

# The Relationship between Economic Development and Environmental Issues

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## Abstract

This study focuses on analyzing the relationship between economic development and environmental issues. This study shows that, in the process of economic development, due to increasing production capacity, exploitation of mineral resources, many toxic emissions have been discharged into the environment, many large cities of Vietnam have been polluted heavy. Based on that situation, the study proposes a solution to reduce environmental pollution in the process of economic development in Vietnam.

**Keywords:** Economic development, environmental pollution, Vietnam, big cities.

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## INTRODUCTION

Socio-economic development is the process of improving people's physical and spiritual living conditions through the production of material wealth, improvement of social relations, and improvement of cultural quality [1]. Development is a common trend of each individual and the whole human being in the process of living. There is a close relationship between the environment and development: The environment is the locality and the object of development, while development is the cause of environmental changes.

In the socio-economic system, goods are moved from production, circulation, distribution, and consumption along with the flow of raw materials, energy, products, and waste [2]. These components are always in a state of interaction with the natural and social components of the existing environmental system in that area. The area where the two systems are intersected is the artificial environment.

The impact of development activities on the environment manifests itself in the beneficial aspect of improving the natural environment or generating the necessary funding for such improvements but can cause environmental pollution or natural pollution create [3]. On the other hand, the natural environment also impacts on socio-economic development through the degradation of natural resources being the object of

development activities or causing disasters, natural disasters for the Socio-economic activities in the region.

In countries with different levels of economic development, there are trends in environmental pollution. For example:

Excess pollution: 20% of the world's population in rich countries currently uses 80% of human resources and energy;

Pollution due to poverty: Poor people in poor countries have the only way to develop natural resources (forest, minerals, agriculture ...). Therefore, in addition to 20% of the rich, the remaining 80% of the population uses only 20% of the human resources and energy.

Conflicts between the environment and development lead to the emergence of different concepts or theories of development:

The theory of development suspension is to make economic growth equal to (0) or bring value (-) to protect the Earth's natural resources;

Some other scientists propose protection to prevent research and exploitation of natural resources;

In 1992, environmentalists came up with the concept of sustainable development, which is developed in the level of maintaining environmental quality, keeping the balance between environment and development.

### **The Relationship between Environment and Economic Development**

Development is a common trend of each individual and the whole human being in the process of living [3, 4]. There is a very close relationship between environment and development: the environment is the locality and the object of development and development is the cause of environmental changes.

Over the past time, environmental protection has been directed by the Party and the State, one of the three pillars of sustainable development, which has made a lot of changes and achieved some important initial results [5]. However, environmental pollution continues to increase, many incidents causing serious environmental pollution, affecting people's lives and production. At the same time, it also causes climate change phenomena to be faster and more complicated. This is manifested by unusual natural disasters, extreme weather, severe droughts, and has severely affected Vietnam. In the future, climate change will also make environmental pollution more complicated, in many areas, such as river basin pollution, marine pollution, air pollution, etc.

Environmental pollution, environmental incidents, and climate change taking place in Vietnam are mainly due to the country's socio-economic development activities which have been promoted with high economic growth [6]. To some extent, it can be said that in many places, sometimes the protection of the environment has been overlooked, the principles to ensure sustainable development have not been strictly followed.

This situation has negatively and dangerously affected all aspects of social life. Therefore, economic development with rational exploitation and use of natural resources and environmental protection has become a deep concern of the international community [6, 7]. The exploitation and use of natural resources and the environment in Vietnam are not outside the common situation of the world; perhaps they are extremely complex, diverse, and difficult.

### **The Consequence of Economic Development Affects the Environment**

#### **Population Development and Urbanization**

According to the General Statistics Office [8], Vietnam's population has now surpassed the milestone of 90 million, making Vietnam the 13th most populous country in the world, and the 3rd in Southeast Asia. In the past 5 years, Vietnam's population has increased by more than 4.5 million people, an average annual

increase of about 1 million people. The rapid population growth process has led to increasing demands for activities, education, training, health care, transportation, housing, employment, etc. to increase pressure with respect to the natural and social environments. Speaking only about the treatment of domestic wastewater has been a huge problem. It is estimated that an average of 80% of domestic water supply becomes domestic wastewater. The main pollutants in domestic wastewater are TSS, BOD5, COD, Nitrogen, and Phosphorus. There are also inorganic components, microorganisms, and pathogenic bacteria. Meanwhile, the proportion of domestic wastewater treated only reaches 10% - 11% of the total urban wastewater, up about 4% - 5% compared to 2010 [8, 9]. Typically some water treatment plants Large-scale domestic waste has come into operation such as Binh Hung wastewater treatment plant (Ho Chi Minh City) with a capacity of 141,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day and night, Wastewater treatment plant in Yen So (Ha Noi City) with a capacity of 200,000m<sup>3</sup>/day [4, 5].

At the same time, the successful transformation of the economic model has brought our country from an underdeveloped economy to a middle-income country. This happened concurrently with the process of urbanization and the expansion of urban administrative boundaries, leading to an increase in the urban population. As of December 2016, the whole country had 787 urban centers, including 02 special cities, 15 urban centers of grade I, 25 urban centers of grade II, 42 urban areas of grade III, 75 urban areas of grade IV, and 628 urban centers V2 type [4, 5].

The urban population (including areas: the inner city, inner-city and town) is about 31 million people with an urbanization rate of about 35.7%, an increase of 1.2% compared to 2015. Speed Urbanization has increased rapidly, in recent years, the average increase of 1% - 1.02%/year, corresponding to 1 - 1.2 million urban residents per year. In the process of urban expansion in our country, the speed of urbanization increases rapidly in areas in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Ho Chi Minh City (3.8% and 4% annually), in fact, these two cities dominate the urban landscape of the whole country. Many studies show that cities account for two-thirds of total energy demand and carbon emissions (derived from transportation, industry, construction activities, and buildings). Rapid urbanization has caused significant impacts on the environment and natural resources, causing ecological imbalances. In many areas of rapid urbanization, green belts of environmental protection are not planned and protected.

The norm of land for planting greenery in urban areas is too low, only about 2m<sup>2</sup>/person. In general, the system of greenery has just been formed and concentrated in large and medium cities. In two major cities, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. In Ho Chi

Minh City, this figure is only about 2m<sup>2</sup>/person, not up to the standard, and only 1/10 the target of green plants of advanced cities in the world. In addition, some urban areas, especially coastal cities, have been flooded during the rainy season and high tide. In addition to Hanoi, TP. Ho Chi Minh City Hue is also frequently flooded in the rainy season, and some other cities are flooded due to high tides, heavy rains, flash floods, such as provinces Can Tho, Tuyen Quang, Ha Giang, Lang Son, Ca Mau, Ha Tinh, etc [4, 5].

### Industry Development

After a period of quiet due to the economic crisis, by 2016, the proportion of industry and construction accounted for 33.9% of the national GDP, ranking second in the current economic structure. In particular, the processing industry plays an important role [10, 11]. Currently, the rate of application of modern technology in the manufacturing and business sectors is still quite far away from other countries in the region, therefore, to produce goods that need more consumption than raw materials materials and energy, which releases more waste, is not treated or treated without guarantee, causing environmental pollution. The chart below shows that the share of the clean energy industry is expected to change over the coming years, especially in the industry.

For example, the cement manufacturing industry plays an important role in the process of industrialization and modernization of the country. However, this is considered to be the industry that influences air quality the largest and most characteristic [12, 13]. Cement factories are mainly located in the Red River Delta and the North Central Coast, accounting for 39% of total cement production nationwide.

Currently, our country's cement production technology is mainly based on the dry method, rotary kiln. According to experts, cement production by rotary kiln technology has less environmental impact than a vertical kiln. Although there has been a policy of eliminating vertical kiln cement, in reality, there are still some vertical kiln cement plants and independent grinding stations with small capacity, old and outdated equipment [13]. Emissions from cement kilns are very high in the dust, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, F and can cause pollution if not well controlled, among them dust pollution. Cement dust is generated in almost every stage of the production process such as crushing, crushing, screening, separating, drying, firing, cooling, bagging, and transporting. Other construction materials manufacturing industries during operation also affect the air quality in surrounding areas.

### Consequences of environmental pollution are brought about by economic development

Economic development is always accompanied by more or less environmental pollution. When the economy develops, plants will grow like

mushrooms, accompanied by emissions, dust and will also produce more. With the current environmental pollution, if there are no necessary measures to limit and prevent environmental pollution, it will seriously affect the economic development and health of our people in Vietnam a long time later.

According to a 2016 World Bank report, Vietnam with 59 points in the environmental performance index rankings, ranked 85/163 countries in the ranking. Vietnam is lower than regional countries such as the Philippines with 66 points, Thailand 62 points, and Laos 60 points. According to the World Economic Forum of Davos, Vietnam is among the 10 countries with low air quality and the most health effects. Some situations of environmental pollution must include [13]:

**Pollution of rivers and streams:** Rivers in not only cities but also in rural areas are facing heavy pollution due to domestic waste, handicraft village waste, agricultural waste, and waste from industrial parks are still falling day by day, affecting directly to the living environment and health of the community.

**Technology and waste landfill:** Many projects of refining, rolling large steel, titanium, bauxite in the Central Highlands aluminum, and nearly 5,500 containers and 1,323 packages mainly containing scrap are located in seaports ... are at risk of turning. Vietnam has become a hub for technology and waste.

**Pollution from agricultural production:** The source of waste discharged into the environment from cultivation and husbandry is tending to increase, while the control has not been effective, the total volume of waste in our country's animal husbandry currently more than 73 million tons/year. The uncontrolled use of fertilizers and pesticides in cultivation has polluted the soil and water environment.

**Pollution from mining:** According to the General Department of Customs, from 2009 to 2011, Vietnam exports 2.1 to 2.6 million tons of all kinds of minerals every year (excluding coal and crude oil) with a destination mostly for China, but worth only \$ 130-230 million. Particularly in 2012, the amount of exported minerals was still nearly 800,000 tons through official quotas [4, 5].

Along with that, according to the World Bank's assessment, environmental pollution and air pollution in Vietnam have caused losses of up to 5% of GDP annually. According to the predictable results of the National Center for Socio-Economic Information and Forecast, in the period 2016-2020, the growth of total social and employment investment will decrease on average each year respectively about 1.2 and 0.08%, at the same time the average consumption growth will fall by 0.1% per year as expected.

### **Solutions to Overcome Environmental Pollution**

Strengthen State management, perfect the legal system, mechanisms, policies, and synchronously implement measures to actively respond to climate change, prevent and combat natural disasters, manage natural resources, and protect the environment school. Paying attention to the inspection, examination, and strictly handling violations; at the same time, enhance communication information to raise people's awareness, awareness, and responsibility.

Implement socialization of environmental protection and treatment; strict control of pollution sources. Effectively overcome environmental pollution left by the war [7, 8]. Planning and constructing concentrated waste treatment facilities by regions and commune clusters. To restrict and basically prevent environmental pollution in craft villages, river basins, industrial parks and clusters, urban areas, and concentrated population areas in rural areas.

Focusing on thoroughly handling facilities which cause serious pollution. Controlling the air quality in high-density urban areas. Implement standards, emission standards, and technology according to the appropriate roadmap. Strengthen protection and sustainable development of forests, especially coastal protection forests, watershed forests, and special-use forests; nature conservation, biodiversity, protection, and regeneration of aquatic resources. Encourage the use of renewable energy and new, environmentally friendly materials and materials [8].

The Party committees should thoroughly grasp the contents of the Resolution into practice so that the Resolution can really come to life; pay close attention to and issue proper policies and policies to promptly solve weak and inadequate issues in the field of the environment; continue to supplement and complete guidelines and policies on environmental protection.

State agencies should quickly apply environmental protection policies and policies to specific socio-economic goals; integrating environmental protection objectives into socio-economic development programs [4]. The National Assembly needs to focus on perfecting the legal system on the environment, setting strict sanctions. The Government should have policies to rationally exploit and use natural resources, avoiding loss, waste, and causing environmental pollution. Administrative agencies at all levels should monitor and strictly manage environmental protection activities; resolutely and promptly sanction acts of causing environmental pollution to deter and prevent recurring acts.

Every citizen needs to raise awareness and awareness in protecting the environment, especially in the observance of guidelines and policies of the Party

and laws of the State. Every organization, individual, or business needs to promote the spirit of self-awareness and high awareness in protecting the environment, not for immediate benefits but affecting the environment. Officials and party members need to be exemplary in observing and well implementing environmental protection in order for the people to follow [6, 7]. The Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations should further promote propaganda and advocacy so that the masses understand and strictly abide by the Party's guidelines and the State's laws on environmental protection school.

Strengthen the work of grasping the situation, inspection, examination and supervision of the environment (regularly, periodically and irregularly); to closely coordinate among specialized agencies, especially between environmental inspection forces and environmental police forces at all levels, in order to detect, stop, and promptly handle thorough and polluting acts environment of organizations and individuals. At the same time, to improve the professional and professional capacity for a contingent of specialized environmental workers; equipped with modern technical facilities to effectively serve the operation of these forces.

Strictly organize the appraisal and assessment of environmental impacts on investment projects, on that basis, professional agencies shall give accurate advice to competent authorities for consideration and decision on the grant or No investment license. The decision of investment projects should be carefully considered between the immediate benefits and its long-term environmental impacts [11]. Make public and transparent plans and investment projects and create conditions for all organizations and citizens to participate in social criticism of the environmental impacts of such plans and projects.

### **CONCLUSION**

In fact, there was a period when we did not adequately protect the environment. Many places in the mountains, deforestation, filling ponds, and lakes. At present, in many rural areas, there is no sound of frogs, no more crab and fish fields due to the use of chemicals. The river is also "calling for help". These are lessons to gain in-depth experience. But the handling of environmental issues is also not an extreme, not to build factories, but to take measures to ensure that factories fully comply with the regulations on waste and wastewater treatment with quality assurance in advance. When released into the environment. Environmental protection must become a cultural feature of the enterprise.

The environmental protection must start from the awareness of each person, must create a spread because it is related not only to businesses, individual business households but also to each citizen in Living.

Even the story of sorting household waste, limiting the use of nylon bags will also help save big for the economy and protect the environment. The important thing is how to create community strength, the mechanism for businesses, and mass mobilization to participate strongly. In order to do this, it is necessary to join the hands of the Government, ministries, branches, authorities at all levels, businesses, especially the community, to act as a bridge of associations and unions.

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