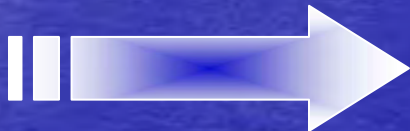


Ethics and Sustainability

Challenges of a Changing World

Mohan K Tikku

Roots

Ethics  Ethos

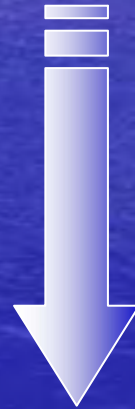
(Greek)

Definitions

Dharma = Religion

Meanings

Dharma



That which Sustains the Universe

Motifs

Thus, our concerns for
Environment and Sustainability
are inbuilt in the two terms :
Ethics and Dharma

Challenges

Ethics issue :

Bigger than that of moral good and bad

Sustainability issue :

Larger than the problem of sustaining the
high growth rates



INDIA : Some Pluses

- Large Middle Class : and Growing
- Entrepreneurial Class + Managerial Skills
- Technically Trained Manpower
- Democratic System that Works Despite Inequities

INDIA : Some Minuses

- Dismal Performance in Human Development
- Poverty Problem
- Child Health and Malnutrition
- Regional Imbalances

Two Indias

- One of Unmatched Drive and Opportunities
- Another of Present and Potential Problems

Two Indian Narratives

One is about a River;
and,
Another is about Land

- Narmada
- Nandigram

Narmada

- The biggest damming project undertaken in independent India
- Faced with Civil Society Protests
- The protests to begin with where about the wisdom of large dams
- Ethics and Sustainability issues were at the core of the argument





Map of the Proposed Cherry Ridge State to Harmons Valley
Corridor in Eastern Nepal











Issues

- World Debate about Big Dams
- Environmental Vulnerability
- Economic consequences for the poor
- World Bank pulls out
- Government mobilizes of funds & public support
- Displacement, compensation & resettlement

Nandigram

- The Issue is Land and Right to Livelihood
- Major Companies need vast tracts of land to set up SEZs (Special Economic Zones)
- Government was helping them get control of the Land in several parts of the country
- Then, March 2007, Nandigram erupted





AP Photo

EAST MIDNAPORE



IN POLICE CONTROL

- 1 Sonachura
- 2 Gangra
- 3 Jalpai
- 4 Mandalpara
- 5 Adhikarypara
- 6 Maheshpur

STILL OUT OF BOUNDS

- 1 Kalicharanpur
- 2 Garupara
- 3 Garchakraberia
- 4 Kansadua
- 5 Gourangapur
- 6 Basulichak

Plus another 12 villages

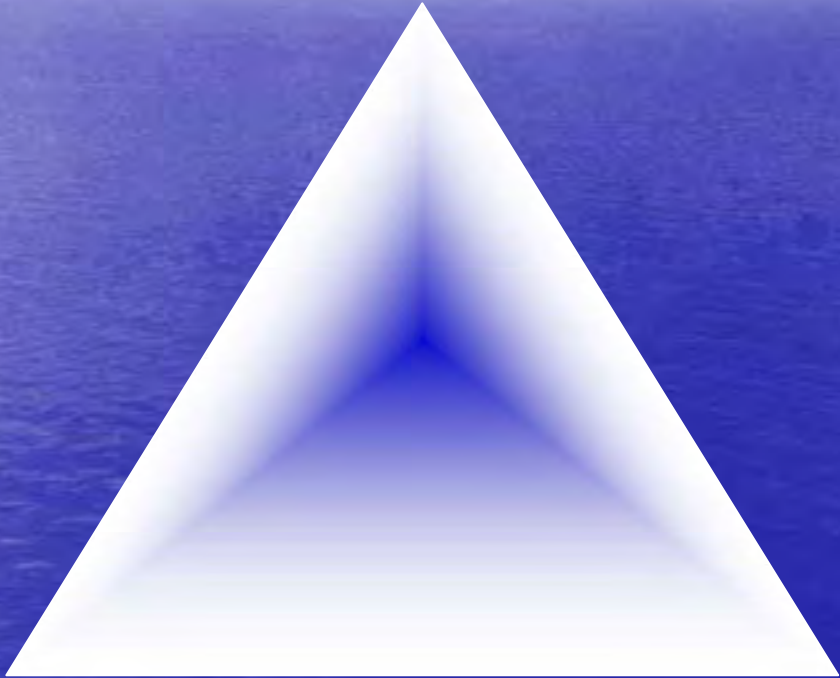
Government Backed Down

- Land Restored
- New Policy set down
- Villagers to get due compensation and livelihood protection
- Villagers as Stake holders in the enterprise when their land is acquired

Different resolutions

- Narmada : Government has its way
- Nandigram : Government backs out
- Jury still out : Development versus Equity and Sustainability Debate stays

Some Public Good



Private Enterprise

Personal Profit

Adam Smithian Paradigm

- Simple
- Stable
- Limited Ethical Concerns
- Leaves out Environmental Issues

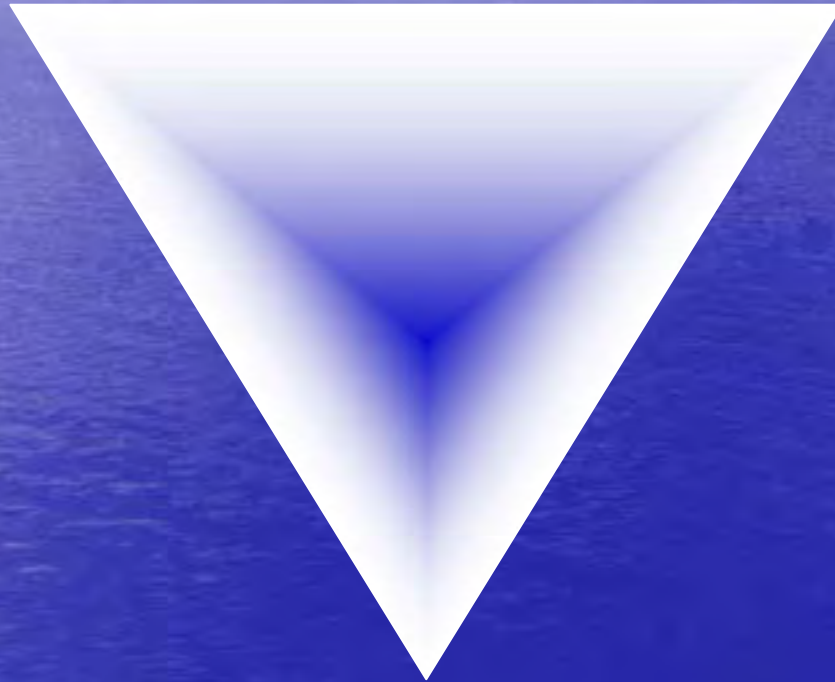
New Challenge

To devise a Paradigm that combines the
Demands of Growth
with the
Need for Sustainability.

To achieve this, we may invert the
triangular paradigm.

Growth

Sustainability



Environment
&
Equity

Hard Choices

- Need for Critical Balance between the three angles in the New Paradigm
- Environment and Equity play pivotal role
- Requires greater sense of Purpose on the part of the politicians and planners
- Involves massive Social engineering
- These Issues & Choices critical to achieving the Millennium Development Goals

MDGs : The Laggards

- Recent studies have indicated that almost all the developing countries are lagging in achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals
- They, on present showing, are unlikely to reach the 2015 targets set by the UN

MDGs : Unfinished Story

- Even India is lagging
- I am saying *even* because while many countries complain of shortage of resources, India does not have any such disability
- It has the resources, and yet is falling behind
- The reason in view of the above is that it has yet to invert the triangle

Some Public Good



From this

Private Enterprise

Personal Profit

Growth

Sustainability

To this

Environment
&
Equity



The background is a smooth blue gradient. On the left side, there is a bright, glowing area that resembles a sun or moon reflecting on water, creating a shimmering effect. The rest of the background is a deep, uniform blue.

Thank you!