
UNVEILING THE SYNERGY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: EXPLORATION OF THEIR CONVERGENCE UNDER INDIAN CONSTITUTION

Mr. Arjun¹, Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Quantum University, Roorkee

Dr. Akhilesh Yadav², Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Quantum University, Roorkee

ABSTRACT

The concept of social justice and sustainable development are such that it reflects the idea of the welfare state. The inclusion of the principles of sustainable development is possible through the social justice policy of the state. The combination of sustainable development with the social justice in the country is very important aspect in achieving the progress with equality. Social justice manifests equal dispersion of chance to progress, focusing to avoid the inequality and give protective umbrella for the marginalized people of the country. This study focuses on the integration of social justice and sustainable development in the Indian Constitution. It encompasses the analysis of the Constitution's principles to achieve both social justice and sustainable development through implementation of social justice principles with sustainability aspects beneath. The ideals of Constitution itself suggest the underneath principle of the social justice and sustainable development. These two concepts of welfare state supplement and complement to each other by providing supporting pillar to the other aspects of the constitution. The research utilizes a qualitative design and analyzes secondary data. Studies show that the Constitution of India is the document which manifests the principles of sustainable development through social justice, unveiled by the judicial interpretations. On the other hand, the limited political will and public consciousness creates obstacles for implementation of social justice and sustainable development. This paper concludes by presenting the Constitution's potential for further growth by comparative approaches, community initiatives, and civil society participation.

Keywords: Indian Constitution, Social Justice, Sustainable Development, Fundamental Rights, Community Initiatives and Public Awareness.

¹ Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Quantum University, Roorkee

² Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Quantum University, Roorkee

1. Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

The Indian Constitution is a far-reaching document that depicts Indian's resolve for a just society and sustainability. The Preamble of the Constitution talks on ensuring the realization of these principles of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity for all the citizens who are essential for social justice in the society. Besides that, the Constitution's Directive Principles of State Policy lay down the aim that the state should build and maintain a social order which would cover the welfare of the people, social and economic justice, as well as promote the environment. This requires us to look at the issue from a multifaceted perspective including the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of all decisions³. The social justice principles and the provisions related to environmental protection, non-discrimination, right to work etc found in the Indian Constitution. This demonstrated how circuitously the framers of the constitution wanted provisions which help the nation in development sustainably. India has its own precedents related to social justice based on the judicial interpretation of the provisions of the Indian Constitution. These judicial interpretations broadly use the principles of sustainable development by setting the society on the phenomenon of future requirements. Long history of social and environmental activism, with a variety of movements and actions to provide sustainable development and protect social justice based on the idea of the welfare society.

The Indian Constitution might be seen as a step towards a new paradigm of governance and social organization, which besides the desire for political freedom, contains a quite solid basis for socio-legal pillars of social justice and protection of the environment⁴. It contains a very good understanding of the delicate aspects of free individualism and societal conscience as determinants of development. Notably, the Constitution weaves the sustainability aspect into the overall notion of social justice, acknowledging the social, economic and environment not as object to be utilized, but as valuable asset the society must preserve for generations to come. This ethos is captured in Article 48A, which requires the State to promote the preservation and enhancement of the environment and to conserve the forests and fauna of the nation. Similarly, Clause (g) of Article 51A of the Constitution lays down that it is the duty of every citizen to

³ Ana T. Amorim-Maia et al., *Intersectional Climate Justice: A Conceptual Pathway for Bridging Adaptation Planning, Transformative Action, and Social Equity*, 41 Urban Climate 101053 (2022).

⁴ Jaleel Ahmad, Nizamuddin Khan & Arupendra Mozumdar, *Spousal Violence against Women in India: A Social–Ecological Analysis Using Data from the National Family Health Survey 2015 to 2016*, 36 Journal of interpersonal violence 10147 (2021).

protect and preserve the natural resources such as forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife. The judicial interpretations of these provisions have gradually evolved into what is commonly known as the 'Green jurisprudence.' The Indian courts have been particularly active in enforcing environmental laws *Suo motu*, expanding basic rights including the right to a pollution-free environment⁵. Judicial activism shows that the Constitution can meet modern problems and shifting public expectations.

In addition, the principles of sustainability are integrated with the social policies of the Constitution. The Directive Principles, mainly article 39 (b) and (c), require the State to ensure that the ownership and control of the matters resources of the community are most effectively made to serve the public interest; and the economic system does not lead to the accumulation in the hands of few individuals or companies of the means of production to the detriment of the whole society⁶. Some of the fundamental rights also suggest the intention of Constitution of India to achieve the social justice with sustainable development beneath in it. These articles depict the resolution of equality, non-discrimination, upliftment of marginalized people and socio-economic advancement. Directive principles of state policy not legally enforceable, these concepts are utilized in nation administration to ensure fair and appropriate growth.

The Indian Constitution also speaks of the socio-economic aspects of sustainability under its tenet of social justice. The cases pertain to social welfare and specifically Article 38 aims to reduce inequalities in income, status, facilities and opportunities and among the people residing in different places and among different vocations. This proposal for an integrated approach to sustainability is suggestive of a more comprehensive worldwide trend toward acknowledging the interconnectedness of ecological health, economic prosperity, and social justice – the triad that constitutes the essence of sustainable development⁷. The Constitution guides law and policy to achieve these aims comprehensively. The constitution legitimizes and guides existing environmental laws and policies in garbage disposal, forest protection, and pollution control.

1.2 Rationale

There are certain problems in balancing economic development and environmental

⁵ Bernard Barber, *Social Mobility in Hindu India*, in *Constructing the social system* 193 (2021).

⁶ Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, *Reformation Beyond Representation*, 5 *CASTE: A Global Journal on Social Exclusion* 1 (2024).

⁷ J Sai Deepak, *India, That Is Bharat: Coloniality, Civilisation, Constitution* (2021).

protection⁸. A constitutional implementation and enforcement process might be obstructed by several obstacles, such as lack of political will, insufficient resources and conflicting parties' interests. Social justice and sustainability have their joint points where frictions appear. The aim of the present research is to investigate the link between social justice and sustainability with regard to the provisions of the Constitution of India. It will evaluate how the Constitution is a tool of both social justice as well as sustainability and how these two congruent variables intermingle and corroborate with each other. This study aims to engage with that debate on the role of the Constitution in constitutionally ensuring sustainable development and social progress, and to provide a tool to comprehend these problems in the context of India.

1.3 Aim and Research Objectives

Aim

The primary aim of this research is to explore the convergence of social justice and sustainability within the framework of the Indian Constitution.

1.4 Research Objectives

- To determine how the Indian Constitution's principles of social justice, particularly regarding fundamental rights and directives, can be applied to promote sustainable development.
- To evaluate potential tensions between achieving social justice and environmental sustainability in the Indian context.
- To analyze how the Indian judiciary has interpreted the Constitution to balance the goals of social justice and environmental protection through landmark cases.

2. Research Methodology

The present research work, has chosen a *Secondary Qualitative data collection method* (the case study) to explore the interaction between social justice and sustainability in relation

⁸ Sumudu A Atapattu, Carmen G Gonzalez & Sara L Seck, *Intersections of Environmental Justice and Sustainable Development: Framing the Issues* (2021).

to Constitution of India⁹. The aim of qualitative research lies therefore in getting in depth understanding to the complex questions of social justice, sustainability and their relationship with the Constitution. The data of the study is collected by the secondary qualitative method, which is the review of the existing books, court cases, and policy documents related to social justice and sustainability in India. This includes the in-depth study of the Indian Constitution along with the pertinent Acts and policies, case laws, and writings of the distinguished scholars.

3. Literature Review

3.1 Indian Constitution's commitment to social justice, highlighting relevant fundamental rights and directives

The Indian Constitution is considered a robust document that embodies the fundamental values of social justice and sustainability¹⁰. Its notion of social justice is reflected in the fact that its fundamentals and directives are aimed at the promotion of equal opportunities, justice, and freedom to all people of the country. Social justice is embedded in the Indian Constitution by way of inter alia fundamental rights (equality, right to life) and directives (promotion of educational services and welfare) guaranteeing fairness and a good life for all. The Constitution speaks about social justice in its fundamental rights which are directed towards providing equality, liberty, justice etc to all the citizens. “Article 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 23, and 24” of the Constitution are those that specifically guarantee the rights of marginalized groups and women and prohibit discrimination on the bases of assorted elements. The aforesaid remedies are cardinal matters in achieving social justice and ensuring not leaving anyone behind¹¹.

One can see that the Indian Constitution is fully committed to social justice not only through its parts which enumerate the rights that are fundamental but also through a host of directive principles which should be adhered to in line with the social well-being of the country. This obligation is rather evident when it is framed in the Constitution, which aims to eliminate discrimination and guarantee that every citizen has equal rights regardless of their ethnicity¹². Articles 14-18 are the foundation of this commitment while guaranteeing equal protection of

⁹ He-in Cheong et al., *Secondary Qualitative Research Methodology Using Online Data within the Context of Social Sciences*, 22 International Journal of Qualitative Methods 16094069231180160 (2023).

¹⁰ Lynda Collins, *The Ecological Constitution: Reframing Environmental Law* (2021).

¹¹ Katherine M Crosman et al., *Social Equity Is Key to Sustainable Ocean Governance*, 1 NPJ Ocean Sustainability 4 (2022).

¹² Alisha Dhingra, *Gender Discourses and the Making of the Indian Constitution*, 29 Indian Journal of Gender Studies 33 (2022).

the laws and discrimination based on religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth is prohibited. These articles together guarantee that no individual is denied access to markets, public areas, and resources, which is justice in social terms.

More to the point, under the Indian Constitution the right to life and personal liberty enshrined in Article 21 has been given a very wide meaning by the judiciary which extends to right to live with dignity that encompasses a range of civil and political as well as economic and social rights such as the right to health, a clean environment, and education. This interpretation conforms to the international standards where human rights encompass civil and political but also economic, social, and culture rights that are necessary to realize the potential of a person. The Directive Principles of State Policy require the state to promote the educational and economic interests of the weaker classes, especially S.C.s and S.T.s, and protect them from social injustice and exploitation (Article 46). Although unenforceable, these ideals guide governmental policy and administration to provide social fairness. The judiciary has been a "watchdog of the constitution" and independent against governmental misuse via judicial review while interpreting the constitution. These rights guaranteed them legal protection and were construed in landmark judgements to cover the unclear bounds of social justice in changing Indian society¹³.

However, Article 15 (4) and 16 (4) that provides for reservation in the matters of public employment and educational institutions is a measure of positive affirmative action to undo the historical injustice suffered by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. These articles also guarantee that the members of such communities are not only a part of equality on paper, but on the field as well, understanding that sometimes, the field has to be literally leveled. The further extension of the concept of reservation to the economically weaker sections among the general category highlights a different conceivable idea of social justice, which is based on poverty transcending caste and communal divisions.

3.2 The Constitution promotes environmental protection and sustainable development

The Indian constitution also abides by the principle of environment conservation and sustainable development. Article 48 A of the constitution demands the state to conserve and

¹³ Vrinda Grover, *Assessing India's Legal Framework on the Right to Peaceful Assembly*, International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, December (2021).

enhance the environment as well as keep forests and wildlife of the nation¹⁴. The enforced article 51A (g) addresses the issue of preserving and bettering the natural environment including forests, lakes and rivers as well as the fauna. The Constitution explains how environmental well-being will be achieved by providing a mandate for the State to protect the environment and wildlife while simultaneously promoting sustainable practices¹⁵.

The Indian Constitution recognizes the constitutional principles of environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources as a fundamental duty and a directive principle for the state, thus showing proactive engagement in environmental management and sustainability. Article 48A mandates the State to protect and improve the environment and further article 51A(g) of the Constitution also requires every citizen to safeguard the environment as it also focuses on the collective responsibility towards the preservation of ecological balance¹⁶. These constitutional principles underpin India's environmental policies and have shaped environmental legislation. The realization of these articles has led to the creation of many laws and acts concerning the environment, for instance The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1974, The Forest Conservation Act of 1980, and The Environment Protection Act of 1986. These laws seek to control human actions that impose negative impacts on the quality of the environment, forest resources, the richness in the diversity of species, and the health of animals and plants.

Furthermore, the judiciary has continued to afford legal protection to the environment through the doctrinal provision of public trust whereby some facilities such as air, sea, waters, forest among others bear so great an importance to the people as a whole that it would be wholly unjustifiable to make them a subject of proprietorship. In this regard, the Supreme Court of India has often said that these resources belong to the people and that the State is just a trustee. The legal precedence of sustainable development has also been admitted as a countervailing concept that permits the advancement of commerce and finance but prohibits polluting the environment, as regarded in the case *Vellore Citizens' Welfare Forum vs. Union of India* (1996). However, in this case, the Court looked at the sustainable development principle of the

¹⁴ Samiul Hasan, *Philanthropy and Social Justice in Islam: Principles, Prospects, and Practices*, Prospects, and Practices (January 30, 2024) (2024).

¹⁵ Navaljit Kapoor et al., *Identifying Infrastructural Gap Areas for Smart and Sustainable Tribal Village Development: A Data Science Approach from India*, 1 International Journal of Information Management Data Insights 100041 (2021).

¹⁶ Ajay Gudavarthy & G Vijay, *Social Policy and Political Mobilization in India: Producing Hierarchical Fraternity and Polarized Differences*, 51 Development and change 463 (2020).

‘precautionary principle’ and ‘the polluter pays principle’ as being part of sustainable development.

Nevertheless, there are issues arising from the provisions of the constitution and the laws governing the nation that make it difficult to achieve the objectives of environmentally sustainable development. Rapid industrial expansion and urbanization have stressed natural supplies, rendering the Indian ecosystem prone to serious deterioration. Such a scenario necessitates stricter environmental rules and public engagement¹⁷. The Constitution does not explicitly safeguard future generations' rights, but environmental laws and the courts implicitly do. Through respect of future generations' rights, present-day development initiatives are prevented from harming their ability to satisfy their requirements.

3.3 Sustainability, encompassing environmental, social, and economic aspects in Indian Constitution

The term "sustainability" refers to an overarching idea that incorporates environmental, social, and economic aspects. Sustainability in the environment refers to the condition in which a particular ecosystem may be sustained without depleting the natural resources to an unacceptable level. The preservation of social fairness and the redistribution of income are two aspects of democratic sustainability. The capacity to refrain from economic expansion is the essence of economic sustainability. This implies that future generations will be unable to fulfil their own needs at some point in the future. On top of that, the Constitution acts as a means of conserving environment and of developing sustainable growth by using the application of some constitutional articles and judicial principles. Additionally, there is no order in the Constitution; so, rights of indigenous people who usually aren't included in decision-making processes will not be taken into account.

Environmental protection is also highlighted in the Constitution through Article 48A which talks of the State promoting environmental conservation and the preservation of forest and wild life in Bangladesh¹⁸. Likewise, Article 51A(g) mandates every citizen a duty to preserve and beautify the natural resources such as the forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and

¹⁷ A Wankhede, *Affirmative Action and the Question of General Category in India: Judicial Treatment of Constitutional, Legislative, and Executive Interventions in Determining Backwardness and Intra-Classification Challenges* (2021).

¹⁸ Tarunabh Khaitan, *Killing a Constitution with a Thousand Cuts: Executive Aggrandizement and Party-State Fusion in India*, 14 Law & Ethics of Human Rights 49 (2020).

to have a regard for the life of animals. These provisions are somewhat consistent with the goal of carrying forward ecological balance and posterity. This is evident in the Articles of the Constitution that focuses on social sustainability, which addresses the issue of inequalities in income and status¹⁹. Consequently, the articles 38 and 39 of the Constitution call upon the State to work towards establishing a society where social, economic and political justice underpins all institutions of the nation. Article 39(b) and (c) provides that the ownership and control of the material resources must be organized and managed for the benefit of all and the operation of the economic system should not lead to a concentration of ownership and control of the means of production hurts the general interest.

The Directive Principles, therefore, indirectly prop up economic sustainability as it encourages the economic development, though not at the cost of social justice and depletion of natural resources. Articles 39(e) and (f) of the convention are against any economic conditions that deprive workers of their health and strength; or that, by reasons of economic destitution, compel children to engage in activities that are beyond their capacity in physical strength. These articles promote sustainable economic development by promoting fair working conditions and worker rights. This study will examine how the Indian court has shaped the sustainability narrative in India via constitution-related actions. Major cases include the M.C. Mehta series, which expanded the SC's interpretation of Article 21 to encompass the right to life and environment. Judicial activism integrates environmental sustainability with social and economic issues, resulting in a balanced approach to sustainable development²⁰.

3.4 Limitations of the Constitution in addressing contemporary challenges related to social justice and sustainability

The constitution of India generally manifests the fundamental rights and provisions related to social justice. However contemporary issues like identity of gender, rights of LGBTQ+, and discrimination on the basis of caste needs interpretations which the designer of the Indian Constitution might not have realized. Judges and courts frequently construe the Indian Constitution based on the predominant legal, social and political norms. While courts can be reformist, the adaptation of the interpretation done by the court can be delayed, developing rift between ideal of constitution and their implementation to neo social justice

¹⁹ Madhav Khosla, *India's Founding Moment: The Constitution of a Most Surprising Democracy* (2020).

²⁰ Seema Sharma, *Corporate Social Responsibility in India*, Indian Journal of Industrial Relations 637 (2011).

matters. The Constitution, however, does not protect the rights of the unborn as well, and thus the people of the future are the ones who have to face the shortcomings of the consequences of our polluting environment²¹.

The nature of the constitutions is such that they are difficult to amend and requires special majorities in most of the scenarios while amending by legislative bodies. This strictness, prevents the deliberative amendments, can also prohibit instant reply to the arising challenges including environmental abjection or the requirement for strong way to secure social equality. Issues similar to climate and environmental sustainability, which have attained importance in the present time, are generally addressed unsatisfactorily in the real text of the constitutions, because when constitution was framed these issues yet to take centre stage. The amendments related to the environmental sustainability can be challenged on the realm of political scenarios.

The constitution generally gives the ideals related to economic development and welfare of the society but sometimes does not give adequate guidelines for reconciliation of these rights with the sustainable goals. The struggle between giving importance to industrialization and protection of the environment cause a challenge. In spite of the fact that judiciary interpreted the provisions of fundamental right in such a way which includes clean environment as part of their fundamental rights, such provisions are generally not enforceable or comes secondary in importance when compared to the development goals. This confines the constitutional frame work capability to maintain environmental sustainability. A major weakness, therefore, is that the Constitution of India contains provisions on the environment without specifics regarding fundamental modern issues like climate change, pollution, and loss of diversity. Such a fluid definition may then be open to interpretation and possibly subpar execution, which may not be up to the task of reversing the degradation observed in such regions²².

The provisions of environmental protection and social justice are present in the constitution but the rift between ideals of constitution and execution of these ideals may sometimes decrease their effectiveness. State agencies feel deficiency in the resources or the political will to implement regulations and policies related to the goals of the constitution. As we know that courts are having significance in explaining and preserving the rights contained

²¹ Larry Nucci & Robyn Ilten-Gee, *Moral Education for Social Justice* (2021).

²² Suranjan Majumder et al., *Multiscale GIS Based-Model to Assess Urban Social Vulnerability and Associated Risk: Evidence from 146 Urban Centers of Eastern India*, 96 *Sustainable cities and Society* 104692 (2023).

in the constitution, the stockpile of cases along with dragging judicial process most of the time holds up the justice, particularly for the section of the society who needs the redress.

Issues like inequality at international level and climate change need to be handled by systematic efforts of the international agencies, which may boost the functions of national constitutions. The constitution of a particular country may not be sufficient to tackle the worldwide shortcomings that take cooperation of international treaties. Constitution of our nation framed at the time when there was lack in clarity regarding their joint efforts to tackle these issues at the international level. In the present time weighing provisions of the constitution with the interest of the corporate on the basis of equality and environmental protection becomes very typical task to overcome.

In India we are having division of governance at the union and state level, there is sometimes conflicts in the situations where they have to implements the policies related to the sustainability and social justice. States sometimes give preference to their economics wants over the policies of the centre related to the social dev elopement and environment policies, generating rift in implementing the constitutional principles. The non-justiciable directive principles of the Constitution outline governmental objectives to establish a social order based on social, economic, and political fairness in all spheres of national life²³. Moreover, even though the Constitution envisages local self-governance by constituting Panchayat Raj Institutions, the actual delegation of powers and funds to these local bodies is negligible²⁴. This can become a limiting factor for social justice and sustainability that requires localization and community-led processes that are essential to address specific issues faced by different communities in India.

4. Findings and Analysis

4.1 Constitutional commitment to social justice and sustainability

The social justice aspect of the Constitution is emphasized in its fundamental rights provision, which contains the right to life, liberty and equality. On the other hand, the Constitution also indicates that environmental safety and consider sustainable development

²³ Gaurav Mukherjee, *The Supreme Court of India and the Inter-Institutional Dynamics of Legislated Social Rights*, 53 *Verfassung und Recht in Übersee/Law and Politics in Africa, Asia and Latin America* 411 (2020).

²⁴ Nakul Nayak, *Constitutional Morality: An Indian Framework*, 71 *The American Journal of Comparative Law* 354 (2023).

vital not only for the present generation but for the future generation as well. The judiciary has interpreted the Constitution in such a way that these rights are realized and sometimes, the judiciary has made efforts to enforce those rights. Additionally, the state pledges through Article 48A and Article 51A(g) to protect the environment and wildlife resources while encouraging sustainable living. So, the judiciary through the interpretation of these policies has included the right to a clean and health environment as part of the social justice and connected the society's well-being with that of the environment²⁵.

Examining the constitutionalism as social justice and sustainability in the Indian context is the process that is intertwined between the constitution and judicial construction. It is therefore possible to advance an argument that while the Constitution of India affirms a right to equality, freedom, life; it also maintains principles of sustainability and environmental perspective albeit being implicit²⁶. These two focuses are essential to development that is economic, social, and environmental, and to the fair distribution of resources.

In its preamble, the Constitution avows to establish justice – social, economic, and political – for its citizens. This promise is backed up by a series of articles that enhance an egalitarian social order and sustainable development²⁷. For example, part b and c of article 39 require the State to prevent the concentration of wealth and means of production in the hands of few individuals and to ensure that the health of workers, men and women and strength of children are not exploitative. These provisions embrace the economic and social aspects of sustainability through calling for equilibrium between development and the wellbeing of all stakeholders. Furthermore, Article 47 of the constitution which requires the state to raise the standard of living and the nutritional level of the people also supports the concept of sustainable development because it includes health and environmental aspects. Even though this directive leads to the enhancement of living standards, it has the hidden effect of supporting sustainable agriculture and food security, which is critical for environmental sustainability²⁸.

²⁵ Pritpal Randhawa et al., *Pathways for Sustainable Urban Waste Management and Reduced Environmental Health Risks in India: Winners, Losers, and Alternatives to Waste to Energy in Delhi*, 2 *Frontiers in Sustainable Cities* 14 (2020).

²⁶ Nandini Sundar, *'We Will Teach India Democracy': Indigenous Voices in Constitution Making*, 52 *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 181 (2024).

²⁷ Shaunna Rodrigues, *Abul Kalam Azad and the Right to an Islamic Justification of the Indian Constitution*, in *Dimensions of Constitutional Democracy: India and Germany* 125 (2020).

²⁸ Anupama Roy & Michael Becker, *Dimensions of Constitutional Democracy*, in *Dimensions of Constitutional Democracy: India and Germany* 1 (2020).

4.2 Environmental protection and sustainable development

The Constitution has sections promoting equality for all and these are where the social justice is found. The right to education, the right to medical care, and the right to economic and social equality are among these rights that are enshrined by the constitution. The Constitution, meanwhile, shares the same passion to conserve the environment and promote sustainable development through policy measures to safeguard the environment. These provisions include citizens' right to clean and healthy environment of their own choice²⁹. This factor also contributes to the failure that is witnessed in the implementation of social justice policies³⁰. It can funnel scarce funding intended for development and social uplift to the benefit of a privileged few, intensifying inequity while suppressing real social advancement. They include the following: The openness and the accountability of the governmental and non-governmental systems play an important role in this regard. This paper will argue that due to lack of appropriate checks and balances, corruption will persist and weaken the strides made towards social justice and sustainability.

The final match is that there is inadequate research and collection of better data to help in formulation of policies as well as their implementation. Policies may not adequately meet at-risk populations' demands if they are not based on accurate facts about poverty, prejudice, environmental degradation, or resource allocation³¹. Research and data analysis skills in government and academic organizations may improve policymaking and decision-making. They must be supported by constant public sensitization and participation in governance processes so as to demand better governance practices.

4.3 Challenges in implanting social justice and human rights

Another aspect of the problem that should also get greater attention is the lack of political motivation to put these ideas into reality. This is something that should be addressed further. In the first place, the government and other important stakeholders never make decisions based on justice elements that can be beneficial for social justice and sustainability. A variety of factors, including political considerations, financial interests, and a general lack of

²⁹ Alain Supiot, *The Spirit of Philadelphia: Social Justice vs. the Total Market* (2020).

³⁰ Sohini Sengupta & Manish K Jha, *Social Policy, COVID-19 and Impoverished Migrants: Challenges and Prospects in Locked down India*, 2 *The International Journal of Community and Social Development* 152 (2020).

³¹ Tripurdaman Singh, *Sixteen Stormy Days: The Story of the First Amendment to the Constitution of India* (2024).

comprehension, are among these explanations³². The inadequate involvement of community awareness and engagement is a significant obstacle that must be overcome on the path to social justice and environmentally sustainable practices. These kinds of ignorance and lack of engagement might be attributed to a wide variety of factors, including, but not limited to, low levels of education, lower levels of purchasing power, and social segregation.

In addition, distribution of resources intensifies social injustice that impacts the outlook of sustainable development as a mirage challenge to realize by needy societies³³. Discrimination and exclusion do not allow improving the educational or economic status of these people; thus, the cycle of poverty and loneliness becomes endless. They may be addressed through the creation of formal structures, public accountability programs, and civil obedience. More to the point, citizens and local communities need to be involved to avoid equitable exclusion in development programmed to embrace constitution provisions that advocate for social justice as well as sustainability.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion

This study has not only highlighted but greatly emphasized the Indian Constitution's emphasis on social justice, environmental regulation, and sustainable development, reminding us that these two concepts are inseparable. In addition, the case study has shown the Court interpreting the Constitution for social justice as well as environmental balance. The Indian Constitution ensures social justice through the enactment of fundamental rights and environmental conservation is supported by sustainable development principles. Judicial authority will help in making these targets true. Nevertheless, the obstacles may be falling behind political will, economic interests, and public awareness that keep them from the actual application. This research points to the fact that the Indian Constitution can act as a framework among other things to achieve the twin objectives of social justice and sustainability. Nonetheless, having a more profound inquiry between theory and practice is something that should be given more attention. It is in this regard that the following study outlines the ways in which the Indian Constitution depicts the integration of social justice with environmental

³² Stephen RJ Tsuji, *Indigenous Environmental Justice and Sustainability: What Is Environmental Assimilation?*, 13 Sustainability 8382 (2021).

³³ Sharma, *supra* note 20.

conservation. It indicates that although the Constitution offers a good foundation to handle these concerns, the shift from legal framework to reality is difficult. Poor political will, improper environmental incentives, and limited political understanding and enforcement of sustainable politics are primarily political.

Second, more public involvement in policy making and other aspects of environmental management might help to enhance democracy and sustainability. This is one of the reasons as to why school curricula should incorporate educational efforts that emphasize on sustainability as well as social justice so that citizens can be transformed so that they are able to fully understand sustainable development and fight for change in society.

5.2 Recommendations for further Study

- The comparative studies can provide us with an opportunity to look into how other countries with a firm social justice framework and have managed the environmental challenges have successfully done and draw lessons from them.
- This can be accomplished through ground-level case studies that can dig down into in-depth analysis of successful initiatives of social justice and sustainability that have been integrated at community level, which can, consequently, provide practical examples for replication.
- Although the effectiveness of civil society in examining the role of NGOs and citizen activism in promoting social justice and conservation can be quite substantial, this skill would help determine their success and complementation with policymakers.
- Probing into the amendments of the Constitution to address emergent risks like climate change and natural resource scarcity will be a great strategic intervention in the long run.