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Title: Track the development of India since its independence. Consider the Sustainability Issues that it faces.

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Introduction

For me I chose to write about this topic because I have a great fascination with the country of India, and I also studied it for Geography in the leaving cert. I will outline and track its development since its independence and I will also outline the sustainability issues it faces in the future. I will try to come up with logistical methods of assessing their issues.

The geography of India

India is situated in southern Asia between latitudes of 5 and 35 degrees north. Strangely its length is almost equal to its width. India's surface covers 3,287,263 sq km, around 614 million football fields can fit into it to be precise. It extends from the Himalayas to the tropical rainforests in the south. It is the seventh largest country in the world boasting a population of 1.21 billion. Four very distinct regions are found in India, desert, peninsula, mountains and the plains. India's climate is classified as tropical monsoon. It is compromised of the dry monsoon (October to May) and the wet monsoon is found during the summer, mainly in the month of June.

Brief history of India's Independence

India before its independence was ruled by many colonial powers but mainly it was under British rule until 1947 when India finally became independent. The British Empire gave India back its independence, Ghandi played a big role in this, and He encouraged Indians to protest and to do civil disobedience against the British government. Although, British power and control was still present in India which left an impact on its development as a single nation. Independence Day is celebrated in the 15th of august and they celebrate its birth as a sovereign nation.

I am now going to talk about the development of the Government, tertiary activities, Industrialisation and Agriculture since its independence in 1947.

Government

India began to form a democracy where the president, prime minister, and a council where elected by the public. Dr Rajendra Prasad was elected as the first president in 1950 since its independence. India became independent on the 26th Nov 1950. India like Ireland became a Republic, and is the largest Democracy on earth.

Soon after Independence the government brought out the Industrial Policy resolution. It was introduced to improve industrial growth and development.

Industrialisation

Before India became independent from Britain industrial development was generally underdeveloped and limited to the textile production and food processing.2% of the labour force was employed in manufacturing. Industry was located in Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai. After independence, the government aimed to spread our industry into rural areas across the country by investing in labour-intensive local craft industries and food processing. These used locally-produced raw materials. It also developed fertiliser production and the manufacture of agricultural machinery.

India's resources and labour make it very good for industry to develop. Its advantage over a lot of countries is that it has a very good educated work force that has a very low pay. Its investment into education was great and it has more third level graduates than North America combined. Just under half of these graduates have degrees in science and engineering. This has encouraged multi-national companies from all over the world to move to India. They move because they can employ skilled graduates and pay them at less than third of the cost than their European or American counterparts. One of these companies is IBM and it's located in Bangalore which is the hub of the Indian software industry and is also known as India's Silicon Valley.

- Author- Sue Honan , Exam Skills Geography , Dublin 18, Mentor Books ltd

Since I am doing the course Energy in UL , I will give a brief history of India's energy sector since their rise to independence. Since independence, the government pinpointed the energy sector as a valuable resource and a very important resource. As the population increased to enormous numbers, the dependence of reliable Electricity and Gas grew. The government began to use **Renewable** Energy as an important means of generating power. Today, India is the fifth largest producer of Wind power.

-http://www.vestas.com/files/billeder/countrysites/India/2.2WindPowerInIndia.jpg

Solar energy has brilliant potential in India due to its combination of solar insulation and a big consumer base but at the moment it's prohibitive due to initial costs of distribution and organization.

Agriculture

Before independence and after independence to this very day, India relies greatly on the Agricultural Sector. Considering India's population, the government had to increase food production. The 'Green' revolution saw a huge increase in wheat production. This is due to irrigation systems been improved, new ideas of farm machinery and new, more better ways of farming with the type of soil and climate they had. Because of its climate (20-30 degrees Celsius throughout the year) this obviously influenced the types of crops to grow. Rice and sugar cane are the two most important crops that were able to grow in this climate. As we can see, Climate played an important part in the development of the agricultural sector. I mentioned before that the monsoon rains control which crops people can grow and what time of the year it is favourable to harvest or plant them. Farmers had to deal with the fact that if monsoons rains are late then irrigation, planting and crop yields are hugely affected. Although this tropical climate affects crops, the government found a crop that grows perfectly in this climate conditions, Tea

and a lot of it. Tea production is found in Assam state in the north east and is a major supplier to the worldwide tea trade.

India ranks second in the world for agricultural output; Lately India has developed its agri-biotech sector, at a rate of 25-30% for the last 5 years and it's sure to maintain this growth for the future.

Tertiary Activities

The government planned to develop tourist facilities and it was planned in 1956. But it was in the 80's that it began to happen. A national policy in tourism was published in 1982. By the end of all the planning, 21 government run-Hotel management and catering technology institutes and 14 food craft industries were set up for Skill and specialised training in hotels and catering.

http://www.atheuk.com/resources/advanced-international-diploma-in-travel-a-tourism/13-unit-1-travel-a-tourism-an-analysis/83-tourism-development-in-india

Tourism is a growing service industry in India, partially due to more flights and improved air transport into Bangalore, Kolkata and Mumbai. India offers a lot to tourists with many great sites such as the Taj mahal in Agra. Climbers, walkers and trekkers head to the Himalayas, the largest mountain range in the world and those who desire a sun beach holiday head to Goa in the south west. All these facilities have been funded by the government and we see great development since their independence from Britain.
Tourists form other countries are often put off by the widespread poverty and are not willing to give India a chance, like for an example its not as if u know someone that went to India for a holiday. Although internal tourism is on the up as wealthy workers from the big cities head south for 'Monsoon Holidays'.

Transport in the rural areas are very underdeveloped, more than half of villages have no tarred roads. The rail system is in colonial times with still the use of steam engines, the government have yet to splash the cash on its rural transport base and protests are widespread because of this.

Steam Engine in Slumdog Millionaire , an example of lack of development in India.
http://snarkerati.com/movie-news/files/2009/02/slumdog-millionaire1.jpg

To conclude the tertiary sector is generally underdeveloped due to the poverty, most are on a subsistence lifestyle in which they provide basic needs such Shelter, warmth and food for themselves and their family. Services such as health and Education suffer as they have no money or the lack of.

India and Future Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development is defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.(it's a worldwide definition)

In theory all definitions of sustainable development require that we see the world as a system- a system that connects space; and a system that connects time.

http://www.iisd.org/sd/

Environment and pollution

India's pollution is devastating to say the least. For a country that wants to achieve full development, the government need to begin to start to realise the harm its causing as regards pollution.

Robert Orben (a Comedy Writer) quoted "There's so much pollution in the air now that if it weren't for our lungs there'd be no place to put it all"

An example of its major pollution is;

Air pollution - Environmental problems are growing rapidly in India, with the population increasing from 300 million to over 1 billion; it has led to increasing problems. India's CO_2 emissions were around 3,000 pounds in 2007 and India has also been ranked as the seventh largest environmentally hazardous country in the world, researchers from Harvard, Princeton and Singapore Universities have concluded.

Air pollution in India is caused by thermal power plants, Industries, Emissions from vehicles and refineries. It is impossible to put a number on the amount of flights that go in and out of India a year but a report published in the journal Environmental Science and Technology in October 2010 stated that almost 8,000 people would die from aircraft pollutants and 3,500 of them would be from China and India.

http://www.gits4u.com/envo/envo4.htm

Recycling is an issue that the government don't seem to be interested in. Landfills are all over the country and it is merely impossible to place a number on how many of them there are. They create a scar to the environment and also the country is losing vast amounts of money in keeping these landfills going, Money which could be invested in more important sectors like health and education. The government need to start to invest in some sort of recycling programmes that enable people all over the country to want to recycle for the good of them and their country. I would propose drop-off recycling centres throughout India so that the people don't have to drive or walk far for these centres and this enables individuals to deliver their recyclables to a designated centre. Recycling also creates jobs for the public and this would very much be a step in the right direction as India has widespread poverty and a large unemployment rate. When recyclables are collected they need to be cleaned, re-shaped and processed into new products. Recycling companies need to employ engineers, designers, labourers, etc which creates a lot of employment for the area. This is a very good but simple means of keeping future sustainability for the future generations in India.

Water

Water pollution and water availability are two major factors for India and will be in the future. Due to the high and increasing population water demands are extreme. According to the World Watch institute, demand for water in the urban population will triple by 2025. Future sustainability looks bleak and the government need to act fast. With global warming also playing a part on this nation as the melting glaciers and rainfall from the Himalayas

which account for over 75% of India's water are beginning to decline, its availability for water is heading down a slippery slope. This will affect the agricultural sector as crops like Rice need a heavy supply of water to grow. According to Drinking Water for India, 1 in 5 five children have no access to drinking water and each day 4,500 children die due to lack of safe drinking water and sanitation, which is about 1.5 million children dieing each year.

http://www.dosomething.org/project/drinking-water-india-0

In a rural village called Aynipaati in India, 600 people share two hand pumps. Throughout the country, people use polluted rivers for washing and cleaning themselves, and their clothes. Cholera and polio and widespread diseases found in India from contaminated water. The Ganges River is one of the dirtiest and Pollutant Rivers in the world but yet 2 million people still bathe in it. The Indian Government need to act on this and set up natural spring wells and plenty of them and new water treatment systems if its to kill this enormous problem not just for the present but for the future!!

http://reasonforliberty.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/06/water31.jpg

Poverty

Poverty is widespread India, Most people live a subsistence lifestyle in which they barely provide basic needs like shelter, food and warmth. Many of the country's poor people live in the slums, were they have lack of drinking water and where they wash themselves in rivers. Just under half of the population are in the poverty line according to a World Bank report. This obviously leads to an outbreak of infectious and dangerous diseases such as cholera etc. Cholera has killed millions of people since it developed in the

dirty water of Calcutta. Lack of investment in healthcare form the government means theses deaths are constantly rising. This is seriously affecting India's future sustainability as it needs a platform to start on if it's to become a developed country. What India needs is a form of social welfare scheme, where the poor need to be availing of welfare benefits. Also education (or the lack of), Spreading education is one of the major ways it can reduce poverty. I would propose that the government offer 'Free' education to the poor in rural less developed areas. This would provide a light at the end of the tunnel for them, a brighter future away form the slums and shanty towns which would improve their standard of living. One of the scariest facts of them all is that 40% of the population is illiterate. This must change for the future sustainability of this great nation.

Future of India

The Indian commerce once said "We no longer discuss the future of India; we say the future is India", Most of us think that India has the potential to be a great sustainable nation. But in fact it needs to quickly resolve its problems like Over-population and great poverty.

Education is the only way to attack these problems, without education you have nothing. There are five important factors that determine a countries future:

- Governance - Participation and efficiency

- Growth - Rate of growth, quality of growth and scope of growth

- Globalisation - Trade, investment and communication

- Geo-politics - relations with neighbouring countries

- God- role of religion on society, values held in society.

http://www.strategicforesight.com/rethinkingindiasfuture.htm

For me these are pivotal in the future of India, not just for the present, but future generations. The government need to get involved with the population that is in poverty and ask them what they need, because their the people that are affected by the governments decisions. They need a sense of confidence that they can make a difference to society, whether by improving living standards in the slums, or getting involved in education that will no doubt

improve their future wellbeing. India has the potential to be a developed country, it's just about realising it and facing into the hard decisions that they need to make. For me personally, India is a sleeping giant that at any moment can wake up!!

Conclusion

India since its independence has developed into a multinational urbanized and industrialised country. Although it does not tell the tale for the millions of people in the poverty line who struggle for survival everyday. This great nation needs to face the facts and attack its severe problems, at present its great poverty, Environmental problems and lack of education and healthcare services but a scar on this country. A scar that I wonder will ever ware away.

It is great to see that at least one person sees the beautiful aspect of this wonderful country:

"India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grandmother of tradition. Our most valuable and most astrictive materials in the history of man are treasures up in India only" – Mark Twain

http://thinkexist.com/quotation/india_is_the_cradle_of_the_human_race-the/289371.html

I found this lovely paragraph on the beauty of India ☺ - It is impossible not to be astonished by India. Nowhere on earth does humanity present itself in such a dizzying, creative burst of cultures and religions, races and tongues. Every aspect of the country presents itself on a massive, exaggerated scale, worthy in comparison to the superlative mountains that overshadow it. Perhaps the only thing more difficult than to be indifferent to India would be to describe or understand India completely.

http://www.geographia.com/india/