Environmental & justice

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Abstract

All the environmental issues are somewhat related to the concept of justice. The concept of "environmental justice" is always juxtaposed with topics related to the concept of environment.

Given the globalization of the environmental issues since 1970s, the discourse of environment has been increasingly used to encompass global or international environmental issues such as the trade of toxic spare parts, the depletion of the ozone layer, the preservation of ecological diversity and global warming. Now it can be claimed that some subjects help us think about environmental justice beyond domestic and national boundaries.

Global environmental justice, transnational environmental justice, environmental justice and international environmental equality are some examples. The environmental scholars who use these terms are mostly unable to draw a distinction between them. In the present article, we will try to specify the interrelationship between these terms and the concept of environmental justice in the area of global politics.

Keywords: environment, justice, globalization, environmental justice

Introduction

Environmental affairs and problems are not considered local or national issues anymore; rather, given their relationship with large-scale discourses such as economy, culture, development, politics and ethics, they are related to the entire world. Environmental issues in global politics are mostly discussed in three main categories: international, transnational and global.

Although these three dimensions are strongly intertwined in the real world, we can draw an especial distinction between them. International level is the most classic, oldest and predominant level of analysis and review in the international relations literature.

Following the World War II, the question of war and peace has been a pivotal and vital issue in the area of international relations (Haris, 2001: 25). However, the government-oriented view of these studies led to some revisions in the classic, realistic paradigm of the 70s. Neo-liberal institutionalism has played a key role in this revision and led to the emergence of the case of transnational dimensions of global politics (Tolba, 1984: 19-23).

In the explication of new issues which were proposed in the transnational level, one can find discourses related to human rights, social movements and preservation of environment all of which can be taken into account in the framework of international relations while being excluded from the mold and structure of government-oriented discourse.

Finally, it can be said that the intellectual discourses proposed following the conclusion of Cold War have helped globalization put forward new dimensions of global politics; a viewpoint which holds that the countries should not be looked at in an international level but should be studied from a borderless perspective.

The transnational dimension of global politics has been the most conceivable issue in increasing the speed and volume of communication, trade of goods and travel beyond the borders. This is a new dimension and area of global politics which seriously overshadowed the traditional structures in the international relations. Many factors would be affected by this process: goods, people, thoughts, information, capital, terrorism, diseases, pollution etc. The traditional concept of borders was seriously jeopardized because the governments would lose their power of transferring and transporting what they believed to be unfavorable things and goods.

- Whether the people or the thoughts – this crisis caused the issue of sovereignty of nation-states to be questioned and a wide gap created between the dimensions of the two factors of their government. However, the most interesting aspect of the transnational dimension is not the movement and transportation of unfavorable objects, rather what is of high importance is the transnational interactions of the social role-players and the movement of thoughts beyond the national boundaries. It is said that under certain circumstances, transnational organizations and the networks can facilitate political transformations and the most essential instrument in this route is to change the behavior of the countries and international organizations which takes shape through different political strategies such as lobbying, advertisement and communication of information etc (Keck, 1998: 113). Aside from the political impact, the transformation of norms through the transnational interactions of the civil role-players can lead to long-term sustainable cultural transformations.

1- The inclusive spectrum of global politics

The inclusive spectrum of global politics is related to international and multinational phenomena. However, there's a qualitative difference between them. In the present article, the term "inclusive spectrum of global politics" is used to emphasize on what some international relations experts believe in as the "all-encompassing global surveillance" of the international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and World Trade Center (Rich, 1994: 17-29). Nevertheless, they are actually pseudo-governmental organizations relied on governments which strive to ensure their survival. In some cases, these organizations such as "Suigeneris" act freely and independent of their founding members who are linked to the governments.

New and free economic policies are prescribed and pursued by these international organizations which have had extremely detrimental impacts on the life of the people in ethnic and rural communities.

Globalization is not yet a win-win game (winning for both sides) and its results are considered to be chaotic yet. Historically, globalization has had a variety of negative and positive impacts on the world countries. For example, in an evaluation of the diverse impacts of globalization on democracy, various results have been yielded. The striking result is that globalization obliterates the perspective of democracy (Li, 2003: 29-54). Having in mind these studies which were carried out in 127 countries, (from 1970 to 1996) the freedom of trade, valuable documents and notes the course of investment has had negative impacts on democracy (the government of people over people) while it seems that the impacts of direct foreign investment and propagation of democratic ideas has had positive effects (Li, 2003: 33).

At the same time, the proponents and advocates of globalization of economy are mostly neglected or underestimated. Negative procedures in defending the globalization portray a wired image of chaos and confusion. Rhananda Shiva as the high-ranking Indian researcher on globalization says that the globalization of trade and investment in the recent decades has increased environmental and domestic destructions (Shiva, 1999: 47-69). The term "global" has been emphasized in explaining the mutual impact of the mutual global and national advantages (Hempel, 1996: 11)

This polygonal situation attracts the attention toward the mutual interdependence between the procedures of domestic and global performance. The advantage of global viewpoint as compared to the national perspective can be found in the environmental publications in a debate regarding the simplicity of global environment. In this debate, it is underlined that environmental problems such as the destruction of ozone layer, climate change, obliteration of herbal and animal diversity and pollution of water should be tackled.

The proponents of globalization argue that issues such as the erosion of earth in the developing countries is of high importance and such countries should be assisted. The changes related to the international environment regime can lead to outstanding transformations in the national government of the countries and threaten the area of their sovereignty.

By submitting to global rules, governments will be forced to plan their national budgets in a way that will be able to protect the environment better. (Keohane and Nye, 2000: 197-201)

Given the differences and capacities of the governments and the changeable spectrums of globalization, the criteria of the independence of the governments will be influenced variably. It seems that the independence of the governments is flexible and not robust or unchangeable (Conca, 1994: 709-711)

If the process of contemporary global politics continues, then it can be said that global politics is adopted and takes shape on the basis of concurrent actions through international, transnational and global dimensions. Correspondingly, environmental justice can be better understood in the framework of global politics. Having in mind these dualities, the transnational discussions of environmental justice turn into discussable subjects. In the present article, we show that how the transnational method of environmental justice and establishing equilibrium between national and international environment is a significant matter (Krasner, 2001: 229).

2- International methods of environmental justice

"Equity" as an intuitive and global principle is considered to be an important issue in international environmental law and organizations. The principle of equity is an important concept which has plurality in conceptual implication and has been of high importance since ancient times. Equity means to be righteous and do things in a just way (Amid, 1981: 249). Equity in actuality means to take into consideration the humane and conscientious aspect which will be used for administering natural or real justice (Erfani, 2009: 137). Therefore, the principle of equity is related to the principle of justice. Equity is related to the correction of legal faults which emanate from administering the laws. Today, equity is one of the general principles of law which can be referenced to in isolation or along with other legal references (law, convention etc) (Skini, 1987: 45).

The application of the principle of equity in the laws of international environment revolves almost around the same concept. The point is that just international order should be taken into consideration with regards to the status and conditions of developing countries (Halvorssen, 1999: 55). The wealthy should accept and guarantee that they will not impose their environmental expenses on the poor (Young, 2001: 17-22).

There are three fundamental questions for all of the international environmental problems and challenges:

1) Who is responsible?

2) Who will sustain the most damage?

3) How will the preemptive and preventive expenses (wages) be evaluated?

In order to give an equitable response to the first and last question, taking taxes from the pollutants (environmental pollutants) may be suggested as an international principle.

These questions are specifically in relation to the depletion of ozone layer and the problem of climate change. In each case, it will be first argued that the industrialized, rich countries should assume more responsibility with regards to the problems. Also it will be said that the phenomenon of global warming inflicts the most damage on countries such as Bangladesh due to extreme vulnerability. They cannot escape from the harmful consequences of climate change such as the rising of sea level, flood, destruction of agricultural crops and deficiency in financial and technological capacity (Grobb, 1995: 2).

This situation i.e. the historical responsibility and technological capacity of the wealthy governments from one hand, and the vulnerability of poor and weak countries on the other hand is the most prominent reason for the justification of moral commitment regarding the weak countries who should not unusually suffer huge damages and pay for additional environmental expenses (Paterson, 2003).

In this regard, the wealthy countries should have a higher international environmental participation (Shue, 1992: 387).

The principle of communal responsibility has been variably proposed by the governments as a subject under the category of environmental justice and specifically in response to the questions one and three. In The Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment, this principle has been expressively propounded in the articles 11, 12, 20 and 23 where the especial situation and circumstances of developing countries and the agreements made on the basis of the principle of equity in order to ease their environmental burden have been taken into consideration.

Holding negotiations regarding the shrinkage of the ozone layer is the first commitment for realizing this principle. The legal draft of Montreal Convention was ratified in 1987 and successfully applied the principle of equity as a principle of communal responsibility with differences. Specifically, following the reformations in its content in the 1990 London Agreement, more responsibilities were entrusted to developed countries (Harris, 2001: 39, 47).

The principle of communal responsibility was expressively ratified by the Rio heads of states summit in the Article 7 of the Declaration of Convention of Rio in 1992 as the "foundation of just international participation" and as two binding legal agreements (for ecological and diversity and climate change). Moreover, the aforementioned article was compiled as an appendix about the living creatures (Harris, 2000: 51-66).

These mutual (bilateral) tensions and mistrust between the north and the south in the international environmental negotiations continued until the 1972 Stockholm summit of heads. In the 1992 summit of heads of states in Rio, the language of compromise and sustainable development gained momentum.

Conversation regarding sustainable development as the epicenter of social justice and environmental preservation was agreed upon. The main objection of developing countries was regarding the provision of justice in the structure of north-south relations. They believed that the countries of the north do not abide by their obligations and don't pay compensations for the destruction of environment. The negotiations of Kyoto and the capitulation of the United States in 2001 intensified the objections. However, this criticism is juxtaposed with idealistic viewpoint (Streck, 2001: 71-94).

The heads of states of the world convened in Johannesburg in 2008 for the purpose of sustainable development. This conference was after completing the decisions of the summit of heads of states in Rio which was held the same year. Overall, the analysts and non-governmental organizations evaluated this conference pessimistically (Wapner, 2003: 1-10). The moral criticism of the countries of the global north regarding the preservation of environment was essentially some kind of adapting the theories of ecological dependence which is based on the north-south confrontation and is considered to be a vital issue in understanding today's global policies.

This issue is more understandable in the context of some certain concepts such as the claim of transaction (ecological replacement or equality) which takes place between the developed and developing countries (28). Moreover, these concepts or interpretations underline the more important responsibility of developing countries for solving the international environmental challenges while at the same time emphasizing on the increasing vulnerability and disagreeable and unequal situation of the developing countries with regards to these problems (Hornborg, 1998: 127-136).

It is said that the majority of environmental injustice takes place between the developed and developing countries of the world. International injustice which leads to unjust distribution of power, wealth and opportunities cannot be accepted. After all, all of us have an interrelated dependence on each other. We share the planet with each other and the negative performance of one individual makes trouble for the others. The emission of greenhouse gases and destructions have increased for everybody which is mostly due to the consumerist behavior of the north countries and its impacts predominantly influence those individuals who live in the poor countries (Portpr, 1991: 113-131).

Two procedures of environmental justice can be specified in the aforementioned thought for "international environmental justice" one of which is the principle of equity in laws and international environmental organizations. The other one is international environmental justice which takes shape in cases of injustice and encouragement for the global plans by downplaying the moral concepts inside the national boundaries. These two issues are actually two poles of a monolithic phenomenon and have a chained interrelationship with each other. Some of the plans and suggestions for realizing environmental justice are mostly inclined to one of these poles. In all of these explications, the current international circumstances are described as unjust and the redistribution of wealth from the wealthy to the needy should take place (Walzer, 1994: 66).

The primary concerns of the environmental justice are justified on the basis of distributional justice where the concepts of political sovereignty and political independence are underestimated. Political independence is an inseparable part in this compound (Caney, 2000: 526).

Individual freedom is a result of individual's precedence in sociability which can be best achieved in a liberal society. This problem has been discussed at the center of global sociologists' discourses regarding the importance of communal ethics to the states and nations (Djemeant-pons, 2002: 22).

In this perspective, every moral concept separated from the individual issues is denied. It's argued that communal structures such as governments are formed by the moral priority of their people in experimental context. However, it's taken for granted that emphasis on individualism and national independence can lead to serious confrontations regarding the adoption of shared global policies (Davies, 2001: 15-17).

The individualistic discourses of individual freedoms are seriously in vogue in the countries with capitalist markets. In the other words, according to this viewpoint, the wealthy countries should reduce their consumption to a certain degree and allow the developing countries to improve their economic activities so that they can also realize an acceptable amount of development. This plan is actually the egalitarian reaction so that the world countries could enjoy equal rights. Defending global environmental justice is to a great extent influenced by the theories of justice proposed by ontologists (Dryzek, 1997: 44-46).

There are two main groups in the new process of the thought of ontologists. Their discussions undoubtedly influence the primary plans of global environmental justice. The moral and organizational plans belong to a group of ontologists who speak out about the obligations of moral commitments of the world for the equitable distribution of wealth among the people in which helping the poor by providing resources will be emphasized.

All of the ontologists agree that in the contemporary world, the appropriate redistribution of wealth for reducing poverty, overcoming hunger, famine, malnutrition, die of hunger and diseases should be taken into consideration. Recognizing public rights in using and exploiting natural resources is essential to the success of a number of transnational efforts for realizing environmental justice because the emergence of environmental injustice usually emanates from the lack of supervision by a local control group over the environment.

Although the expansion of control over the earth should be morally justified, it seems that the human beings are dependent on moral rights and responsibilities with regards to each other which demands specific and delicate rights and responsibilities for the members of international community (Gewirth, 1998: 292).

The theory of distributional justice is related to the main structure of international community in which global organizations specify the distribution of international benefits. The fundamental structures of this worldview can be better seen in the theory of David Held about global democracy which demands reforms in the regional and global level for supporting democracy in the local (regional) level (Greenpeace, 2000).

When this territory of the ontological thought is applied to global environmental issues, the foundation of global environmental justice will evolve. In the other words, as the process of democratization (justice in trial and responsiveness) of global and regional management goes forward, the improvement of environmental policies in the national and domestic level can be taken into consideration, as well (Patomaki, 2000: 51).

Reform-oriented efforts in order to empower the process of global management by the regional and international organizations have been recently put forward under the title of global environmental administration (Paterson, 2003: 7). Accordingly, some reforms such as the serious supervision of more powerful global environmental organizations for replacing the current feeble UNEP with an international court of environment for judging the conflicts and quarrels regarding global environmental issues are proposed.

These organizations can give power to the perspective of realization of environmental justice in the global dimensions of international policies while the international amplitude of global policies for our understanding of environmental justice in global policies is of high importance (Payane, 1998: 363).

However, there are reasons which show that all the global and international methods of the realization of environmental justice are extremely vulnerable as regards political power. The preliminaries of realization of international or global environmental justice are not always complete and gradually the results will be conciliation, compromise and negotiations.

Even if the judicial process of justice can be achieved in some of these mechanisms, this will not essentially provide any guarantee for achieving environmental justice in the national, regional and global level. For example, today many environmental injustices take place which both the rich and poor governments overlook.

Guaranteeing approaches for serious supervision and investigation over the performance of strong countries in the field of international methods of environmental law have not emerged so far. Even in the most prevalent international environmental justifications and methods, there are complicated questions which can destroy or enfeeble the current procedures (Matinez-Alier, 2002: 26).

For instance, with regards to the rich countries, it's said that they should be morally held accountable over the performance of their preceding generations and thus be obliged to compensate for the damages which have been inflicted on the environment previously.

However, various discussions have been put forward by the wealthy and poor countries in this regard. These complicated questions can be posed this way: are all of the wealthy countries equally responsible for the previous injustices? How or how much have the wealthy countries made up for the past mistakes? What's the responsibility of newly-industrialized countries such as South Korea or the OPEC member states?

For example, we know that Saudi Arabia or Kuwait and the United States are not comparable in destroying the environment (Miller, 1995: 38). These questions and the like are not easy to respond in the discourses of international politics (Smith, 1979).

In this regard, we should take care of the simplification of north-south relations. There's a duality concerning the question of environmental injustice which is the national and transnational backgrounds about the environmental issues. The participation of governments in bringing forward environmental justice in the world is vital; however, environmental injustice in the world of politics can surely have transnational aspects which should be taken into consideration seriously. The international method of environmental justice has connections with the primary plans of transnational tasks and commitments (Jamoeson, 1994: 210).

3- Transnational methods in environmental injustice

When we look at the international history of environmental issues, we can see an almost complete understanding of the existing threats in the international level. From the conflict between the United States and Canada over the acid rain issue to the issue of paying compensation by the wealthy countries in the draft of 1972 Stockholm Declaration (principles 21 and 22) and the 1992 draft of the summit of heads of states of Rio (principles 2 and 13). These documents would propound the issue of compensation and give them a legal nature which can be considered a foundation for the progress of the more advanced issues in the area of international law (Zerner, 2000: 17).

The Basel summit was finally held in 1989 for adjusting and revising the method of paying environmental compensation by the industrialized countries to the developing countries. Important documents were ratified during the summit. However, it was soon revealed that these documents have serious deficiencies and wealthy countries can use these deficiencies and flexibilities to refrain from paying compensation through nit-picking.

Accordingly, with the pressure of some governments and some of the non-governmental international organizations, many efforts were made to complete these documents so that the industrialized and wealthy countries would have no excuse to evade their responsibilities (Zillman, 2002: 25-31).

It can be assertively said that non-governmental organizations have made excellent and successful contributions to the completion and validation of the documents of international environmental law. Therefore, it can be said that these efforts are not limited to governments; rather the international non-governmental organizations are strongly opposed to the performance of international and multinational companies. These companies were dynamically active in extracting and producing resources in different countries of the world especially since 1970s and constantly failed to abide by environmental criteria and standards (Conklin, 1995: 697).

The developmental plans of these countries have inflicted serious damages on the regional environment and the communities of many developing countries. The financial and economic plans of multinational companies not only threaten the economic activities of local and domestic communities but also jeopardize their cultural and spiritual activities as well. For example, the challenges facing the local groups in the region of Nigeria River delta or in Amazon are a result of the trilateral relations of domestic communities, multinational companies and governments.

The justice-oriented environmental movements in the developing countries mostly revolves around the concerns of subsistence in which efforts for earning a living are considered to be the most important economic challenge. Aside from livelihood-related issues, they're mostly the rural communities who are not only insufficient from the view of medicine and medical equipment but are also culturally and psychologically incapable.

Cultural and psychological limitations add to their material and physical poverty and present new dimensions to it. When the material resources which constitute the foundation of a society are disrupted, its repercussions would be felt extensively. It's demonstrated in several cases that how excavation-related industries have a negative effect on the lives of the ethnic people. Many communities will be forced into moving from their own lands and seriously face several problems and get displaced. The development of mines, oil, gas and basic materials have destructed our lives. They have corrupted our lands, polluted our soil and water and created divisions between our societies, hence destroying the hopes of our future generations. They have spread social

phenomena such as prostitution, revelry, dissoluteness, addiction to alcohol and drugs, divorce etc as a result of swift domestic economic transformations (Clapp, 1994: 17-46).

This explanation is a summary of what has taken place in domestic and ethnic communities around the world from India to Brazil and South Africa to North Pole.

In all of these developments with their diverse differences, repetitive procedures can be observed. For example, in different societies and countries, we can rarely observe scientific and special consultations in the field of environment before designing a developmental plan. Even if some consultations are done, revenues and benefits are of higher importance in the relevant negotiations. Satisfaction and dissatisfaction in the communities mostly take place with bribery, threat and intimidation. Vital information regarding the details of a plan such as its definitive or possible impacts on the environment or its advantages for the public would be withheld from the people and hidden from view.

Information is only disclosed by the leaders of the society under certain circumstances. Even if agreement is reached following the process of negotiations, the leaders will be not be obliged to obey the company or perform by the governments. These certain interactions inevitably lead to mistrust on the side of the companies and the governments. The damages inflicted by these plans have led to regular conflicts between the governments which have been harmed and the multinational companies.

This lack of balance in the power relations mostly gives the foreign role-players an excuse and legitimacy to intervene and also motivates the global environmental activists to enter such issues.

4- Human rights and environmental justice

The relationship between human rights and environment is undeniable. Environmental law and the right of living are among the most important imperative laws of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Environmental movements have taken serious steps for preserving the environmental justice. More than 100 countries announced in the Vienna international conference of human rights in 1993 that the illegal interment of toxic materials jeopardizes the right of living (Vienna Declaration: 1993, Part 157/24). However, environmental activists have more realistic policies than the human rights activists. Albeit, it should be certainly noted that the framework of the activities of environmental preservation networks is consisted of human rights agenda. However, this realistic framework is the most interesting issue regarding environmental affairs and includes material and specific damage in transnational conflicts in which the preservation of environmental rights is considered to be the third generation of human rights. Moreover, Keck and Sikkink conclude that environmental conflicts have had prominent environmental effects. The interdependence of this environmental preservation with protecting those vulnerable people who live in that environment is of high importance (Achteberg, 2001: 21-29).

It's possible that the structural relation of some environmental issues with human rights be proposed as a serious issue. For this to be successful, it seems that although the connection of human rights with the environmental concerns is put forward in the third generation of human rights, establishing this relationship, explicating and justifying it in many issues and in many countries is a very complicated and challenging task. At any rate, one of the issues in realizing environmental justice is establishing a relationship between human rights, sustainable development and the preservation of environment.

Transnational environmental networks can establish a close relation with the local people in order to sufficiently understand the relevant dynamic policies. The complexity of these indicators is very important in administering environmental justice because justice is a smart and theoretical issue.

Using the right methods for scientific reasons, judgment and legal procedures concerning environmental issues can lead to justice. If the circumstances and conditions of each item are taken into consideration, transnational environmental organizations such as the Green Peace can meet the demands. In continued efforts for the preservation of ancient jungles in Amazon and the issue of the colossal Mahogany trees, foreign producers in wealthy countries such as the United States are in constant contact with the domestic mafia of Mahogany kings. Prior to the Rio conference, this ethnic group was at the center of environmental policies (Conklin and Graham, 1995). However, after gaining territorial sovereignty from the government of Brazil, they could compromise with the foreign companies which were at the same time entitled to extract gold from mines in their lands. This issue angered the environment experts. One of them criticized the environmental actions of the ethnic people which showed a conflict between the rights of ethnic people and environmental justice issues. Actually, the problem originated from the insufficient attention to the conditions and status quo of the ethnic people. In the activities of environmental groups, the needs and economic requirements of the ethnic people of the region were paid less attention to (Base action network, 2003).

They downplayed the role of ethnic people in this trade and selected the other powerful activists as targets. On the contrary, the ethnic people insisted that cutting the trees and the activities of multinational companies were in line with meeting their economic demands (Keck and Sikkink, 1998: 121-163).

However, at the same time, keeping contact with the local communities is important as long as it's effective. Increasing foreign aid to the developing countries causes loss in the long-term and has detrimental results for these societies (Beierle, 200: 13).

Transnational networks are often dexterous in directly allocating special and financial aid to the local people. Their assistance is based on empowering industrial structures so that they can resist natural extremities. As Wapner notes, active transnational environmental groups try to use the experiences of common people for changing their lifestyle (Wapner, 1995: 336).

Interaction between the environmental policies and human rights is considered to be an important matter in establishing environmental justice through which the people will make out their legal rights and the international law will evolve and develop. This condition can be found in the 1972 Stockholm Declaration (Bossleman, 2001: 211-215).

Environmental conditions should meet the human rights principles.

Fundamental rights include freedom, equality and equal living conditions in a qualitative environment which can provide the opportunity for a healthy and appropriate life. In the past decade, international lawyers started negotiations about the concept of environmental law. In these discussions, a mixture of human rights and environmental preservation issues would be put forward (Dejeant-pons, 2002: 11-46). Exactly like every other human right, the concepts of environmental law include fundamental and procedural elements.

Growing acquaintance in procedural and adjudicative law can be considered an instrument for achieving fundamental rights for a healthy environment in domestic or foreign policies. Other laws regarding the concept of environmental law have been proposed for discussion.

One of them has been put forward in the Draft Principles On Human Rights And The Environment which is still being supervised by the United Nations Human Rights Council. This report, for instance, emphasizes on powerful and robust relations between human rights and environment, understanding that everybody is entitled to have security and impeccable ecologic environmental health.

The second international legal document was ratified in Arhus Convention in 1998 and accepted by United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in 2001. This convention was mostly procedural which implicated the guaranteeing of access to public participation information in decision-makings and access to the process of judgment in environmental issues.

These procedures are created with the aim of participation for preserving the rights of individuals whether from the contemporary generation or the future generation in a suitable environment for health and joviality (Dejeant-pons, 2002: 146).

Some of the critics claim that putting the opportunist man in the center of the world or the creation leads to the plan of man-oriented world which in fact leads to the destruction of environment. It's natural that in many cases, the individual benefits and the benefits of human societies will be in conflict with the preservation of environment (Bosselman, 2001: 24).

There's no limitation in investigating environmental issues as benefit and advantage; however, the individual advantage does not necessarily matter. Rather, it's the communal benefit which matters and this gives the individual a communal aspect. At any rate, preserving the environment or destroying it is not something which has an individual aspect, but it has always a social aspect. The people are still forced to use the environment to survive. Will they be able to derive this benefit by inflicting the least damage on the environment? This is where the discussion will revolve around the issue of sustainable development.

Given the old definition of sustainable development, Brandet considers sustainable development a development which can meet the demands of today without enfeebling the power of the next generations. This plan has been mostly discussed in the context of justice and equity in the generations even though the issues of inter-generational equity and intra-generational equity are related to each other. However, support is not the only basis of achieving justice for the future generations. Although it might imply such a view, it's the same for the members of this generation. How can an individual be only a member of his own generation? (Patomaki, 2000: 77-91).

Refraining from inflicting damage is one of the most ancient principles of justice and proposed as the principle of no harm. Supporting the application of propositional actions especially in the cases of environmental injustices is an important matter. The philosophers remind us that there's a long way until achieving the human rights so that the emergence of harm or damage could be prevented.

Environmental justice is to some extent related to the consumption of people and their manipulation of the nature and environment, because if the wealthy countries reduce consumption, the poor countries won't resort to destroying the environment to resolve their economic problems. Therefore, the two phenomena of consumption and justice are related to each other and legal concepts become significant in both of them. Governments can play a very effective role in administering environmental justice. They can adopt strict regulations and taxation systems and be more effectual than environmental movements; however, at the same time, assigning roles to the governments can be dangerous because it increases their power and as the power of the governments goes up, the

possibility of their intervention in freedom and individual, human rights increases. Therefore, efforts which are made to improve environmental standards may lead to the violation of personal rights and liberties.

Environmental efforts may create conflict and divergence in developmental plans. Transnational non-governmental environmental organizations and the networks which advocate them can also play a significant role in changing the national and governmental structures for more divisions, the accountability of the governments and their responsibility. In the other words, they exert pressure for the establishment of vital environmental systems in the international level which supply certain environmental products. Moreover, the efforts related to the activists of civil societies can bring into existence the circle of international negotiations by providing the requirements of discourse and equilibrium. In fact, efforts made to deepen the environmental justice are efforts made to build the relevant discourse.

Creating environmental justice is equivalent to building a political society with multiple participatory methods. At the same time, empowering the international environmental regimes improves supervision and investigation with regards to the countries and creates international obligations about observing the measures of environmental law. Concurrently, these international regimes can improve peaceful methods between the countries for expanding environmental standards.

Conclusion

Environmental issues and problems cannot be confined to the geographical territory of a single country, but they constitute international concerns. Having in mind the relationship between environment and large-scale issues such as economy, culture and development, politics and ethics, the issue is related to the whole world. By taking into consideration the transnational method of environmental justice and establishing equilibrium between domestic and international environment in global politics, we can reduce the problems of environment. Equity is one of the global methods of environmental justice. On the basis of this principle, industrialized, developed countries should assume more responsibility with regards to the environment. The principle of communal responsibility as an issue which falls under the category of equity and has been mentioned in some of the conventions, implies this matter. Additionally, if the rightful distribution of benefits resulting from the commercial liberalization takes place, it will lead to the reduction of poverty and decreased manipulation of environment by the less developed countries. The wealthy countries should reduce their consumption and allow the poor countries to increase their economic activities because the human beings are dependent on rights and responsibilities vis-à-vis each other. From different dimensions, human rights has an intertwined connection with environmental justice. The right of existence is one of the fundamental principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which can guarantee environmental justice. In the fundamental rights for the continuation of life, security and freedom, there are three essential international tasks. Wealthy and rich countries have the responsibility to carry out these tasks, especially when the people in other countries cannot meet their basic demands for various reasons. Therefore, environmental justice is to some extent related to the consumption of people and manipulation of nature in destroying the environment. As a result, the issue of environmental justice should be pursued beyond the national boundaries.

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