas. In addition, individual nations, either rich or poor, may consider externally mandated efforts to erase poverty within their

sovereign boundaries as interference in their national affairs. This again dilutes the environmental protection message.

From the title of the IPCC (2018) document, it can be construed that three agendas are being promoted, viz.:

- i. The threat of climate change
- ii. Sustainable development
- iii. Efforts to eradicate poverty

It has been postulated that the first stage in strategic thinking is to pinpoint the critical issue in the situation (Ohmae, 1982). Therefore, the critical issue in this case can be identified as that which aligns with the document title, i.e., the threat of climate change. However, regarding climate change, an alternative view, which is an economic view, was provided by Barker and Kitcher (2013), who contend that the real climate change question is how we balance the uncertainty of the climate threats against the uncertainty of the economic future. This question raised by Barker and Kitcher (2013), aligns somewhat with the agenda to eradicate poverty, providing validity to this agenda.

In problem solving, a focused strategy can be effective, as it is aimed at serving a particular target very well, by adopting the premise that it is possible to achieve a narrow strategic target more effectively than it is to achieve a broad target (Porter, 1980). Correspondingly, various successful organisations and high-achievers have adopted the “Keep it Simple Stupid,” or KISS philosophy, when implementing programs (Rich, 1995). I now recommend that these proven management techniques be applied to the furthering of the environmental discussion as follows.

Separate case documents – Climate change, Eradication of poverty

As a result of applying the above-mentioned long-standing management techniques to the resolution of the global warming of the “IPCC 1.5°C: summary for policymakers” document, the recommended solution is for the UN to produce separate action case documents, one for climate change and another for eradication of poverty, with each case adhering to sustainable development guidelines where possible. Both climate change and eradication of poverty situations possess immense merit, but require separate documentation and negotiations to achieve their distinctly separate goals.

The recent (November 2022) agreement in COP27 to set up a Climate-Damage fund is an example of an agreement reached in the single-context of climate change regarding

obligations of industrialised countries to compensate other countries for decades of damage to the environment resulting from industrial activity (Dalton & Meichtry, 2022). Recipient countries are then able to direct funds to whatever purpose they choose, including for the eradication of poverty.

Recommended action and Conclusion

The Australian government to make representation to the UN to produce separate action case documents, one for climate change and another for eradication of poverty. This action is further documented in Sections 7.2.5 and 7.5.1ii of the Thesis.

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