

# **SAARC HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (SHRDC)**

## ***Training course on Environment Population & Development***

### **A) Introduction**

Globally, the world population is rising by about 78 million every year. United Nations population projections for the year 2050 range from 7.3 billion to 10.7 billion. Population growth is commonly assumed to be directly responsible for environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources under conditions of poverty. Sustainability and human security are among the major challenges facing humanity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Prospects for sustainability and security will depend to a significant degree on the interactions between three factors Population, Development and Environment.

Population & the environment are closely related, but links between them are complex and varied, and depend on specific circumstances. The relationships are increasingly better understood. There is broad agreement on means and end, for example, women's empowerment is a development end in itself. Removing the obstacles to women's exercise of economic and political power is also one of means to end poverty. Reproductive health is part of an essential package of health care and education. Its mean to the goal of women empowerment, but it is also a human right and includes the right to choose the size and spacing of the family. Achieving equal status between men and women, guaranteeing the right to reproductive health, and ensuring that individuals and couples can make their own choices about family size will also help to slow population growth rates and reduce the future size of world population, thus slower population growth will contribute measurably towards environment stress.

In 1992, the Rio Earth Summit focussed the international community on the critical linkages between environment and

development. Agenda 21, the principal agreement of the Summit, provided a framework for sustainable development that called for tackling poverty, development and environment as one, by focusing on people resources and productivity. It called for the integration of environment development & population in order to fulfil basic needs, improve living standard for all, and better manage & protect ecosystem for longer time. A lot has been changed since the Rio Summit, Globalisation has yielded benefit for many, but it has left many others behind. Environmental degradation has slowed in some areas and accelerated in other. In 2000, the world set Eight Millennium Development Goals with measurable targets for progress on sustainable development. Eradicating poverty and hunger by 2015 was the first goal, and thus combating poverty is the basic condition for tackling environment, development and poverty together. Issues such as health care, education, rights of women and improved governance are all essential concepts of sustainable development.

South Asia with 23 percent of the world's population is the planet's poorest region. About 540 million or 45 percent of the region's population are living below the poverty line, with daily income of less than a dollar a day. Simultaneously it is confronted with population growth as its population crossed 1.3 billion by 2000 up from 1.1 billion at the start of 1990s, whereas India representing 76% of South Asia's population. It is the most densely populated region with 278 people per sq km. The high level of population growth has put tremendous pressure on the resources of the region. Although there is some declining trend in some countries of South Asia's, e.g. Sri Lanka's birth rate has almost declined to a point where it is just replacing the present population, and India & Bangladesh are at the point where both fertility and mortality rates are beginning to decline. The population with poverty is a threat to environment and cause depletion or use of natural resources, i.e. biodiversity. The climate is affected by the human population and carbon omission, as well as distribution, migration, growth etc. In South Asia redistribution of resources through environment degradation and economic impoverishment has assumed the form of air pollution, contamination of ground and surface water, forest resources erosions, degradation and desertification of land due to loss of forest cover, water logging & salinity. Moreover, environment is further threatened by brown issues of industrial pollution. The vicious cycle between poverty and environmental degradation makes the poor ever more vulnerable leading to further environmental degradation and more poverty, thus poverty

alleviation is the best win-win strategy, primarily focusing on resources, production and people including enhanced health care, education, empowerment of women, improved governance with focus on a) minimising environmental degradation and population, b) eliminating root causes of environmental degradation i.e. population pressure & poverty, c) integrating environment and development and d) vigorously pursuing the path of sustainable development.

The Countries of South Asia are committed to the goal of alleviating poverty, environmental protection, health care and education, beefing up the development activities and reduction of socio economic disparity and improving the quality of life. This has been clearly demonstrated in the past by several actions they have taken in the year after the Earth Summit in Rio. The work of the SAARC Technical Committee on Environment and the work by South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme has amply demonstrated in the past. The aim of the co-operative work by them is to promote and support the protection, management and enhancement of the environment, both natural and human of the countries of South Asia, individually, collectively and co-operatively.

As a part of the continued activity the SHRDC is imparting a training programme on "Environment, Population & Development" to enhance institutional capacity on issues of environmentally sustainable development, to understand the gravity of the problem and to comprehend multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary linkages between population, sustainable development and environment.

## **B) Objectives**

The general objective of the training programme is to harmonize & enhance the mutual relationship among population dynamics, the environment and social and economic development, while specific objectives are to broaden the consideration of trends in demographic variables in sectoral and regional policies, the coherent integration of population and environmental policies into economic and social development strategies.

## **C) Approach**

The training programme will have an integrated comprehensive introductory and operationally oriented approach

to the inter relationship between population environment and sustainable development. It will deal with the conceptual, theoretical aspect, sectoral and thematic approaches, methodologies, methods and techniques for analysis and policy and programme analyses. The following would be the training modules:

## **Module - 1**

### **Environment, Population & Development Context**

The module will deepen the understanding of the context of Environment, Population & Development with focusing on three historical periods

- a) Ancient and pre-modern era (Ancient time until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- b) Early modern period (late 19<sup>th</sup> century to 20<sup>th</sup> century).
- c) The late 20<sup>th</sup> century (focus on 1990s).

## **Module - 2**

### **Environment, Population & Development Intervention**

The module will equip the participants about the interrelationship between Environment, Population and Sustainable Development.

Contents:

- Conceptual & theoretical framework.
- Sectoral & Thematic approaches.
- Methodologies methods & techniques for analysis and integration of issues.
- Policy & programme analysis & formulation of actions.
- Environment and Natural Resource Management in South Asia.
- Characteristics of Environment, Population and Development problem in South Asia & differences with developed industrial countries.

## **Module - 3**

### **Social Policy Analysis**

The module will deepen the understanding of key debates and approaches in social policy making, the recent trend in development and poverty reduction, shifting the role of state, globalisation, changing financing regimes, new protections and provisioning measures with focus to address the central issue of vulnerability insecurity and exclusion.

Contents:

- Social policy in context.
- Conceptualizing vulnerability, insecurity.
- Organising and financing intervention to protect and enhance security.
- Integrated policy analysis.

## **Module - 4**

### **Women, Environmental Management & Sustainable Development**

It will enhance the understanding of the participants and the linkages between the role of women in development, reproductive health & the protection of the environment and assist in enabling a more participative role of women in sustainable development & environmental management.

Contents:

- Role of women in development & natural resource management.
- Gender & reproductive health.
- Health, mortality, fertility and the environment.
- New and re-emerging diseases.
- Women & Environmental health.
- Women as agent of change in the development sector.
- Women as managers of the environment.

## **Module - 5**

### **Techniques of Demographic & Environmental Analysis**

The module will explain the techniques of demographic and environmental analysis.

## Contents:

- Measurement of fertility.
- Family planning.
- Mortality.
- Life table methods.
- Population projections.
- Resource management skills.
- Environmental conversation.
- Environmental impact assessment.
- Ecosystem measurement.
- Efficient allocation of resources.
- Role of biological diversity in the health & sustainability of ecological and economic system.
- Type of environmental indicators.

## **Module - 6**

### **Political Economy of Migration**

Population change, particularly via migration has had an important impact on the environment & development. The world has seen rapid migration from rural to urban areas, as well as inter region migration. The module will enable to understand and discuss ways to overcome the migration processes, importance of locating contemporary processes of migration in the globalisation world.

- Critical introduction to contemporary debates in migration theory.
- Issues in migration policy.
- Importance of globalisation and the changing context of international migration.
- Migration & urbanisation interrelationship with socio economic development & evolving policy issues.
- Urbanisation pattern & problem.
- Relationship between migration & development.
- Migration & organised labour.
- Migration & social policy design.

## **D) Methodology**

Training methodology includes lectures by resource persons, followed by discussions, and case studies, country report presentation by the participants and experience sharing. Field exposure visits have been arranged for the training purpose. All the audio visual aids like multi media projector, slide projector, overhead projector, flip chart and board etc will be used for the training programme.

## **E) Expected outcome**

At the end of the training programme, the participants will be able to:-

- a) Gain knowledge about the diversity and complexity of environmental problem.
- b) Develop a critical understanding of the major historical and current debates about relationship between population dynamics, resource constraints and the right to economic & social development.
- c) Conceptualize and analyse the interrelationship and feedbacks between population dynamics, system of strategic resources and processes of economic development.
- d) Integrate conceptual & analytical capabilities in the field of population and social development with investigative skill, methods and techniques to bring greater clarity, precision and insight to major contemporary question of population resources relation.
- e) Understanding the state of art monitoring & evaluation tools & techniques for a successful design and implementation of projects.
- f) Efficient and effective use of research findings from integrated population, health and environment, work for the improvement of policies and programmes.

## **F) Participants**

This training course is primarily designed for the mid level functionaries, trainers / professionals from the Government, Semi Government organisations, working under the Ministries of Environment, Population, Planning & Development and other related organisations and NGOs of SAARC Member States. There will be 25 participants in total, 3 from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and 7 from Pakistan

(being the host country). The nominating / sending member Government state shall have to bear the two way air ticket of the participants, while SHRDC will provide local hospitality boarding and lodging and a daily pocket allowance.

**G) Date and Duration**

Duration of the training programme will be two weeks. It will start on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2004 and end on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2004.

**G) Venue**

SAARC Human Resource Development Centre, Chak Shehzad, Islamabad, Pakistan.