

# A Study on Environmental Justice in India with Reference to the Special Role Played by the National Green Tribunal

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**Abstract:** *Environmental justice ensures equitable treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of caste, class, or gender, in environmental policymaking. In India, environmental degradation disproportionately affects vulnerable communities. The establishment of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in 2010 marked a significant milestone in delivering environmental justice. This paper attempts to understand the role of environmental justice in India with reference to the special role played by the National Green Tribunal. Environment makes life possible in the world by utilizing the resources of it by making life satisfaction in the earth which includes organisms also. The research method followed is Empirical research. The info is collected through a questionnaire and therefore the sample size is 206. Convenient sampling method is adopted within the study to gather the info. The samples were collected from public, friends and relations. The independent variables are gender, age group, income level and education level, occupation & legal status of respondents. The dependent variables are whether the people are the role of the National Green Tribunal on Environmental issues, major factors causing Environmental issues and its prevention, overcome the problem of Environmental issues through the National Green Tribunal, the tasks of the National Green Tribunal with providing effective remedies. The researcher used complex charts and graphs to analyze the data. The result shows that the respondents have agreed that establishment of the National Green Tribunal has led to the reduction of environmental issues. Majority (31.55%) of the respondents had worried about the depletion of natural resources. Majority of the respondents have disagreed with the view that establishment of NGT would reduce the burden of other courts. Those respondents below the age of 18 years and above 45 years have pointed towards global warming as the major factor to cause environmental destruction. Those between 19-25 years and 26-35 years of age stuck to depletion of natural resources*

**Keywords:** Awareness, Environment Justice, Prevention, National Green Tribunal, Natural resources, judicial bodies, Pollution, Tribunal, Industrialization, Urbanization.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Environmental justice has become an increasingly important concern in India, a country facing rapid industrialization, urbanization, and ecological degradation. It refers to the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all individuals in environmental policymaking, regardless of their socio-economic status. With the poor and marginalized often being the most affected by pollution, deforestation, and resource exploitation, a mechanism for environmental redressal was urgently needed. The establishment of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act was a landmark step in ensuring environmental justice in India. The NGT functions as a specialized body equipped with the expertise to handle environmental disputes and to provide speedy, effective remedies.

Based on the principle that all have a right to protect the environment from any sort of damage and pollution to it. The justice stated here is that the environment needs to be protected as much as the life is living in such an environment. Such justice will make a life enjoyable not only to humans but also various other living things in the world with a clean



and healthy environment. When such rules of the principles are broken, law comes to place to govern such breaches by giving remedies and preventive measures. In India there are many legislations that have been enacted to protect the environment, that too the law is classified widely into various types like water law, air law, etc. The main objective is to improve and protect environmental quality, reduce and control pollution from the sources, and restrict or prevent the setting and operation of any industrial facility on environmental grounds and even to protect the wildlives. In this way judiciary plays an important role.

The quasi-judicial body “National Green Tribunal” was established by National Green Tribunal Act -2010. The Tribunal is tasked with providing an effective and expeditious remedy in cases relating to environmental protection, conservation of forests and other natural resources and enforcement of any legal right relating to the environment. The Tribunal has a presence in five zones- North, Central, East, South and West. The Principal Bench is situated in the North Zone, headquartered in Delhi. The Central zone bench is situated in Bhopal, East zone in Kolkata, South zone in Chennai and West zone in Pune. It aims at generating widespread awareness of environmental problems. It not only educates the world population about the natural environment and its problems, but also aims at developing knowledge, attitude and skills necessary to protect the natural balance in the environment. The AIM of the Research Paper is to analyze environmental justice in India with reference to the special role played by the National Green Tribunal.

#### **OBJECTIVE:**

- To analyse the role of the National Green Tribunal on Environmental issues.
- To create awareness on major factors causing Environmental issues and its prevention.
- To overcome the problem of Environmental issues through the National Green Tribunal.
- To understand the tasks of the National Green Tribunal with providing effective remedies

#### **II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

(Singh, n.d.)aprajita singh (2021). A Decade of National Green Tribunal of India: Judgement Analysis and Observations. This paper through the analysis of judgments of the year 2019 of the specific months where the tribunal has done significant intervention, through analysis looks into the impact the judgments have concerning environmental protection and innovations brought and jurisprudence created through its judgments and impact on the access to environmental justice. (Samad, Varghese, and Alappat 2015)Muhammed Siddik, AbdulSamad, George K.Varghese, BabuJ.Alappat.(2015). Environmental Forensics in India – Four Years after the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010. In India, the traditional approach to deal with environmental pollution had been criminal sanctions. The very strict evidentiary requirements for criminal conviction often resulted in situations where the polluter walked free. The realisation of this was manifested in the form the National Green Tribunal Act 2010. (“**Modernising Environmental Justice – Regulation and the Role of an Environmental Tribunal (2003)**,” n.d.) Richard Macrory. Modernising Environmental Justice – Regulation and the Role of an Environmental Tribunal (2003). This study is concerned with modernising the ways in which we handle environmental regulation. It stems from a recent recommendation of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution that a specialist environmental tribunal system be set up to consolidate and rationalise a range of environmental appeal mechanisms which are currently distributed amongst an array of different courts and other bodies. (Shrotria 2015)Sudha Shrotria (2015). Environmental justice: Is the National Green Tribunal of India effective? This article discusses the role of India’s National Green Tribunal (NGT) which was established on 18 October 2010 as a dedicated environmental court under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 and became fully operational with effect from 4 July 2011. The NGT was constituted as a multidisciplinary body with the necessary expertise for the effective and speedy disposal of cases relating to environmental protection, forest conservation and enforcement of legal rights relating to environment protection. (Slater 2017)Anne Michelle Slater (2017). Environmental Justice in India: The National Green Tribunal. The Government of India has formed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) during the year 2010. NGT is a 'quasi-judicial' body exclusively dealing with the environment related civil litigations. Before NGT evolved, there were two previous efforts to establish green courts in India. These were the National Environment Tribunal Act, of 1995 (META) and National Environment Appellate



Authority Act, of 1997 (NEAA). **(Hantke-Domas 2017)**Gitanjali Nain Gill Routledge, (2017). Environmental Justice in India: The National Green Tribunal. Environmental justice is a multifaceted concept. It can be broadly understood as 'the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, colour, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. **(Varghese and Alappat 2012)** Babu J. Alappat (2012). National Green Tribunal Act: A Harbinger for the Development of Environmental Forensics in India? It analyses the Impact of NGT, the locations of conflicts. Special emphasis is given to the Coastal Zone management-related conflicts settled in NGT. However, the superior courts are unable to satisfactorily resolve environmental disputes involving scientific and technical questions due to lack of permanent expert panels to assist them. **(Chowdhury and Srivastava 2018)**Nupur Chowdhury(2018). Sustainable Development as Environmental Justice: Exploring Judicial Discourse in India. This statutory recognition has paved the way for a robust jurisprudence spearheaded by the NGT that has actively sought to evolve a standard of review for public actions in effectuating the principle of sustainable development and in doing so has departed from the reductionist utilitarianism that had characterised the jurisprudence of Supreme Court. **(Rengarajan et al. 2018)**Sridhar Rengarajan,Palaniyappan Dhivya, Purvaja Ramachandran, Ramesh Ramachandran (2018). National Green Tribunal of India—an observation from environmental judgements. This study conducted an empirical analysis of NGT judgments since its inception in October 2010 to December 2013. It analyses the Impact of NGT, the locations of conflicts. Special emphasis is given to the Coastal Zone management-related conflicts settled in NGT. Although there are many limitations in the NGT act and its procedures, it can be viewed as a positive step towards environmental justice in India. **(Chowdhury and Srivastava 2018)**Nupur Chowdhury, Nidhi Srivastava (2017). National Green Tribunal in India: Examining the Question of Jurisdiction. The jurisdiction of the NGT although statutorily limited, has evolved in the light of Supreme Court's jurisprudence on the powers of tribunals. Further the nature of environmental disputes are such that the NGT has had to expansively interpret both procedural mechanisms such as limitation period for allowing more disputes to be brought to the bench and by entering substantive areas such as climate change. **(Gill 2016)**Gitanjali [Gita] Nain Gill (2016). Environmental Justice in India: The National Green Tribunal and Expert Members. This article argues that the involvement of technical experts in decision making promotes better environmental results while simultaneously recognizing the uncertainty in science. India's record as a progressive jurisdiction in environmental matters through its proactive judiciary is internationally recognized. **(Gill 2018)**Gitanjali [Gita] Nain Gill (2018). The National Green Tribunal of India: A Sustainable Future through the Principles of International Environmental Law. This article addresses the application of these principles in the Indian context, thereby recognising its international commitments concerning environmental protection. In seeking a balanced judicial forum to advance green jurisprudence, the NGT is a 'fast track' court having wide powers, staffed by judges and environmental scientific experts. **(Rajan and Ravi Rajan 2014)**Rajan kumar Patra, Ravi venkata Krishna (2014). National Green Tribunal and Environmental Justice in India. This study conducted an empirical analysis of NGT judgments since its inception in October 2010 to December 2013. It analyses the Impact of NGT, the locations of conflicts. Special emphasis is given to the Coastal Zone management-related conflicts settled in NGT. Although there are many limitations in the NGT act and its procedures, it can be viewed as a positive step towards environmental justice in India. **(Sharma, n.d.)**Raghav Sharma(2008). Green Courts in India: Strengthening Environmental Governance? The Indian experience in environmental governance, involving easy access to justice through Public Interest Litigation, demonstrates that 'independent' and 'powerful' superior courts are indispensable for securing environmental justice. However, the superior courts are unable to satisfactorily resolve environmental disputes involving scientific and technical questions due to lack of permanent expert panels to assist them. **(Tandon 2018)**Usha Tandon (2018). Environmental Courts and Tribunals: A Comparative Analysis of Australia's LEC and India's NGT. This chapter provides a critical comparative analysis of Australia's Land and Environment Court (LEC) and India's National Green Tribunal (NGT) with reference to their historical background, relevant statutory provisions, and functioning of LEC in New South Wales and NGT in India. **(Warnock 2017)**Ceri Warnock (2017). Reconceptualising specialist environment courts and tribunals. Specialist environment courts and tribunals (SECs) are, in the main, reflective of highly dynamic forms of adjudication, mixing judicial forms with powers more traditionally found in the executive. However, despite their novel legal nature the literature on SECs is predominantly promotional



and it fails to address the challenges to legitimacy and governance engendered by these institutions. **(Shrotria 2015)**Sudha Shrotria (2015). Environmental justice: Is the National Green Tribunal of India effective? This article discusses the role of India’s National Green Tribunal (NGT) which was established on 18 October 2010 as a dedicated environmental court under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 and became fully operational with effect from 4 July 2011. The NGT was constituted as a multidisciplinary body with the necessary expertise for the effective and speedy disposal of cases relating to environmental protection. **(Warnock 2021)**Ceri Warnock (2021). Environmental Courts and Tribunals: Powers, Integrity and the Search for Legitimacy.The global phenomenon of the establishment of specialist courts is one of the most important recent developments in environmental law. This important book tackles these questions directly, looking specifically at the courts in the common law world. It argues that to fully understand the nature of the adjudication of these courts, a bottom-up approach must be taken: i.e. the question before the court is determinative. **(Preston 2014)**Brian J. Preston (2014). Characteristics of Successful Environmental Courts and Tribunals. This article identifies 12 characteristics that experience suggests are required for an environmental court or tribunal to operate successfully in practice, drawing upon examples from multiple jurisdictions. In identifying best practices, both substantive and procedural, from existing ECTs, this article will assist two groups. **(Pring and Pring 2009)**George William Pring (2009). Creating and Improving Environmental Courts and Tribunals. This report lays out a decision-making framework for creating an ECT [environmental court and tribunal] that can be useful in different legal cultures and political situations. It provides the tools and support necessary to enhance access to environmental justice in countries around the world that, in turn, will advance the principles of environmental protection, sustainable development, and intergenerational equity through the institutions responsible for delivering environmental justice.

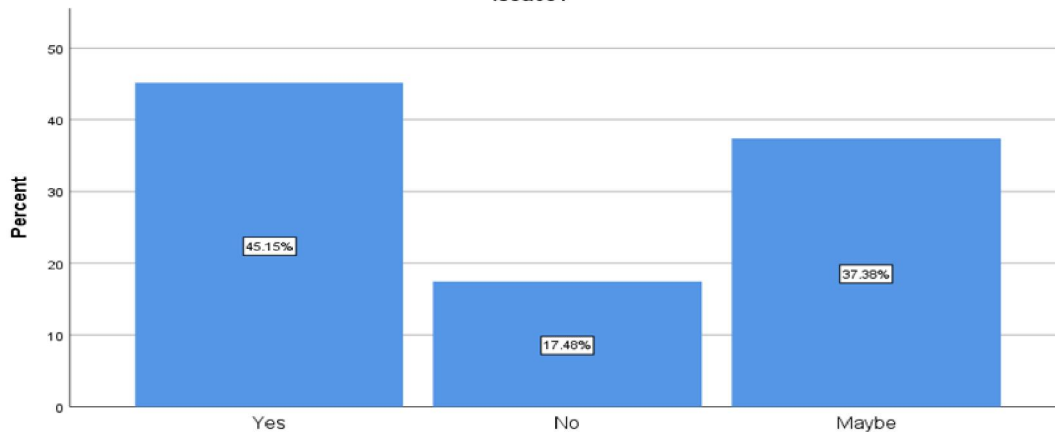
**III. METHODOLOGY**

The research method followed is Empirical research. The info is collected through a questionnaire and therefore the sample size is 206. Convenient sampling method is adopted within the study to gather the info. The samples were collected from public, friends and relations. The independent variables are gender, age group, income level and education level, occupation & legal status of respondents. The dependent variables are whether the people are the role of the National Green Tribunal on Environmental issues, major factors causing Environmental issues and its prevention, overcome the problem of Environmental issues through the National Green Tribunal, the tasks of the National Green Tribunal with providing effective remedies. The researcher used complex charts and graphs to analyze the data.

**IV. ANALYSIS:**

**Figure 1**

**Simple Bar Percent of Do you think establishment of National Green Tribunal has reduced the environmental issues?**

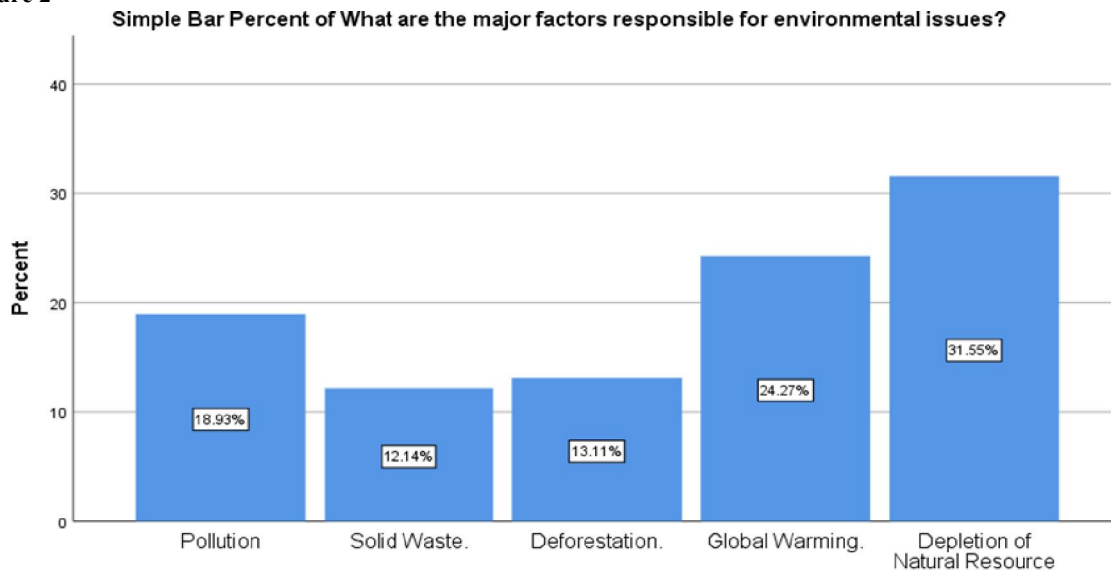


**Do you think establishment of National Green Tribunal has reduced the environmental issues?**

Figure 1 shows the respondents' opinion on whether the establishment of the National Green Tribunal has reduced environmental issues.



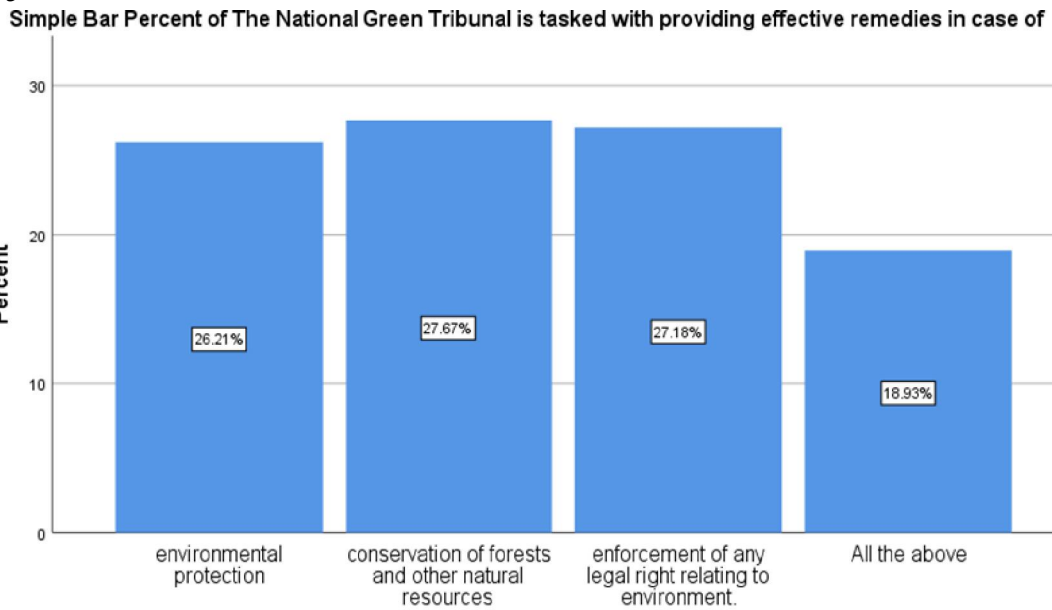
**Figure 2**



**What are the major factors responsible for environmental issues?**

Figure 2 shows the major factors responsible for environmental issues.

**Figure 3**



**The National Green Tribunal is tasked with providing effective remedies in case of**

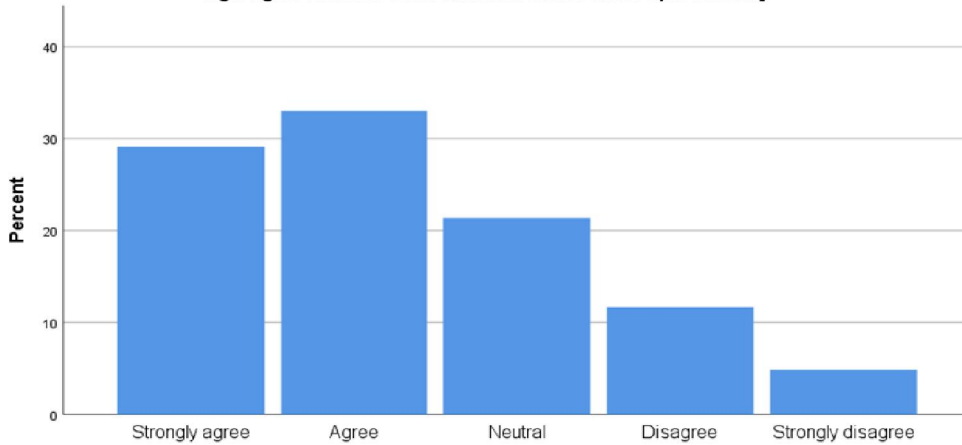
Figure 3 shows the effective remedies from the National Green Tribunal.





**Figure 4**

Simple Bar Percent of Rate your agreeability for the statements below. [National Green Tribunal enforce any legal rights related to Environmental issues and it's prevention.]

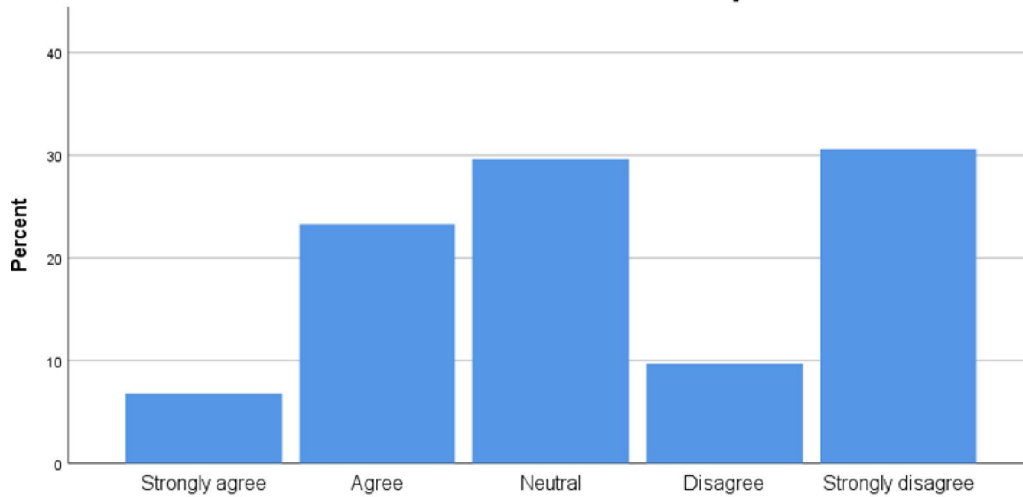


Rate your agreeability for the statements below. [National Green Tribunal enforce any legal rights related to Environmental issues and it's prevention.]

Figure 4 shows the respondents agreeability on the statement “NGT enforce any legal rights related to environmental issues and its prevention”

**Figure 5**

Simple Bar Percent of Rate your agreeability for the statements below. [Establishment of National Green Tribunal will reduce the burden of other Courts]



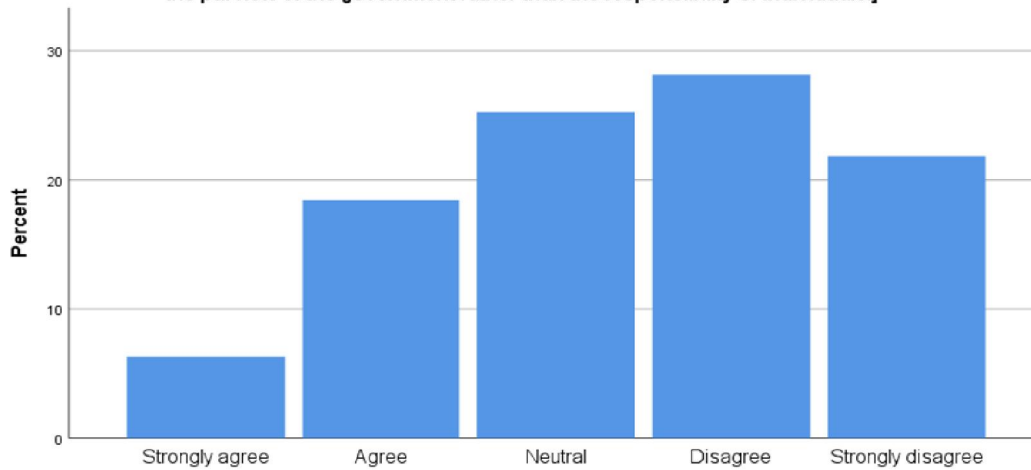
Rate your agreeability for the statements below. [Establishment of National Green Tribunal will reduce the burden of other Courts]

Figure 5 shows the respondents agreeability on the statement that “Establishment of NGT will reduce the burden of the courts”.



**Figure 6**

Simple Bar Percent of Rate your agreeability for the statements below. [The Environmental concerns are more the purview of the government rather than the responsibility of individuals.]

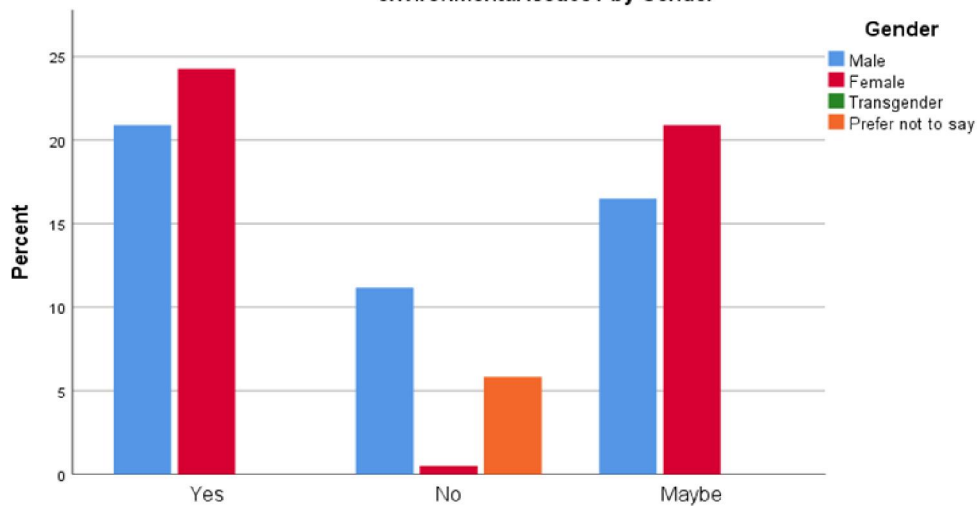


Rate your agreeability for the statements below. [The Environmental concerns are more the purview of the government rather than the responsibility of individuals.]

Figure 6 shows the respondents agreeability on the statement that “the environmental concerns are more the purview of the government rather than the responsibility of individuals.

**Figure 7**

Clustered Bar Percent of Do you think establishment of National Green Tribunal has reduced the environmental issues? by Gender



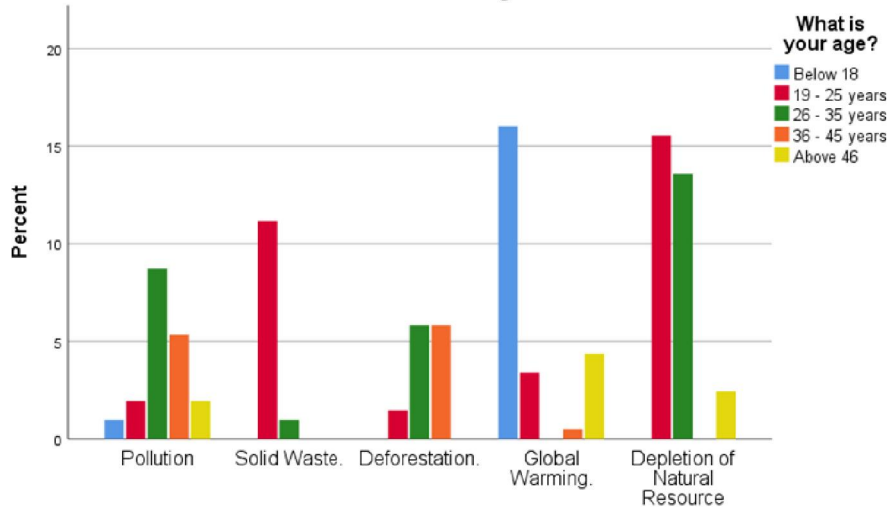
Do you think establishment of National Green Tribunal has reduced the environmental issues?

Figure 7 shows the respondents' opinion on whether establishment of National Green Tribunal has reduced environmental issues based on respondents Gender.



**Figure 8**

**Clustered Bar Percent of What are the major factors responsible for environmental issues? by What is your age?**

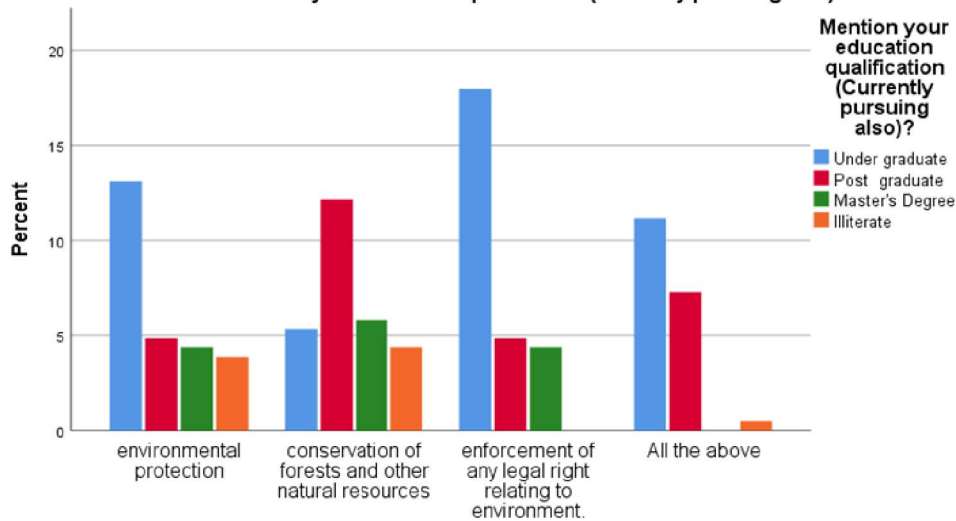


**What are the major factors responsible for environmental issues?**

Figure 8 shows the major factors responsible for environmental issues based on respondents' age.

**Figure 9**

**Clustered Bar Percent of The National Green Tribunal is tasked with providing effective remedies in case of by Mention your education qualification (Currently pursuing also)?**



**The National Green Tribunal is tasked with providing effective ...**

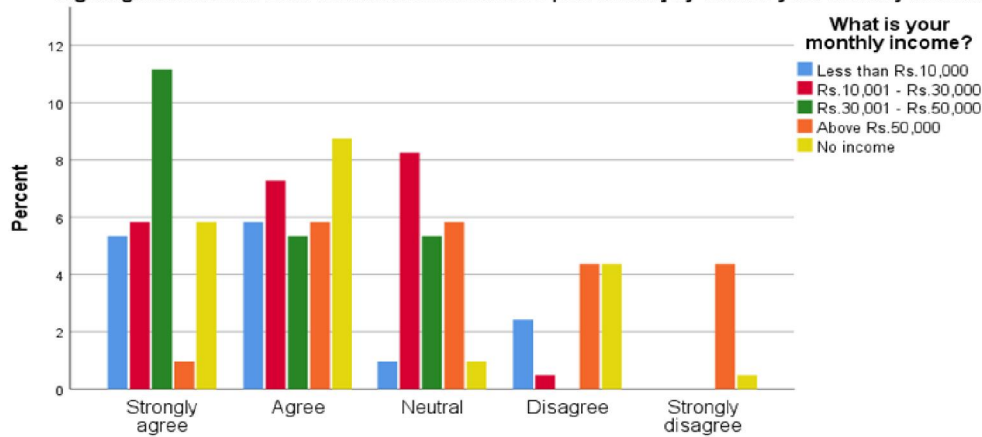
Figure 9 shows the effective remedies from the National Green Tribunal based on the respondents education qualification.





**Figure 10**

Clustered Bar Percent of Rate your agreeability for the statements below. [National Green Tribunal enforce any legal rights related to Environmental issues and it's prevention.] by What is your monthly income?

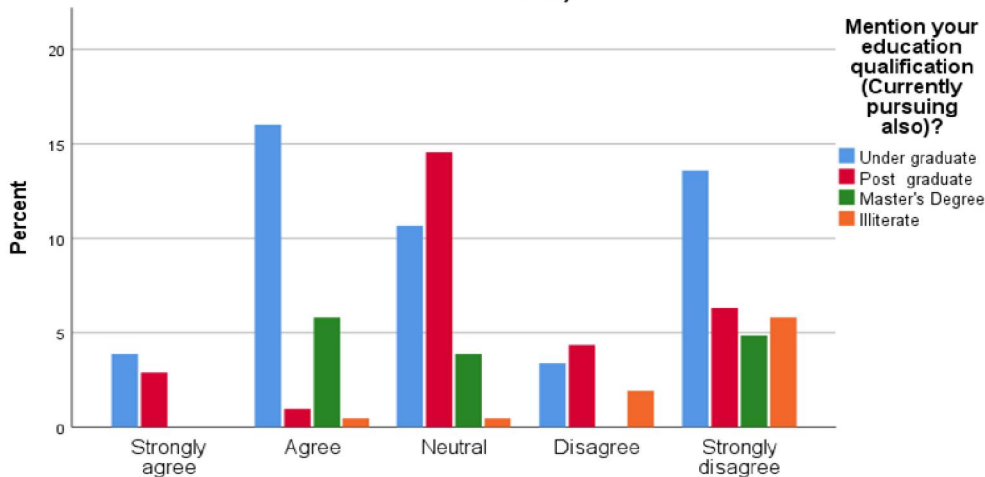


Rate your agreeability for the statements below. [National Green Tribunal enforce any legal rights related to Environmental issues and it's prevention.]

Figure 10 shows the respondents agreeability on the statement “NGT enforce any legal rights related to environmental issues and its prevention” based on respondents monthly income.

**Figure 11**

Clustered Bar Percent of Rate your agreeability for the statements below. [Establishment of National Green Tribunal will reduce the burden of other Courts] by Mention your education qualification (Currently pursuing also)?



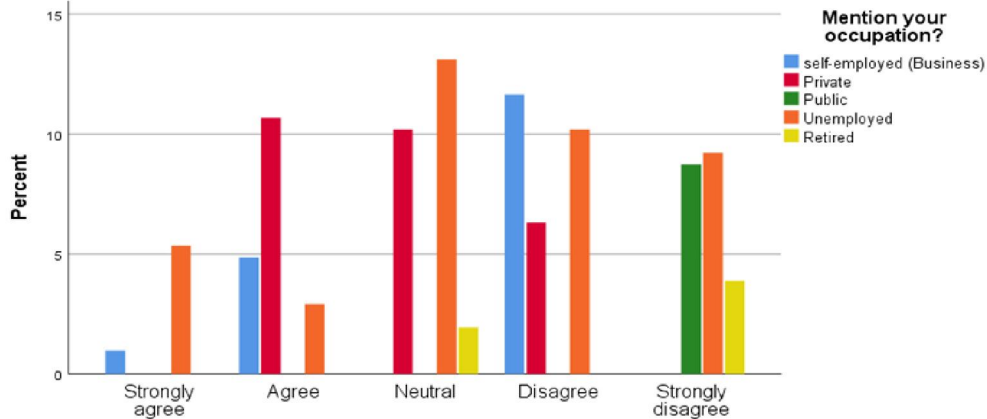
Rate your agreeability for the statements below. [Establishment of National Green Tribunal will reduce the burden of other Courts]

Figure 11 shows the respondents agreeability on the statement that “Establishment of NGT will reduce the burden of the courts” based on respondents education qualification.



**Figure 12**

Clustered Bar Percent of Rate your agreeability for the statements below. [The Environmental concerns are more the purview of the government rather than the responsibility of individuals.] by Mention your occupation?



Rate your agreeability for the statements below. [The Environmental concerns are more the purview of the government rather than the responsibility of individuals.]

Figure 12 shows the respondents' agreeability on the statement that "the environmental concerns are more the purview of the government rather than the responsibility of individuals" based on respondents' occupation.

## V. RESULT:

**Figure 1:** About 45.15% of the respondents have agreed that establishment of the National Green Tribunal has led to the reduction of environmental issues. On the other hand, 37.38% and 17.48% of the respondents were not sure and had conveyed their disagreement respectively. **Figure 2:** There have been mixed responses. Majority (31.55%) of the respondents had worried about the depletion of natural resources and about 24.27% of the respondents worry about global warming and its consequences to our environment. Pollution (18.93%), Deforestation (13.11%) and solid waste (12.24%). **Figure 3:** Respondents (27.67%) are of the view that conservation of forests and other natural resources is the duty of the NGT. About 27.18% of the respondents have opined that enforcement of any legal right relating to the environment is also in the hands of the Tribunal. **Figure 4:** Majority (about 35%) of the respondents have agreed to the statement the National Green Tribunal enforces legal rights related to environmental issues and its prevention. About 30% of them have also strongly agreed about the same. **Figure 5:** Majority of the respondents have disagreed with the view that establishment of NGT would reduce the burden of other courts. The neutral view also follows from a large no. Of them and a very few go with the statement. **Figure 6:** Maximum of the respondents have disagreed with the statement that environmental issues are in the purview of the government rather than it being an individual responsibility. **Figure 7:** Majority of the respondents from both the genders had opined that establishment of NGT has led to the reduction of environmental issues. **Figure 8:** Those respondents below the age of 18 years and above 45 years have pointed towards global warming as the major factor to cause environmental destruction. Those between 19-25 years and 26-35 years of age stuck to depletion of natural resources. Respondents between the age group of 36-45 years choose both Deforestation and pollution as the factors responsible for environmental issues. **Figure 9:** Maximum of the undergraduate respondents believe that NGT is entrusted with the task of providing effective remedies in the case of enforcement of any legal right relating to environmental issues. On the other hand, those with post graduate level and master's degree and also the illiterates think that NGT strives at the conservation of forests and other natural resources. **Figure 10:** Respondents with the income of 30,000 and 50,000 have strongly agreed to the statement that National Green Tribunal enforces legal rights for the environmental issues and their protection. Those groups with the income of 10,000 and 30,000 and the 50,000 and above income group have conveyed their neutrality on the matter while those with no income and less than 10,000 have agreed to the same. **Figure 11:** Majority of the respondents with undergraduate level education, those with master's degree and those with no formal education have agreed and strongly agreed to the statement that the set up of NGT will reduce the burden of other courts. **Figure 12:** Respondents working



in the public sector and those who are already retired show a positive sign to the statement that environmental issues are more in the purview of the government than in the hands of individuals. Those in the private sector also agree with the same. On the other hand, the self-employed disagree with the view, supporting the idea of individual responsibility towards the environment.

## VI. DISCUSSION

**Figure 1:** About 45.15% of the respondents have agreed that establishment of the National Green Tribunal has led to the reduction of environmental issues. This might be due to their belief in the efficiency of the tribunal and its success in putting an end to the environmental issues. On the other hand, 37.38% and 17.48% of the respondents were not sure and had conveyed their disagreement respectively and this might be the result of their unawareness about the tribunal and could expect its better functioning. **Figure 2:** For the question about the factors responsible for environmental issues there have been mixed responses which might indicate that many factors contribute to the destruction of our environment. Majority (31.55%) of the respondents had worried about the depletion of natural resources and about 24.27% of the respondents worried about global warming and its consequences to our environment. Pollution (18.93%), Deforestation (13.11%) and solid waste (12.24%) are considered the other factors which might cause destruction to the earth and this might be out of the everyday experience of people with their natural surroundings. **Figure 3:** There have again been mixed responses when asked about the task of the National Green Tribunal. Respondents (27.67%) are of the view that conservation of forests and other natural resources is the duty of the NGT. About 27.18% of the respondents have opined that enforcement of any legal right relating to the environment is also in the hands of the Tribunal. 26.21% of them have conveyed that the tribunal is vested with the responsibility of environmental protection and providing effective remedies in such cases. The remaining 18.93% of the respondents believe that all of these are vested with the National Green Tribunal and therefore might expect its swift and effective functioning. **Figure 4:** Majority (about 35%) of the respondents have agreed to the statement the National Green Tribunal enforces legal rights related to environmental issues and its prevention. About 30% of them have also strongly agreed about the same. This might indicate the awareness of the public towards the environmental rights and the legal sanctions attached with the protection of the environment. On the other hand, some percentage (about 20%, 10% and 5%) of them have responded with their neutrality, disagreeability and their strong disagreement shout the same and this may be due the lack of awareness about the NGT and its significance. **Figure 5:** Majority of the respondents have disagreed with the view that establishment of NGT would reduce the burden of other courts. The neutral view also follows from a large no. Of them and a very few go with the statement. This might be due to the knowledge about the single integrated judiciary or court system of our nation. Other courts might also have the jurisdiction on such issues and might hear them at various instances. **Figure 6:** Maximum of the respondents have disagreed with the statement that environmental issues are in the purview of the government rather than it being an individual responsibility. This might be because of the view of the respondents that individuals carry the major duty and responsibility to safeguard their environment. Although the government has the responsibility to take care of environmental issues, at an individual level each of us must act judiciously with our environmental resources. **Figure 7:** Majority of the respondents from both the genders had opined that establishment of NGT has led to the reduction of environmental issues. Their knowledge about the effective functioning of the National Green Tribunal might have caused such responses. **Figure 8:** Those respondents below the age of 18 years and above 45 years have pointed towards global warming as the major factor to cause environmental destruction. Those between 19-25 years and 26-35 years of age stuck to depletion of natural resources. Respondents between the age group of 36-45 years choose both Deforestation and pollution as the factors responsible for environmental issues. This might clearly indicate that there can be more than one factor which might play its part well in causing environmental destruction. Therefore, all of these factors could be given equal importance while solving the environmental issues. **Figure 9:** Maximum of the undergraduate respondents believe that NGT is entrusted with the task of providing effective remedies in the case of enforcement of any legal right relating to environmental issues. On the other hand, those with post graduate level and master's degree and also the illiterates think that NGT strives at the conservation of forests and other natural resources. However all these responsibilities might be entrusted to the Tribunal for the protection of the environment. **Figure 10:** Respondents with the income of 30, 000 and 50,000 have strongly



agreed to the statement that National Green Tribunal enforces legal rights for the environmental issues and their protection. Those groups with the income of 10,000 and 30,000 and the 50,000 and above income group have conveyed their neutrality on the matter while those with no income and less than 10,000 have agreed to the same. This might be because the higher income group might have the opportunity to think of the environmental issues than the other sections. **Figure 11:** Majority of the respondents with under graduate level education, those with master's degree and those with no formal education have agreed and strongly agreed to the statement that the set up of NGT will reduce the burden of other courts. The post graduate respondents have conveyed their neutrality and this view might be due to their restricted knowledge on the courts and their functioning in the Indian judicial system. **Figure 12:** Respondents working in the public sector and those who are already retired show a positive sign to the statement that environmental issues are more in the purview of the government than in the hands of individuals. Their experience and wisdom on such matters related to nature and environment might have caused such a response. Those in the private sector also agree with the same. On the other hand, the self-employed disagree with the view, supporting the idea of individual responsibility towards the environment. Their belief that each of us contribute to the welfare and destruction of the environment could be the reason for such an opinion. The unemployed respondents maintain their neutrality on the same.

#### **LIMITATION:**

This study provides insightful perspectives on the role of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in delivering environmental justice in India, it is essential to acknowledge several limitations that may have influenced the scope and depth of the research findings. Although the questionnaire used in the study was designed to be simple and easy to understand, not all respondents had sufficient awareness or knowledge about Environmental Justice. This lack of understanding may have led to incompleteness and inaccuracy. These factors could have affected the authenticity and reliability of the data collected.

In addition, the study faced limitations in terms of time, resources, and geographical coverage. A more thorough and large-scale study would have allowed for a more detailed and accurate analysis. However, due to time constraints and limited access to a diverse population sample, the findings may not fully represent the views of all sections of Indian society. Despite these challenges, the study provides valuable insights into public awareness and opinions regarding air pollution control methods.

#### **SUGGESTION:**

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has emerged as a key institution for environmental justice in India. However, to further enhance its effectiveness and ensure long-lasting environmental protection, several improvements are necessary. Firstly, the institutional capacity of the NGT should be strengthened. The tribunal currently operates with a limited number of benches and members, leading to delays in adjudication. Establishing more regional benches and ensuring timely appointments of judicial and expert members will make the NGT more accessible, especially to rural and remote populations who are often the most affected by environmental degradation. Many people, particularly in underprivileged communities, remain unaware of their environmental rights and the existence of the NGT as a redressal mechanism. Awareness campaigns, community workshops, and integration of environmental law in educational curricula can empower citizens to participate actively in environmental protection and approach the NGT when needed. The use of technology and digital tools can significantly enhance the functioning of the NGT. Tools like real-time pollution monitoring, satellite imagery for forest cover, and a user-friendly online portal for case filing can streamline the tribunal's operations and make it more efficient and transparent. The NGT should be granted greater enforcement powers. Currently, the tribunal lacks independent authority to ensure its decisions are implemented. Legislative amendments that empower the NGT to take suo motu cognizance of environmental violations and penalize non-compliance directly will reinforce its authority. Finally, NGT's judgments must align with sustainable development goals. The tribunal should prioritize not just punishment for environmental harm but also promote rehabilitation, restoration of ecosystems, and eco-friendly development alternatives. These measures might help it evolve into a stronger and more effective institution in delivering environmental justice across India.



## VII. CONCLUSION

The National Green Tribunal plays a pivotal role in advancing environmental justice in India. Despite limitations, its interventions have empowered citizens, enforced accountability, and contributed to sustainable development. Strengthening its legal and institutional framework is essential to meeting future environmental challenges. Environmental justice is a principle that all living things have an equal place and opportunity to utilize the same. The justice stated here is that the environment needs to be protected as much as the life is living in such an environment. Such justice will make a life enjoyable not only to humans but also various other living things in the world with a clean and healthy environment. The dependent variables are whether the people are the role of the National Green Tribunal on Environmental issues, major factors causing Environmental issues and its prevention, overcome the problem of Environmental issues through the National Green Tribunal, the tasks of the National Green Tribunal with providing effective remedies. The result shows that the respondents have agreed that establishment of the National Green Tribunal has led to the reduction of environmental issues. Majority (31.55%) of the respondents had worried about the depletion of natural resources. Majority of the respondents have disagreed with the view that establishment of NGT would reduce the burden of other courts. Those respondents below the age of 18 years and above 45 years have pointed towards global warming as the major factor to cause environmental destruction. Those between 19-25 years and 26-35 years of age stuck to depletion of natural resources. The National Green Tribunal has significantly strengthened the cause of environmental justice in India by delivering critical judgments, penalizing violators, and emphasizing ecological balance. It has enabled faster and specialized redressal of environmental grievances that earlier took years in regular courts. However, for it to function as a more robust and reliable institution, the existing structural and procedural challenges must be addressed. With greater awareness, stronger laws, and public support, the NGT can be a formidable pillar in India's environmental governance system.

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