

A Critical Analysis on the Government Initiatives with Respect to Environmental Protection

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Abstract: *Need for equal protection for economic development and environmental protection. The main objective of the study was to find the relationship between economic development and environmental protection in India. Environmental concerns in India, like high air pollution or severe pollution in water bodies have increasingly been getting the attention of media and citizens, over the past few years. But, according to the experts, the time when elections in India will be fought on environmental issues still seems to be far away. The samples have been collected through a convenient sampling method sample size is 200. This research it has been found that there is a negative relationship between economic development and environmental protection as far as the present condition of the country. Government is taking a number of environmental protection policies but that requires public awareness as well as proper implementation of all those policies. The government should also spread awareness about sustainable development goals which were implemented in our country and government should not be negligent when it comes to environmental protection and should give equal focus on both environmental protection and economic development of the country as a whole.*

Keywords: Environmental protection, economic development, sustainable development, polluter pay principles, economic development

I. INTRODUCTION

Environmental protection should not be compromised for the purpose of economic development of the country. Today we have various policies which has been brought up by the government to deal with environmental protection those include water and environmental law policies or water prevention and control of pollution act 1974, water prevention and control of pollution amendment act 1977, control of air pollution law in India 1981, Forest and wildlife that is the wildlife protection act 1972, Forest conservation act 1980, environmental protection act 1986, then we have public liability insurance act 1991 and various others aims such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan these all others aims has been brought up by the government for the protection and welfare of the people in a country. But when it comes to economic terms sometimes environmental protection is compromised and industrial development is leading to environmental degradation. There is a need for proper implementation of all these policies in each and every part of the country to balance environmental protection and economic development. Sometimes the government is negligent when it comes to environmental protection. Today the extent of the environmental legislation network is evident from the above discussion but the enforcement of the laws has been a matter of concern. One commonly cited reason is the prevailing command and control nature of environmental regime coupled with this is the prevalence of the all or nothing approach of the law they do not consider the extent of violation fines or leave it on the flat basis and in addition there is no incentive to the lower discharges below the prescribed levels some initiatives have addressed these issues in recent past the government of India came out with the policy statement for abatement of pollution in 1992. Before the Rio conference which declared that market-based, economic instruments will be investigated to encourage the shift from curative to preventive measures.



In 1995 the Ministry of environment and Forest constituted a task force to evaluate market-based instruments which strongly advocated their use for the abatement of industrial pollution various economic incentives have been used to supplement the command and control of policies another aspect that evident is the shift in the focus from end of pipe treatment of pollution to treatment at source . The important reason for development is the rise of judicial activism in the enforcement of environmental legislation. This is reflected in the growth of environment related public interest litigation that has been laid in the court that makes the court take major steps such as ordering the shut down of polluting factories. Even the new agenda 21 highlights the need for integration of environmental concerns at all stages of policy planning and decision making process including the use of effective legal and regulatory framework economic instruments and other initiatives and incentives these are very principles were fundamental to the guiding environmental protection in the country well before Jio and will be reinforced drawing on India's own experiences and those of others. Among the most pressing environmental issues in India is also water pollution. The Asian country has experienced unprecedented urban expansion and economic growth in recent years. This, however, comes with huge environmental costs. Besides its air, the country's waterways have become extremely polluted, with around 70% of surface water estimated to be unfit for consumption. Illegal dumping of raw sewage, silt, and garbage into rivers and lakes severely contaminated India's waters. The near-total absence of pipe planning and an inadequate waste management system are only exacerbating the situation. Every day, a staggering 40 million litres of wastewater enter rivers and other water bodies. Of these, only a tiny fraction is adequately treated due to a lack of adequate infrastructure. The **aim** of the study is to know the causes of environmental losses in India.

OBJECTIVES

- To study the causes of environmental losses in India.
- To analyse the public awareness regarding environmental policies taken by the government.
- To understand the steps taken by the government to reduce environmental losses
- To study on whether there is proper implementation of government policies to reduce environmental losses.
- To examine the impact of government policies on the environment.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

(Thayer et al. 2022) Whether the Environmental Protection Agency reasonably determined that it was not" necessary"(21 USC 346a (g)(2)(B)) to conduct an evidentiary hearing concerning the safety risk posed by a particular pesticide, after the agency concluded that petitioners' submissions in support of a hearing did not comply with the agency's procedural rules and did not create a genuine issue of material fact. (Saleem, Khan, and Shabbir 2020) Renewable technologies are considered as clean sources of energy and optimal use of these resources minimise environmental impacts, produce minimum secondary wastes and are sustainable based on current and future economic and social societal needs. Sun is the source of all energies. The primary forms of solar energy are heat and light.(A. K. Thakur et al. 2022) policies on environmental protection and sustainable development have experienced five changes: (1) progression from the adoption of environmental protection as a basic state policy to the adoption of sustainable development strategy; (2) changing focus from pollution control to ecological conservation equally; (3) shifting from end-of-pipe treatment to source control; (4) moving from point source treatment to regional environmental governance; and (5) a turn away from administrative management-based approaches and towards a legal means and economic instruments-based approach. (Lees and Viñuales 2019) the Supreme Court of India has been actively engaged, in many respects, in the protection of the environment. While conventionally the executive and the legislature play the major role in the governance process, the Indian experience, particularly in the context of environmental issues, is that the Court Has begun to play a significant role in resolving environmental disputes. (Anton and Shelton 2011) The study indicates that environmental reporting, barring a few cases, is unsystematic and non-comparable. Though good work is being done by some industrial sectors and some units in different sectors, the reports seem to be aimed more at publicity than providing environmental facts and figures. A good quality of environmental reporting, like good environmental performance, needs to be encouraged and rewarded. (Leeser 2007 Anton and Shelton 2011) The text



provides cogent guidance on a growing international jurisprudence on the promotion and protection of human rights in relation to the environment that has been developed by international and regional human rights bodies and tribunals. **(Zhang and Wen 2008)** is confronted with the dual task of developing its national economy and protecting its ecological environment. Since the 1980s, China's policies on environmental protection and sustainable development have experienced five changes. **(Leeser 2007)** Reported expenditures for environmental protection are often cited as an assessment of the burden of current regulatory efforts. However, the potential for both incidental savings and uncounted costs means that the actual burden could be either higher or lower than these reported values. **(Betsill and Corell 2007)** This Essay explores the role of Non-Governmental Organisations [NGOs] in the establishment and enforcement of global environmental priorities. It examines the deficiencies in classic international law that NGOs are helping to overcome as well as the different roles that NGOs now play in priority setting and the enforcement of international norms. **(OECD 2003)** The approach to environmental protection has been evolving from a regulation-driven, adversarial 'government-push' approach to a more proactive approach involving voluntary and often 'business-led' initiatives to self-regulate their environmental performance. **(Buză et al. 2002)** There is a national park project linked with nature reserves comprising picturesque landscapes, rare flora and fauna and distinct geological and palaeontological formations (including fossil ice). **(National Research Council, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, and Committee on the Human Dimensions of Global Change 2002)** This paper investigates the role of government intervention in ISO 14001 in China. China is an important case because it is the only developing country among the top ten countries in terms of the number of ISO 14001 certifications, accounting for over 70 percent of the total number of certifications worldwide in October 2004. **(Divan and Rosencranz 2001)** An important criterion in welfare economics is the notion of Pareto optimality. According to Pareto an economic state is efficient if it is not possible to improve the welfare of at least one individual without making others worse off. **(Portney et al. 2000)** This study tracks the issues, progress and problems in environmental issues in the United States from the 1980's. Improvements in air and water quality as well as regulation of hazardous waste and toxic substances has led to new policies such as the Superfund Act and a general increase in awareness about environmental issues on a federal level. Placing an emphasis on economics. **(Esty, n.d.)** Information issues are central to the challenge of environmental protection. Inadequate information and related transaction costs make Coasean contractual exchanges of environmental rights infeasible in many circumstances. **(Portney et al. 2000)** There has been increasing concern among environmental protection officials in the federal government about the problem of diminishing returns from regulation. Many believe that the quick environmental fixes from command-and-control regulation have mainly been achieved and that the balance of pollution sources is shifting from large "point sources" to more diffuse sources that are more difficult and expensive to regulate. **(United States. Environmental Protection Agency. Library Systems Branch 1975)** The article analyses three aspects of environmental protection: (1) the theoretical economic bases of environmental protection and the Nigerian approach to environmental protection, including traditional values and modern institutional control measures, the latter embracing nature conservation efforts; (2) environmental considerations in national development plans; and (3) the evolution of a federal environmental protection agency and a national policy on environment. Finally, the article discusses the future challenges and directions for environmental policy. **(Lee, (Stephen), and Hung 1997)** Suggestions are offered for using the model to study the determinants of changing public opinion on the environment, the tactics of advocacy groups in environmental policy conflicts, and the process that mobilises pressure for political causes in the absence of tangible group interests. **(Lees and Viñuales 2019; K. Thakur 1997)** Extensive research on "environmental federalism" investigates the effects of shared state-federal implementation on policy outcomes under the landmark American environmental laws of the 1970s. But these laws originally made no mention of American Indian tribal lands, and subsequent research on environmental federalism has given them little attention.

III. METHODOLOGY

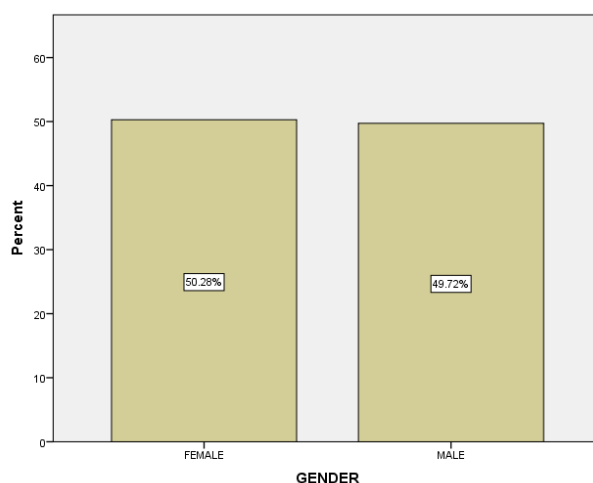
The researcher has used the empirical method in this research. This is a non-doctrinal study. The sample size of the study is 210. This research depends on both primary and secondary data. The primary data for the study is collected using sampling techniques. Convenience sampling is used to collect first hand information. Convenience samples



simply include the individuals who happen to be easily accessible to the researcher. The primary data was collected by conducting a survey. The primary data which has been analysed using Frequencies, Chi-Square test and Crosstab method and independent sample-t test. The secondary data is collected from books, journals, articles and e-sources. And the current paper uses SPSS analysis SPSS is short for Statistical Package for the Social Sciences, and it's used by various kinds of researchers for statistical data analysis. The SPSS software package was created for the management and statistical analysis of social science data and this research uses such kind of analysis for proper and appropriate results.

IV. ANALYSIS

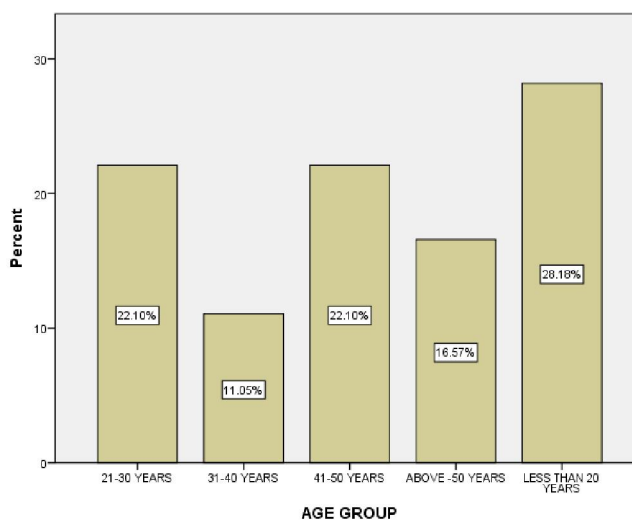
FIGURE 1



LEGEND:

Figure 1 represents the percentage analysis of the sample population on the basis of gender.

FIGURE 2

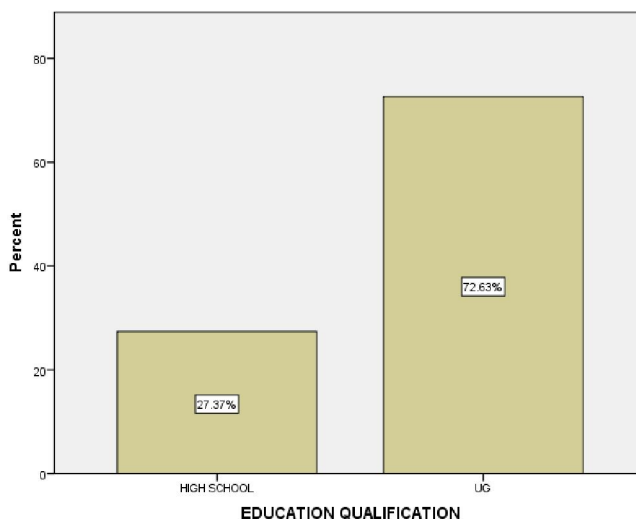


LEGEND:

Figure 2 represents percentage analysis of the sample population on the basis of age group.



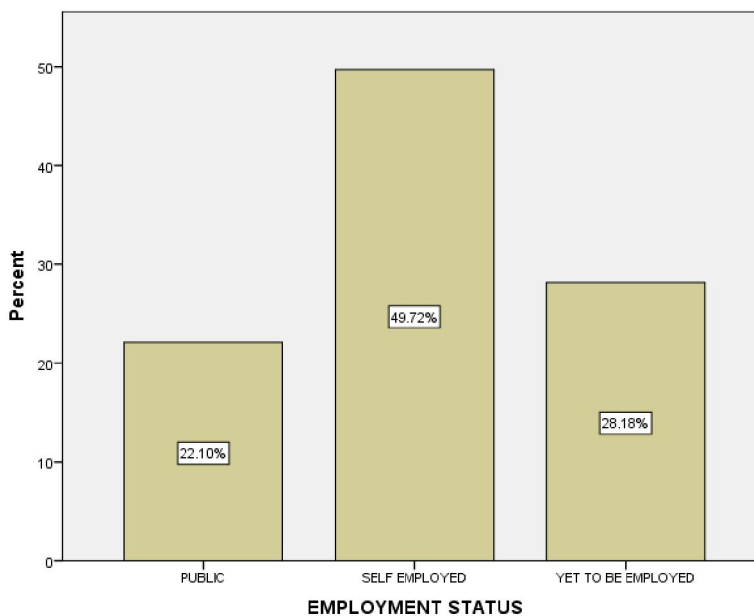
FIGURE 3



LEGEND:

Figure 3 represents percentage analysis of the sample population on the basis of educational qualifications.

FIGURE 4

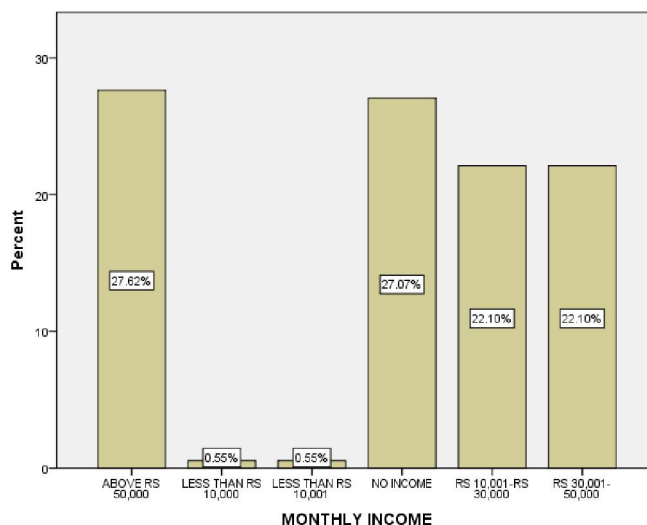


LEGEND:

Figure 4 represents the percentage analysis of the sample population on the basis of occupation.



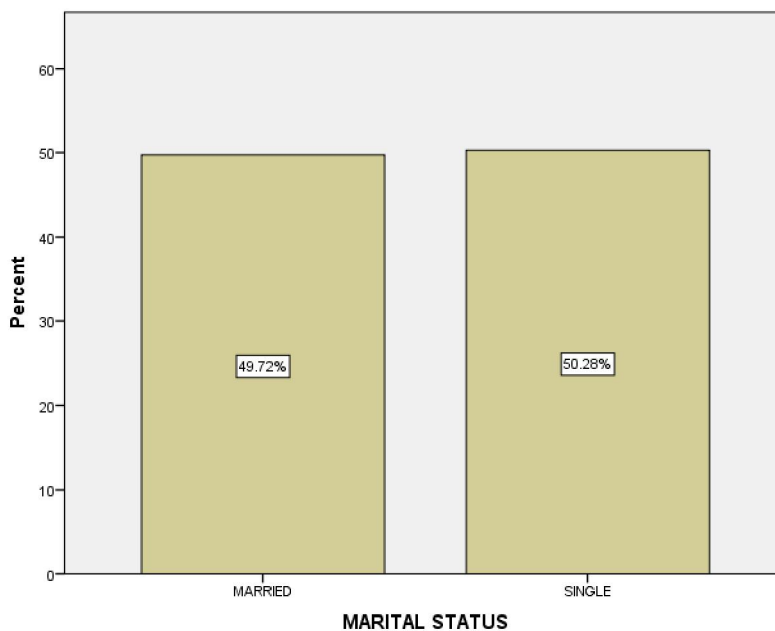
FIGURE 5



LEGEND:

Figure 5 represents the percentage analysis of the sample population on the basis of income.

FIGURE 6

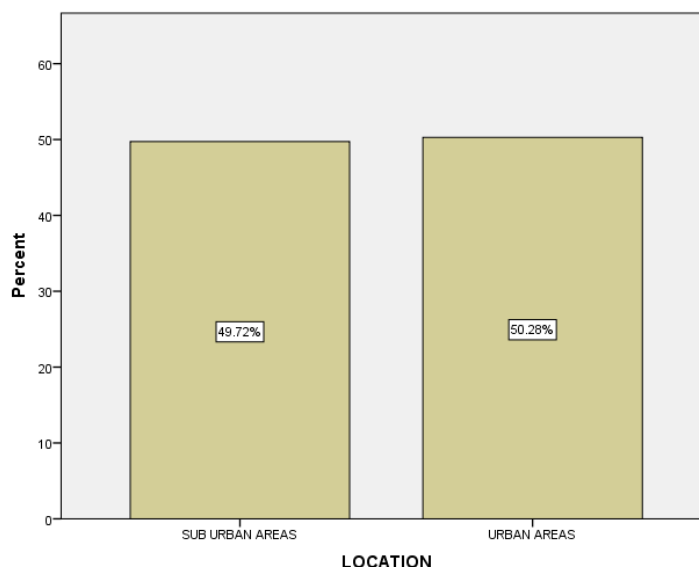


LEGEND:

Figure 6 represents the percentage analysis of the sample population on the basis of marital status.



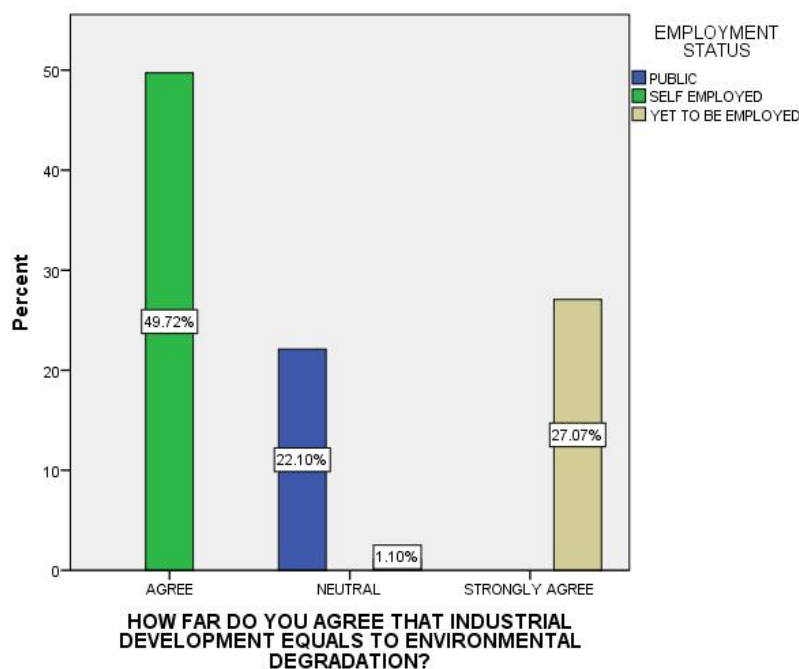
FIGURE 7



LEGEND:

Figure 7 represents percentage analysis of the sample population on the basis of Location.

FIGURE 8

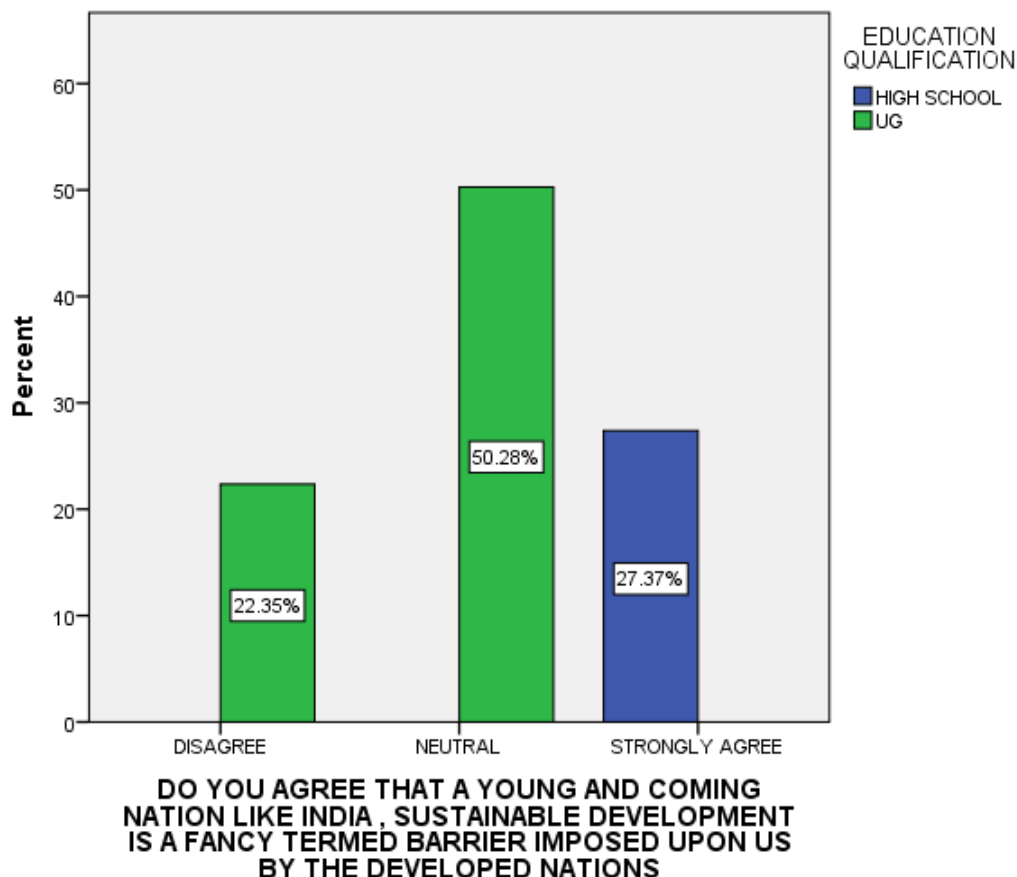


LEGEND:

Figure 8 represents the percentage analysis of the sample population on the opinion on whether you agree that industrial development equals environmental degradation on the basis of an employment status.



FIGURE 9

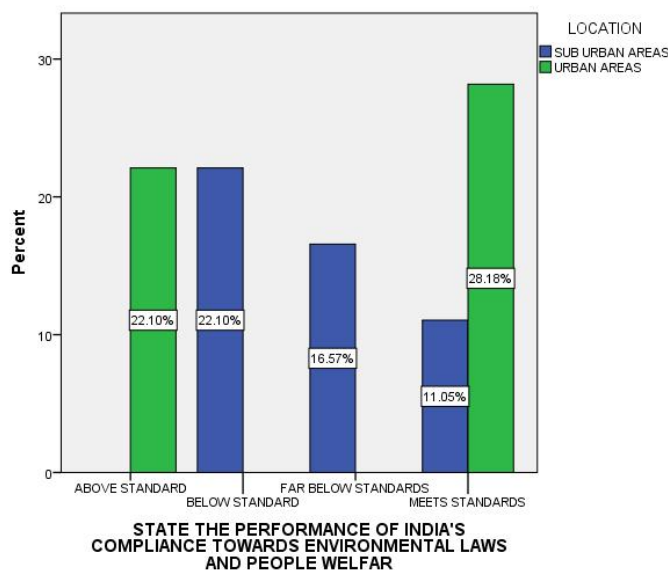


LEGEND:

Figure 9 represents the percentage analysis of the sample population on the opinion on whether you agree that a young and coming nation like India sustainable development is a fancy term barrier imposed upon us by the developed countries.



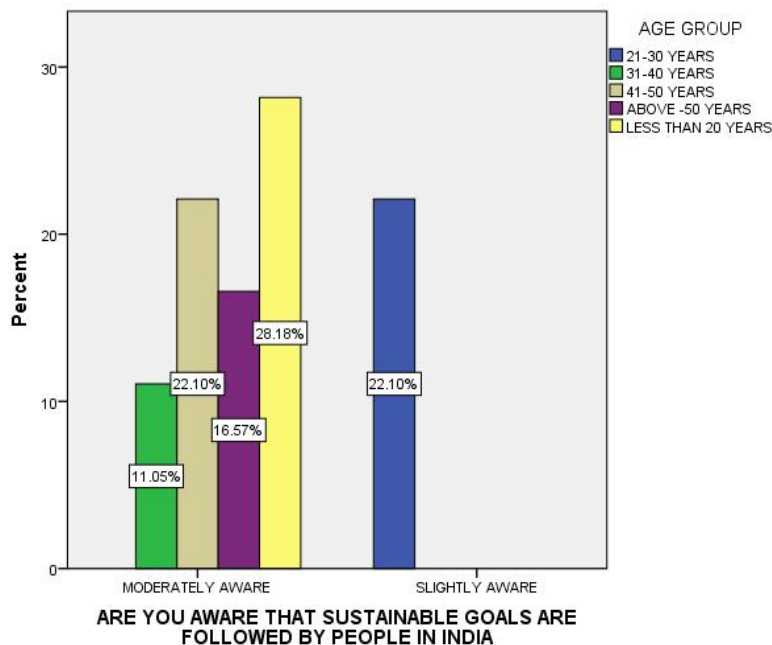
FIGURE 10



LEGEND:

Figure 10 represents the percentage analysis of the sample population on the opinion on whether the performance of India's compliance towards environmental laws and people welfare.

FIGURE 11

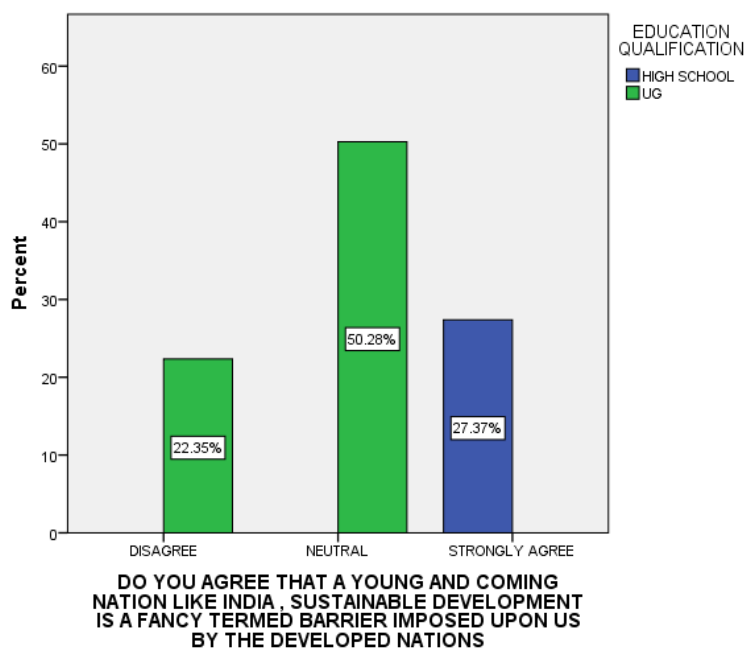


LEGEND:

Figure 11 represents the percentage analysis of the sample population on the opinion on whether you are aware of sustainable goals or followed by people in India.



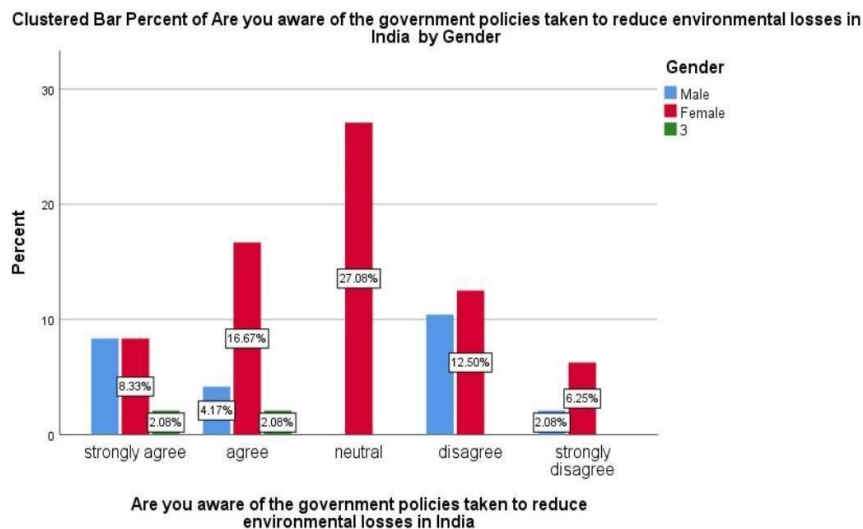
FIGURE 12



LEGEND:

Figure 12 represents the percentage analysis of the sample population on the opinion on whether or not you agree that a young coming nation like India, a sustainable nation, is a fancy term barrier imposed upon us by developed nations on the basis of educational qualifications.

FIGURE 13



LEGEND:

Figure 13 represents the percentage analysis of the sample population on the opinion on whether you are aware of the government policies taken to reduce environmental losses in India on the basis of gender.



TABLE 1

	are you aware that sustainable goals are followed by people in India	location
Spearman's rho		
	are you aware that sustainable goals are followed by people in India	location
	Correlation Coefficient	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.088
	N	219
	location	
	Correlation Coefficient	.116
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.088
	N	219

LEGEND:

Table 1 (correlation) represents the percentage analysis of the sample population on the opinion on whether you are aware of sustainable goals or followed in India.



TABLE 2

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	1.064 ^a	3	.786
Likelihood Ratio	1.082	3	.781
Linear-by-Linear Association	.043	1	.836
N of Valid Cases	218		

a. 2 cells (25.0%) have expected counts less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1.78.

LEGEND:

Table 2 (Chi square) represents the percentage analysis of the sample population on the opinion on whether you are aware that the government is taking enough measures to reduce environmental losses.

V. RESULTS

The figure represents that a higher percentage of Females have responded compared to males (**Fig 1**). The figure represents that a higher percentage of people from the age group of 15 to 30 have responded (**Fig 2**). The figure represents that a higher percentage of undergraduates have responded compared to the people from other educational qualifications (**Fig 3**). The figure represents that a higher percentage of self-employed people have responded compared to the people from other occupations (**Fig 4**). The figure represents that people from no income group have responded higher compared to the people from other income groups (**Fig 5**). The figure represents that higher percentage of the respondents are singles (**Fig 6**). The figure represents most of the people who have responded hours from urban areas (**Fig 7**). The figure represents that higher percentage of people agree that they were aware that industrial development equals environmental degradation (**Fig 8**). The figure represents that a higher percentage of people have selected the option neutral on whether young incoming nations like India sustainable development is a fancy term barrier imposed upon us by the developed countries (**Fig 9**). The figure represents a higher percentage of the sample population who believe that India needs the standard of environmental laws and people welfare (**Fig 10**). The figure represents a higher percentage of the sample population that believe that they are moderately aware about sustainable goals which were followed by the people of India (**Fig 11**). The figure represents a higher percentage of the people who have selected the option of neutral on whether you agree that young incoming nations like India sustainable development is a fancy term barrier by the developed countries (**Fig 12**). The figure represents that a higher percentage of the sample population have selected the option of neutrality on whether the government is taking enough steps to reduce environmental issues in India (**Fig 13**). The figure represents that there is a positive correlation on the opinion on whether people are aware about the sustainable goals which are followed in India (**Table 1**). The figure represents no significant association in the opinion of the people that the government is taking enough steps to reduce environmental losses (**Table 2**).



VI. DISCUSSION

The figure represents that higher percentage of people agree that they were aware that industrial development equals environmental degradation. It might be because it causes a lot of air land and water pollution on our planet. This kind of pollution is the worst because the smoke that industry emits in the air contributes to a lot of ozone layer depletion, health problems to both animals and humans as well as global warming. (Fig 8). The figure represents higher percentage of people have selected the option neutral on whether young incoming nation like India sustainable development is a fancy termed barrier imposed upon us by the developed countries. It might be because that of you people might believe that sustainable development goals and implemented in India to certain extent for example the polluter pay Principle precautionary principles and other most important principles are implemented at the same time most of the people aren't aware about these provisions and or country has to focus on various other problems problems (Fig 9). The figure represents a higher percentage of the sample population who believe that India needs the standard of environmental laws and people welfare. Might be because today India has a number of laws for the front of environmental protection as well as public welfare like we have water prevention and control of pollution act 1974 ,environmental protection act 1986 , Air prevention and control of pollution act 1981 and various other schemes like Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan and many more (Fig 10). The figure represents a higher percentage of the sample population believe that they are moderately aware about sustainable goals which were followed by the people of India this might be because of the policies and awareness which is brought by the government as well as officials and implementation of those but at the same time most of the people in rural areas are still not aware of the sustainable development goals (Fig 11). The figure represents higher percentage of the people have selected the option of neutral on whether you agree that young incoming nations like India sustainable development is a fancy termed barrier by the developed countries. It might be because that of you people might believe that sustainable development goals and implemented in India to certain extent for example the polluter pay Principle precautionary principles and other most important principles are implemented at the same time most of the people aren't aware about these provisions and or country has to focus on various other problems problems (Fig 12). The figure represents that a higher percentage of the sample population have selected the option of neutrality on whether the government is taking enough steps to reduce environmental issues in India. This might be because they lack a proper implementation of those policies or it might be because of lack of awareness among the people like people from the lower age group might not be aware about the policies and programmes (Fig 13). The table represents hat there is a positive correlation on the opinion on whether people are aware about the sustainable goals which are followed in India. It might be because the government is taking enough steps to fulfil the sustainable development goals as well as implement them as at the end all these goals will have positive effects on the development of the country as a whole economically, socially as well as politically (Table 1). The table represents no significant association in the opinion of the people that the government is taking enough steps to reduce environmental losses. It might be because of lack of awareness about those policies as well as the lack of improper implementation of all these policies (Table 2)

LIMITATIONS

One of the major limitations is the sample frame. As it is limited to a small area; it makes it difficult to extrapolate it to a larger population. Another limitation is the sample size which is very small in this research work (219 responses) as we know that higher sample groups will try to eliminate the sample error because smaller sample size might fail to explain the characteristics of the whole population of the state/country which might lead to sample error (inaccurate results)

VII. CONCLUSION

Through this research it can be said that government has brought up various environmental policies for the protection and welfare of the people at large but most of the people aren't aware about those policies and programmes which has been brought up by the government for the protection of environment at the same time most of the people believe that for the purpose of economic development industrial growth sometimes environmental growth and protection is comprised most of the people believe that there is a need for proper implementation of all those policies which are



brought at the same time there are mixed opinions of the sample population on whether they are aware about the sustainable goals and whether there is a proper implementation of all these goals. The **suggestion** would be that there should be a proper implementation of all those policies and public awareness should be spread among the people of all those policies and principles and the government should give equal importance to environmental protection and economic development.

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