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Nature and Policy Evaluation for Social Forestry

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ABSTRACT
Population expansion over the past few decades has put a greater strain on the world's land and natural resources. The objectives of social forestry include the provision of food, fuel, and fodder; the amelioration of environmental conditions through the reduction of pollutants; and the safeguarding of agricultural pursuits from the damaging effects of climate change. Social forestry is also sometimes referred to as "community forestry." Some social forestry projects had been implemented on a small scale in India by the 1950s (BRD, 1985). The country has implemented social forestry, the largest and most innovative participatory forestry experiment, as well as the largest intervention design to increase common land production and utilization.

Keywords: climate change, natural resources, policy, social forestry, land

I. INTRODUCTION

After decades of deforestation across India, a new movement called "social forestry" has evolved to combat the problem. India is the world's largest populous democracy and home to more than twenty percent of humanity. In 2019, it was thought that there were 1,352,642,280 people in the world. With 67% of its landmass covered in forests, India is among the world's most forested nations (FAO, 2011). Forests are the most self-sufficient ecosystems on the planet and a priceless natural resource that may be put to many different uses. According to the 2017 State of Forestry Report, America's forests occupy around 21.54 percent of the country's total land mass. To make ends meet, many people in rural India rely on work in the forest industry. Wood is the most common source of fuel in India, both in rural and urban settings. The woodlands are an unrivalled economic engine. Due to rising global demand and increased industrialization, forests will inevitably be overexploited and destroyed. The rate of soil erosion, the availability of fuel, the decimation of plant and animal species, the onset of climate change, the expansion of barren land, and the severity of damage are all on the rise as a result of these activities.

Utilization and exploitation of natural resources are necessary for economic growth. A good example of such a tool is social forestry (Lacuna-Richman, 2012). The roots of the idea of social forestry can be traced back to the teachings of Lord Buddha and ancient Indian scriptures like the Vedas, the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, the Upanishads, and the Puranas. Legend has it that Ashoka planted trees on the sides of the highways so that passing travellers would have shade and edible treats. Social forestry's main objective is getting locals involved in creating and carrying out afforestation plans tailored to their specific circumstances. With the goal of providing a wide range of goods and services to both individuals and society through close participation of the local population and more or less integrated land use with other operations, growing and managing trees and other vegetation on land available for this purpose in or outside traditional forest areas has been conceptualised as the science and art of social forestry (Tewari). Customized forest management plans based on the input of local citizens are what we call "community-based management" (CBM) (Wiersum, 1984). When Jack Westoby gave the keynote lecture at the 9th Common Wealth Forestry Conference in New Delhi that same year, he introduced the concept of "social forestry."

II. FORESTRY AND SOCIETY CONCEPTS

A significant contribution to the national economy is made by social forestry. Forest scientist William Westo invented the term "social forestry" during the 9th Common Wealth Forestry Congress in New Delhi in 1968 to describe the practice's potential as a source of food, fuel, fodder, jobs, and national wealth. Social forestry, as he defines it, is tree-planting with the end purpose of delivering a steady stream of communal benefits like safety and fun. A good example is the concept of "social forestry," which refers to non-traditional forms of forestry whose major objective is to supply a consistent flow of commodities and services to the local population. To the contrary, the goal of social forestry is to grow forests in accordance with the needs

and preferences of the local community. Shah defines "social forestry" as the practise of collaborating with economically disadvantaged people to produce necessities like fuel and feed that meet the needs of the immediate community.

The name is derived from the words "social" and "forestry," which are both components of the broader field. In contrast, forestry is the study and practise of forests and the conservation, scientific management, and sustainable use of the plants and animals that inhabit them.

Social forestry, farm and community forestry, and forestry for local community development are all phrases that can be used interchangeably to describe the same thing. Included in this broad category are the many initiatives that private landowners and community groups in rural areas have launched to improve their own lives and the local economy by planting trees and tending to forests. Public tree planting by the government or a private organisation to meet the needs of a community is another example of social forestry. In a social forest, the community members are vital to the success of the forest.

Meanings of "social" include "socially integrated," "socially structured," and "contributes to social change," all of which speak to the project's intention to have a positive effect on local development through the distribution of resources. "Social forestry" refers to a programme that is run by locals and benefits the community as a whole. There is no restriction on who can engage in forestry activities, including agricultural forestry. It's a plan to improve rural areas that takes into account the unique difficulties found there. "It's a collection of activities that make productive use of land that would otherwise sit idle or be used inefficiently," the authors write. Development in the social and economic spheres is more of a process in which the local population is actively engaged at every level of the programme's implementation. All of the social, economic, and political problems plaguing rural areas must be addressed before social forestry can get off the ground.

Commonly, when people hear the term "social forestry," they picture a mission to aid individuals in rural regions and those living in poverty by involving them in the entire process, from planning to harvesting to distribution, rather than simply paying them for their labor. As a field of research, social forestry aims to learn more about how people plant, care for, and harvest trees in order to better serve communities and farmers. Sustainable, productivity-enhancing technologies that are suited to local conditions and acceptable to the local people are crucial in effective social forestry programmes, along with widespread local engagement backed by higher-level governmental support (Gregerson, 2010).

III. METHODOLOGY

We used secondary sources like books, journals, proceedings, publications, official government records, and online scholarly papers to come up with our plan.

IV. AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT SOCIAL FORESTRY

The national economy benefits greatly from social forestry initiatives. potential as a source of food, fuel, and fodder; ability to generate employment and stimulate the national economy It was in the years after independence that the Forestry Department's efforts were prioritized. Both economic development and ecological balance benefit greatly from social forestry. The preservation of the ecosystem and the ecological system's stability are just two of the many advantages of tree cultivation. The survival of humanity is directly tied to the planet's forested areas. Trees and bushes are important to our health and survival in many ways beyond their aesthetic appeal. They're useful in a wide variety of contexts, including context-based contexts. Afforestation outside of the traditional forest area benefits communities in both rural and urban areas.

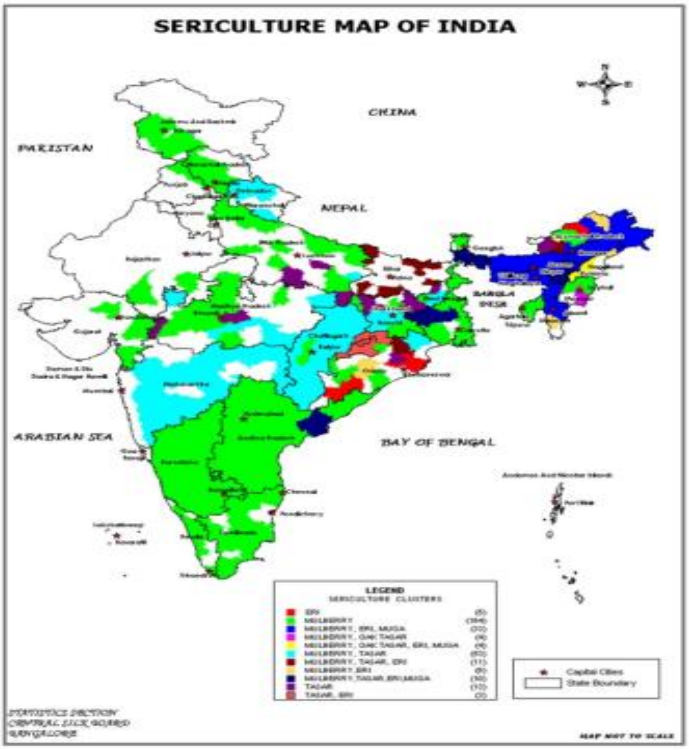
The forest-climate change nexus is complex and far-reaching. Deforestation and forest degradation contribute significantly to global warming by releasing greenhouse gases. Low- and middle-income communities can benefit from forests in two ways: they can help reduce carbon emissions and improve their ability to adapt to climate change. Organizations dedicated to social forestry prioritise the needs of those who rely on forested land and its resources for survival. Forest restoration, biodiversity conservation, improved livelihoods, reduced climate change vulnerability, and carbon sequestration are just some of the environmental and economic goals it pursues. Local markets for feed, vegetables, and other agricultural products all benefit from reforestation. A more cohesive village community may emerge if villages achieve economic independence.

4.1 Issues to think about in Social Forestry

- Residents in rural areas have access to sufficient fuel, fodder, and wood supplies.
- The needs of rural households and logging-based small companies for raw materials must be met.
- Our goal is to increase the income of village panchayats and give jobs to people who live in rural areas.
- Protect the crops from wind and water erosion by using this method.
- Both individuals and the community as a whole need to have their financial situations improved.
- One worthy objective is facilitating the return of degraded woods to their original condition.

- To improve the local environment and ecosystem,
- The use of cow manure as fuel or manure should be minimised or eliminated in favour of its more useful application as fertiliser on farms.
- The concept of creating a tree wall to enclose the area
- Reducing garbage.
- Other uses of land, besides forested areas, are also a big source of carbon emissions that should be reduced as much as possible.
- Social forestry comes in a wide variety of forms.

4.2 Society and Forestry



4.3 Agriculture and Forestry

Farm forestry refers to the practise of implementing programmes that inspire farmers to grow trees for sale on their own land. A farm's forestry operations might be classified as either commercial or noncommercial. As an alternative to growing crops for financial gain, some people engage in a practise known as "non-commercial farm forestry," in which trees are planted on the land. They are not selling the trees but instead planting them on their own property. Farmers cultivate trees for profit in an industry known as "commercial farm forestry."

4.4 Communal Forestry

Community forestry sometimes goes by the label "rural forestry." Similar to agricultural forestry, this technique involves the planting of trees on publicly owned land as opposed to private property. In this effort, nobody is being singled out. The government pays for research, gives seedlings and fertiliser, etc., but it is up to the community to ensure the trees are well protected.

4.5 Expansive Forestry

With the intention of increasing the total land area that is covered by trees and other plant life outside traditional forested regions, extension forestry is the practise of forestry in areas where such plant life does not already exist. Extension forestry also includes planting along the sides of roads and canals and on abandoned land. The initiative aims to green up the country by planting more trees and grass. Raising fodder grass and planting fruit trees, nuts, and trees for fuel wood using

suitable wastelands, panchayat holdings, and village common areas is referred to as "mixed forestry." A shelterbelt is a barrier of trees and bushes that is maintained through regular trimming and pruning to provide cover from bad weather. Most often, shelterbelts are built around canal banks, banked areas of a river, or train tracks to prevent erosion of the soil (GOI, 1991). Planting rapid-response species requires the use of linear strip plantings.

4.5 Forestry for Leisure Purposes

Residents of both urban and rural areas can take pleasure in the aesthetic value of trees and shrubs produced specifically for the purpose of "recreational forestry." Aesthetic forestry, which is the practise of creating or keeping a forest for its aesthetic value, is a subset of this field.

4.6 Recovery Efforts for Degraded Forests

Residents of forest-degraded areas have urgent environmental and social demands that must be met.

4.7 The Numerous Benefits of Social Forestry

- To create more fuel (wood and fodder) for use in cooking and heating; to provide work opportunities in rural areas.
- There is a continuance of ecological balance.
- It's important to make good use of squatter areas.
- Encouragement of small-scale manufacturing in rural areas
- Raise consciousness about the value of trees and the need to protect the planet.
- Free up nature's forests, please.
- Ensure consistent yields in the agricultural sector.

4.8 Legal Provisions and Other Measures Concerning Forests

As far as we can tell, India's forest history begins around 1855. The Indian Forest Act was passed into law in the United States in 1865.

- It was in 1866 that the first official "Forestry Department" was established.
- As early as 1950, poet K.M. Munshi held a festival called "Vanmahotsava," which honoured trees and their many benefits to society.
- This happened in 1950, when the Central Board of Forestry was established.
- The National Forest Policy (NFP) was the first comprehensive forestry policy in the United States (Agarwal, A.P. 1952).
- To cite the Forest Conservation Act of 1980:
- This is the updated Forestry Policy from 1982 (RFP).
- Reference: Fuelwood Study Committee of 1982
- The 1988 National Forest Policy Amendments and the National Wasteland Development Board of the National Wasteland

Social forestry initiatives have included the Western Ghat Development Program, the Drought Prone Area Program, the Employment Guarantee Scheme, and the Van Mahotsav. Villagers have been involved in every stage of the "Hariyali" watershed project's planning, implementation, and monitoring since 2001, when the social forestry department was given the responsibility of executing it in designated watersheds. The forestry sector is given a lot of attention in the national five-year plans. The goals are to protect the environment more through forestry and teach the rural poor about the benefits of this sector.

V. CONCLUSION

The forests were extremely important to our ancestors. Increases in human population, industrialization, modernization, and the reckless cutting down of trees for commercial gain have all contributed to a catastrophic decline in the availability of forest goods. Soil erosion, flooding, a lack of wood fuel, the extinction of countless rare plant and animal species, and a change in temperature are only some of the negative effects of deforestation. Afforestation and social forestry projects must be given high priority if these unintended outcomes are to be avoided. Social forestry can help solve the energy crisis, climate change, and soil preservation issues. People in both rural and urban regions can greatly benefit from a well-executed social forestry initiative or programme.

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