



SRI RAMAKRISHNA
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE (Autonomous)
(Ranked 76th in NIRF 2025 | Accredited with 'A+' Grade by NAAC | AICTE & UGC Approved
ISO 9001:2015 Certified | Affiliated to Bharathiar University)
Nava India, Coimbatore - 641 006



ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION (AICTE), NEW DELHI

Sponsored

TWO DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE

on

CLIMATE ACTION & GREEN GROWTH: INDIA'S PATH TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CHIEF EDITOR

Dr. B. L. Shivakumar

EDITORS

Dr I Parvin Banu

Dr R Sivaramakrishnan

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Dr B Devipriya

Mrs S Harshini

PUBLISHED BY

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CONTENTS

1. Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Restoration: Recent Trends, Policies, and Future Directions

¹Ms. Ushena Begam S, ²R. Priyadharshin _____ 1 - 6

2. The Role of Digital Technologies in Advancing Global Climate Action

¹S. Vasanthan, ²Dr.J.Manimegalai _____ 7 - 12

3. The Role of Integrated Water Resource Management in Building Climate Resilience

¹A.Razia Sultana Ibrahim, ²Mrs.K.Kokula Karthiga _____ 13 -17

4. Smart Cities and Green Growth: Transforming Urban India for a Sustainable Future

Dr. P.Jayanthi _____ 18 - 22

5. Sustainable Urban Development and Smart Cities

Dr.T.Mohana Sundari _____ 23 - 28

6. Digital Finance as a Catalyst for Green Investment

Dr.B. Indira Priyadharshini _____ 29 - 34

7. Green Finance, ESG, Sustainability Investment

¹DHANVI A, ²SHRI SHURUTTI S _____ 35 - 39

8. Leveraging Digital Technologies for Climate Action: The Role of Iot, Artificial Intelligence, and Blockchain in Sustainable Environmental Management

Mr. Balabaskaran K _____ 40 - 44

9. Smart City Startups and Urban Entrepreneurship Ecosystem: A Comprehensive Analysis

V. Vaishnavi¹, Dr. K. Mahalakshmi² _____ 45 - 50

10. Sustainable Agriculture and Climate-Smart Innovations for Global Food Security

K. Santhi _____ 51 - 55

11. Digital Technologies for Climate Action: Ai, Iot and Blockchain

¹Vedhamahalakshmi.S, ²Ramitha T _____ 56 - 61

12. Discovering Supportable Finance and Environmental, Social and Governance Investing

Dr.L.Kannan _____ 62 - 66

13. Impact of Electric Mobility on Environmental Sustainability and Green Transportation

¹Dr.P. Vidya, ²D.Sathya _____ 67 - 70

14. The Impact of Emerging Digital Technologies on Climate Change Adaptation Strategies

¹Dr.K.M. Subhashini, ²N. Lavanya _____ 71 - 75

15. From Traditional Packaging to Intelligent Systems: A Study of Manufacturing and Retail Ecosystems in Coimbatore

¹Dr M Saravanan, ²Ms S Viveka _____ 76 - 80

16. Sustainable Logistics Practices for Reducing Carbon Footprint In Supply Chains

¹B.Srimathi, ²V.G.Abbishek _____ 81 – 84

17. Indigenous Knowledge Systems as a Blueprint for Inclusive Green Growth: Reframing India's Climate Transition through Cultural Sustainability

Dr. M.R Deepica¹, Natchathraa K.S² _____ 85 - 92

18. Role of Technology in Climate-Resilient Water Management

Dr.M.Pandi Selvi _____ 93 - 96

19. Influence of Green Financial Literacy on Sustainable Investment Decisions

¹M.Sathiya Priya, ²Dr. S. Sakthi Bharathi _____ 97 – 101

20. Eco-Anxiety and Resilience: Psychological Pathways to Climate Adaptation in India

Devanayaki R _____ 102 - 106

21. An Observational Study on Sustainable Urban Development and Smart cities with special reference to Coimbatore City

Dr. B. Sheela _____ 107 - 112

22. Green Finance: A Pathway for Sustainable Economic Development

¹Dr. M. Jayanthi, ²Mr. G. Dony Kumar, ³Mr. T. Jagatheeswaran _____ 113 - 119

23. AI-Driven Sustainable Urban Planning Integrating Data Analytics For Smart City Development

D.Nanee _____ 120 - 125

24. Inclusive Green Growth, Livelihoods and Social Sustainability

Dr.P.V. Nandhini _____ 126 - 130

25. Digital Transformation as a Pathway to Climate Action: Evidence from SMEs in Tamil Nadu

Swaminathan N¹, Dr Sankar Ganesh R² _____ 131 - 136

26. An Observational Study on Sustainable Urban Development and Smart cities with special reference to Coimbatore City

Dr. B. Sheela _____ 137 - 142

27. Green HRM Practices and Organizational Culture as Drivers of Employee Productivity: Evidence from IT Firms in Kerala for Sustainable Development and Climate Action

Lakshmi Priya R¹, Sankar Ganesh² _____ 143 - 147

24. Inclusive Green Growth, Livelihoods and Social Sustainability

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Abstract

Inclusive green growth represents a transformative approach to development that integrates the economic expansion with environmental stewardship and social equity. It emphasizes the need to decouple the growth from ecological degradation while ensuring that the benefits of progress are equitably distributed across all segments of society. By prioritizing renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and resource efficiency, inclusive green growth seeks to create pathways for low-carbon development that simultaneously reduce poverty and enhance resilience. Inclusive Green Growth emphasize the efficient use of natural capital and the reduction of carbon footprints while ensuring the inclusive green growth. The core of the study tries to focus on how transitioning to a low-carbon economy can act as a catalyst for poverty alleviation and job creation. Thus, by investing in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and circular waste management nations can generate the green jobs that provide a long-term security to vulnerable populations. But however, the transition must be inclusive to prevent the marginalization of traditional workforces. Inclusive Green growth harmonizes the economic advancement with environmental protection while ensuring the benefits of growth are equitably share across society. As countries nowadays confront the dual challenge of climate change and persistent socio-economic inequality thus it emerges as a critical strategy for achieving the long-term sustainability.

Keywords: *Stewardship, Social equity, Green environment.*

Introduction:

Inclusive green growth is a pathway to sustainable development that optimizes the economic growth while reducing the pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and waste. Inclusive Green Growth seeks to harmonize the environmental protection with wealth creation. This operates on the principle that green and growth are not mutually exclusive. Thus by investing in renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure and resource-efficient technologies, nations can stimulate the innovation and productivity while ensuring the benefits of the progress that reach the most vulnerable populations. For decades, the global standard for success was defined by “Brown Growth”- an economic model fueled by fossil fuels and the intensive exploitation of natural resources.

While this led to the rapid industrialization, it ignored the “hidden costs” : like environmental degradation and widening the social inequality. Today, the world is shifting toward a Inclusive Green Growth, the framework that acknowledges the economic expansion is unsustainable if it erodes the natural capital upon which life depends or excludes the large segments of the population. Such that in the context of the green growth, the focus shifts towards the green jobs and the sustainable industries, ensuring that as we transition away from carbon heavy industries like coal mining etc and create a new pathway for workers in solar energy, organic farming and circular waste management. Thus, a livelihood is considerable sustainable when it can cope up with and recover from stress and shocks such as climate disasters without undermining the natural resource base.

The global community stands at a critical juncture where the traditional “Grow first, clean up later” Economic model has proven to be ecologically catastrophic and socially divisive. Thus, inclusive green growth emerges as the necessary response to this crisis, redefining progress as a process that is environmentally sustainable, socially equitable and economically viable. It is a pathway that seeks to maximize the economic expansion while minimizing the pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and waste that ensure the Earth’s natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies. Especially for a country like India, which faces the dual challenge of lifting the millions out of poverty while battling the extreme climate vulnerability, inclusive green growth is not just an option but a survival strategy.

Inclusivity ensures the benefits of transition to a low-carbon economy reach the most marginalized sectors of society, including smallholder farmers, women, and indigenous communities. Without the inclusivity, green policies- such as carbon taxes or the fuel removal subsidies can unintentionally place a heavy financial burden on the poor. This holistic approach recognizes that the poverty and environmental degradation are often two sides of the same coin, where the poor are the most dependent on natural resources and the most impacted by their loss. In the context of green growth, a livelihood is sustainable, central to this discourse is the preservation and enhancement of sustainable livelihoods, when it can cope with and recover from the stress and shock and maintain its capabilities and provide the opportunities for the next generation without undermining the natural resource base.

The third vital component is social sustainability which refers to the ability of a society to maintain the well-being of its members over time. It encompasses social equity, protection of human rights and cultural preservation. In this framework, social sustainability ensures that the “Just Transition” is not just a slogan but a reality, which involves creating social safety nets, investing in human capital through skill development, ensuring that community voices are heard in

the decision-making process. When a government decides to build a massive solar park or a wind farm, social sustainability dictates that local communities should not be displaced without fair compensation and that they should be the primary beneficiaries of the energy and jobs generated by the project. Thus, the relationship between these three pillars is one of the mutual reinforcements. For example, a policy promoting renewable energy provide clean electricity to rural households. Enabling children to study at night and small businesses to operate more efficiently. This in turn reduces the health burden of indoor air pollution from traditional biomass, particularly for women, thereby improving social well-being. Conversely a lack of social sustainability such as high levels of corruption can derail green growth efforts as marginalized groups may resist environmental regulations that they perceive as unfair. Therefore, a successful strategy must address the economic, environmental and social dimensions simultaneously.

5 Important Factors of Inclusive Green Growth:

➤ Natural Capital Management:

It refers to the sustainable use and preservation of natural resources like forest, water and biodiversity. It ensures that economic growth does not degrade the ecosystems or reduce the future resource availability. Effective management helps communities maintain resilience against climate risks like flood, drought and soil degradation and also supports long-term productivity by protecting ecosystem services such as pollination, water filtration and carbon storage.

➤ Green Job creation and Skill Development;

It expands employment opportunities in sectors like renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, waste management and eco-friendly manufacturing. It also helps transition workers from polluting the industries to environmental responsible occupations. Certain skill development programs might enhance the workforce by providing training in the new technologies and sustainable practice that reduce unemployment while improving the income security for vulnerable groups.

➤ Social equity and Inclusion

This ensures that the benefits of the green growth reach the marginalized groups such as women, youth, low-income households and indigenous communities which might promote equal access to land, technology, finance and markets. These types of inclusion strengthen the community participation in decision-making and increase ownership of the development initiatives. Such that, by reducing the inequalities it enhances social cohesion and collective well-being.

➤ Resilient Infrastructure and Technology

It supports communities in preparing for and recovering from climate shocks. Investments in renewable energy, water conservation systems, and climate-proof transportation enhance economic stability. Technology improves resource efficiency and reduces emissions through innovations like

smart irrigation, waste-to-energy systems, and sustainable construction. It also widens access to green services, improving the quality of life. Thus the resilient feature reduce disaster losses and protect the livelihoods from long-term environmental risks.

➤ **Policy Reforms and Financial Support**

This creates a regulated environment that encourages sustainable production and equitable growth. Strong policies promote renewable energy, conservation and community participation. Financial support-through subsidies, green bonds and climate funds-enables businesses and households to adopt eco-friendly solutions. It also reduces investment risk for green entrepreneurs and innovators. Government plays a vital role in designing the incentives that steer the economy toward sustainability.

Challenges faced by Inclusive Green Growth:

➤ **The financing gap**

Green initiatives are always expensive requiring a long-term investment in technology and infrastructure and also in capacity building. As many countries lack sufficient financial resources to support these transitions and also as private investors hesitate due to perceived risks and uncertain returns as well as the public funding alone is not sufficient to drive the large-scale transformation. As there is limited access to credit always restricts the participation of small businesses and rural communities. Thus closing the financial gap is very much essential for accelerating the inclusive green growth.

➤ **Infrastructure and material constraints**

Many regions lack the basic infrastructure that are needed to support green technologies such as renewable energy grids or efficient transport networks. So the material shortages further slow the transition to sustainable systems. The poor infrastructure also increases the cost and difficulty of adopting the green solutions. Therefore, without climate-resilient facilities, communities remain vulnerable to environmental shocks. Thus, these constraints limit the economic diversification and reduce the productivity.

➤ **Skill and knowledge gap**

Certain significant part of workforce lack training in green technologies and sustainable practices. This might limit the effectiveness of the green job programs. The educational institutions often do not offer specialized courses that support the emerging green sectors. The knowledge gap restrict the innovation and slows economic transformation thus bridge the gap that requires the targeted education and skill development initiatives.

➤ **Informal sector exclusion**

Large portion of certain group of workforce operate in informal sectors with limited legal recognition and social protection. So, these groups of workers face barriers in accessing the credit, training and green technology, without inclusion green growth remains uneven and reinforces existing inequalities. Thus, by upgrading the informal work systems is essential for truly inclusive for the development. Exclusion also weakens the resilience against the climate impacts thus integrating the informal sector the supports the broader economic and social sustainability.

➤ **Policy misalignment and global volatility**

conflict in policies across different sectors might weaken the effective working of green initiatives that might lead to lack of coordination among government bodies that create delay and inefficiencies. Therefore, global volatility like price fluctuations, trade conflicts or geopolitical tensions further disrupts the green investments.

Conclusion:

Inclusive green growth provides a holistic framework that connects the economic development with environmental protection and social equity that emphasizes sustainable livelihoods, green employment opportunities and resilience against climate risks. Despite of its potential, several challenges including financing gaps, infrastructure limitations, skill shortages and policy misalignment that limit its widespread adoption. Addressing these issues require strong governance, strategic investments, and active community participation. Thus, by integrating the social inclusion with environmental sustainability, countries can build resilient economies that benefit all citizens.